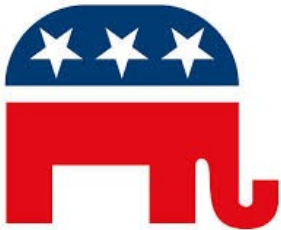


The Red Side: Midterm Elections and the Fate of the GOP



By Jacob Reiskin, Staff Writer

Next week is midterm elections in the United States. The lead up has been rather typical: midterm elections do not get much attention, and for good reason. [Nate Silver, the historically accurate analyst, predicted](#) today that Republicans have a 68.3% chance of winning the Senate. That's no certainty, but it is fairly comfortable in the world of politics. If Republicans win the Senate, however, it will not make much difference. The real stakes are in 2016.

The last four years have been characterized by a stagnant congress. The Republican Party has run a program of obstruction. They have jeopardized the future of the country by refusing to lead. Good conservatism requires effective leadership with restraint. In the next two years, Republicans will be better able to prevent government functionality. The only significant change may be the ease with which Obama will be able to appoint his people to leadership positions. In general, the country can expect more of the same, which is to say more of not much.

Obama has increasingly operated using executive orders. Pushing policy this way has serious constitutional issues and sets a precedent for future presidents that Congress is unnecessary. Working with the President on some issues would allow Republicans to better keep executive power in check, but this will not happen. Obama has been fully convinced that the Republicans in office are not allies.

The real consequences of a Republican victory are the implications for 2016. Historically speaking, an unpopular president working with a Congress completely controlled by the opposing party has fought an uphill battle. Obama was swept into office in wake of a Congress controlled by Democrats and an executive controlled by a Republican. If this is a lesson, Republicans have a good chance at combating naive idealism two years from now. Republican control of the Senate will exemplify a conservative shift in the mentality of voters. It is no guarantee of a Republican presidential victory in 2016, but it's a good start.



Student Vandalism on Campus

By the Editorial Board

As students on campus, we talk with each other about the issues that are most concerning to our lives: our schoolwork, relationships, jobs and internships. But we rarely focus on the behind-the-scenes operations that Skidmore maintains to sustain our lives on campus. There is a significant number of staff who clean our dorm bathrooms, cook the food we eat, and keep the campus as beautiful as it is. We are able to focus on schoolwork and friends because of these employees who take care of all the other maintenance issues on campus. But this Editorial Board believes that the amount of student vandalism on campus makes the staff's job much more difficult than it must be and reflects a lack of respect for the people who make our lives comfortable on campus.

It is not uncommon for a student living in the dorms to notice broken glass, holes punched in the wall, or trash and cans littered within the common room or hallways. In this semester, there has been graffiti in Jonsson Tower elevators and ceiling lamps ripped down on the second floor of Wait. This vandalism is not limited to this term-- there have consistently been [vandalism incidents](#) every semester. Typically, this destructive behavior happens on weekends, when students have been drinking. The debris or vandalized area is left for maintenance staff to clean up.

This theme of vandalism is a poor reflection of the integrity of the student body. Vandalism primarily happens in the dorms, not the apartments: you wouldn't punch a hole in the wall in your Sussman apartment, because you have to live with that hole for the next nine months and pay for the damage when you move out. But a hole in the entryway of Howe will be fixed, by someone who you likely won't see or interact with, and won't cost you directly. We are able to commit these acts of vandalism in public spaces and walk away unscathed because someone else cleans up after us. We should know better.

Individual actions are diffused throughout a community and affect everyone. Unaccountable vandalism is selfish on a number of levels. If there is enough vandalism, the cost will be distributed for all residents of the dorm to pay off. This unanticipated financial cost is a burden, particularly for low-income students and students who work to pay their own way. It's an insult to your peers to assume that tearing down a lamp when you're drunk will not cause ripple effects throughout the community. Damaging buildings takes up the time, energy, and resources of College employees who have greater responsibilities. Painting over a graffiti-covered wall is an unanticipated work order, a requirement to fix something that didn't originally need.

We need to reexamine the costs of student vandalism on our campus. It affects College employees and your fellow students. We are old enough to understand the consequences, we should be mature enough to not create the problem.

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Meredith Simonds / The Skidmore News

Sexism in the Classroom: This Time Towards Men

By Danny Graugnard, Staff Writer

Classes late at night can put anyone on edge. People are tired, less formal, and perhaps a bit spacey. It's why I enjoy my classes on Monday nights. Not the tired part, but the laid back feeling that makes a great learning environment in my book. Not everyone showed up this past Monday though, two female students were absent, leaving an even three men and three women in the class—an observation the professor pointed out. Of course, I knew exactly where this observation was going to lead.

No longer than 20 minutes were we deep in a class discussion, where truthfully the female students were leading. The professor then commented, "Notice that the men are so quiet tonight!" We laughed at this comment – of course, I've been laughing at those kind of subtle, unintentionally disparaging comments for four years.

I can't begin to explain how awkward it feels to, well, feel discriminated against for being a male in class. After all, it doesn't really make sense for prejudice against men to exist at school where the female-to-male ratio is skewed towards female, and feminism is always a hot topic in the minds of the student body, right? But regardless of the precursors and my own insecurities, it happens.

Last year on my way to another class, I just so happened to be running late. So did the other guy in the class. When we both arrived, the professor commented how it was "funny how the men in the classroom are both late to class." Innocent enough for sure, though after hearing that comment many times before at the time, I was beginning to really wonder whether or not being a man has anything to do with being late. I think I woke up late from a nap that evening. Don't know the other guy's story.

The semester before that, I happened to turn in my paper late, and wouldn't you know it? So did the other two men in the class. Which resulted in the inevitable observation by the professor that it was "peculiar how all the men in the class forgot their papers..." And before that was Women in Literature—one of the English department's feminist classes disguised as a literature class. Only two men were in that course, including myself, so the professor kept an eye on us for "interesting insight." I remember meeting up with a classmate at one of my house parties. We got into a heated debate because I didn't like *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Then she saw me kissing this dude and exclaimed, "OMG you're gay?!" We became besties. At the end of the course, the professor asked how to get other men to take this course. Sorry, I don't know what to tell you.

And I can't help but remember my close friend who noticed favoritism towards women in his psychology classes, or another friend who couldn't help feeling that the female history professor hated him. Not to mention the enumerable rumors of the one or two female professors in the art department who reportedly challenge male students more than female students.

Claiming that professors and students at Skidmore College are blatantly sexist towards men is a bold statement, even for me. That's Skidmore News Online: November 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 4/02/2015.

why I'm not attempting to do that here. And I honestly don't believe any of them are. I mean, all these [studies](#) about women performing better than men in school are very impressionable. But the kind of language and implications mentioned in my anecdotes and the other times I've heard subtle, backhanded insults about my sex in connection to my productivity as a student in my four years



Skidmore Hockey opens season with 5-4 win over Canton

The Skidmore College hockey team held off a late charge by SUNY Canton to post a 5-4 season-opening win Saturday night at the Herb Brooks Arena. The Thoroughbreds used goals by five different plays in the win.

Skidmore opened a 5-0 lead before Canton mounted a comeback by scoring the game's final four goals.

Zach Arden scored first at 4:59 of the first half from Ondrej Kra and Marc Cibelli. Anthony Bird made it 2-0 at 14:28 from Anders Gundersen and Connor Pelkey. An unassisted goal at 16:53 from Christian Leahy gave the Thoroughbreds a 3-0 lead after one.

Mickey Foley made it 4-0 at 11:22 of the second half and Kenny Nelson extended the lead to 5-0 at 15:17 from Pelkey and Sam Bloom.

Skidmore would need all five of the goals as Canton battled back with four straight goals before time ran out.

Jack McDonald had 28 saves for the Thoroughbreds.

Riding Team Opens with Win



[The Skidmore College women's riding team](#) began the 2014-2015 season with a strong winning performance at Hartwick College on Saturday, November 1. The Thoroughbreds tallied 47 points. The closest team to the Skidmore score was Reserve Champion, Hartwick with 36 points.

Ursula Green led the team to victory by winning both her Open classes and the High Point rider honors.

Social Justice Month 2014 Events



Saturday, November 1

Kickoff: **Social Justice Month Showcase**

9:30PM Spa

Social Justice Month is having a kickoff event to officially start the month-long movement. Skidaiko, Ujima STEP, and various individuals will be performing interspersed with presentations of the three main themes of the month: Education, Human Rights, and Hunger & Homelessness. There will also be free Plum Dandy Cookies and Chipotle.

Monday, November 3

Environmental Justice: **Brown Bag Dialogue - Energy, Exploitation, and Solutions**

8PM ICL - Office of Student Diversity Affairs & Skidmore Unplugged

Ever thought about the impact of energy production on communities of color? Are campaigns such as Skidmore Unplugged effective? What are possible solutions to make a difference? Come join OSDP and Skidmore Unplugged in raising awareness on the implications of energy production in marginalized communities. Dinner will be provided.

Tuesday, November 4

Educational Equality: **Film Screening of "To Educate a Girl"**

8PM Emerson Auditorium - UNICEF

Sponsored by Skidmore's UNICEF Chapter, "To Educate a Girl" is a documentary highlighting the stories of several girls in Nepal and Uganda to investigate the barriers to equal access to education for girls.

Wednesday, Saturday 5

Fracking: **Film Screening of "Triple Divide"**

6PM I Emerson Auditorium - Skidmore Unplugged

Shale gas extraction has inevitable impacts. Public Herald's documentary "Triple Divide" investigates how these impacts are being handled by the state and industry. The story highlights the need for more investigative journalism and detailed discussion. A discussion led by a Skidmore faculty member will be followed.

Saturday, November 8

Educational Outreach: **Cultural Night Market**

9PM Spa - Asian Cultural Awareness Club

Come learn about various cultures with performances, food, and gifts from a variety of clubs such as ACA, Skidaiko, NihonGo!, HAYAT, African Culture Club, and Chinese Culture Club. All proceeds will be donated to the Franklin Community Center, which supports at-risk children with afterschool programs.

Monday, November 10

Geoengineering: **Film Screening of "What In The World Are They Spraying"**

8PM Davis Auditorium - United Minds

This documentary investigates the phenomenon known as geoengineering. It pictures the story of a rapidly developing industry called geoengineering, driven by scientists, corporations, and governments intent on changing global climate, controlling the weather, and altering the chemical composition of soil and water — all supposedly for the betterment of mankind, but the effect has been devastating to crops, wildlife, and human health.

Tuesday, November 11

Settler Colonialism: **Brown Bag Dialogue & Workshop: Kat Yang-Stevens and Settler Colonialism**

12:30PM ICC, 4:30PM ICC - Office of Student Diversity Programs

Kat Yang-Stevens is a cisgender queer woman and first generation Asian American of Chinese ancestry living on occupied Cayuga

nation territories, they center the needs of communities living on the front-lines of environmental racism and degradation and work to address intra-movement racism and the barriers that it presents to creating meaningful multicultural alliances. The Brown Bag Dialogue and workshop on settler colonialism will focus on what settler colonialism is and the connections between settler colonialism and the oppression of indigenous communities.

Tuesday, November 11

Political Conflict: **Discussion about ISIS with Professor Ocakli**

7PM Davis Auditorium — Hayat & International Student Union

Professor Ocakli from the Government Department will provide an informative lecture about the current state of the issue regarding to ISIS. The talk will be followed by an open discussion and Q&A session.

Wednesday, November 12

Community Organizations: **Presentations from The Giving Circle & Seeds For Peace**

8PM Emerson Auditorium — Benef-Action

Mark Bertrand, a local Saratogian, will be giving a presentation regarding his volunteer work through his founding of The Giving Circle, an organization with a mission to connect communities in need locally, nationally, and internationally with those with the resources to help. Additionally, Sue Johnson, who founded Seeds For Peace, an organization that provides garden tools to war- and weather- ravaged people in many nations will also give a talk.

Monday, November 17

Undocumented Students and Education: **Brown Bag Dialogue - A Dreamer's Nightmare: The Lack of Access to Education for Undocumented Students**

5PM ICC - Office of Student Diversity Programs & Melvin Alvarez-Ortez '15

Ever wondered about the role that liberal arts institutions such as Skidmore play in accommodating undocumented students? Do you think that the Dream Act is effective? Are we violating human rights for DREAMERS? Come join the conversation for this special Brown Bag brought to you by OSDP and Melvin Alvarez-Ortez '15. Dinner will be provided.

Monday, November 17

Food Insecurity: **Film Screening of "A Place at the Table"**

7PM Library Viewing Room — SkidEats

50 Million Americans—1 in 4 children—don't know where their next meal is coming from. This documentary highlights the stories of three such Americans. A Place at the Table shows how the issue could be solved forever, once the American public decides that ending hunger is in the best interests of us all.

Tuesday, November 18

Reproductive Justice: **The Politics of Sex and Reproductive Justice - Lecture by Sara Alcid**

7PM Gannett Auditorium - VOX

Sara Alcid from Everyday Feminism is a reproductive health and justice advocate based in Washington, DC. As a queer feminist with an academic background in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Sara bridges her strong theoretical and historical understanding of feminism with a modern practice of radical everyday feminism. Her work and writing ranges from the intersection of environmental health and reproductive health to dating as a feminist. While at Skidmore, she is going to discuss sexual assault on college campuses and how this social problem directly impacts reproductive right.

Wednesday, November 19

Microloans and Poverty: **Film Screening of "Bonsai People"**

7:30PM Emerson Auditorium - FeelGood

FeelGood believes in partnership, not charity. This philosophy is embodied in Bonsai People, a documentary about different individuals and communities that end their own hunger and rise out of poverty through the use of microcredit loans. Small loans of money can be used to spark an individual business, which in turn can create an economy between multiple communities.

Thursday, November 20

World Hunger: **Hunger Banquet**

7PM Tang Teaching Museum — Carmen Lin '16 & Josh Saunders '15

The Hunger Banquet is an interactive event that allows participants to experience how our decisions affect others in the world. The banquet will help participants visualize and understand the current global hunger problem. Professor Nurcan Atalan-Helicke from the Environmental Studies Program will lead a discussion about food insecurity and food distribution. RSVP at

skidmoresjm@gmail.com

Thursday, November 20

Climate Refugees: **Film Screening of “The Island President”**

7PM - 9PM 2nd Floor Dining Hall - International Student Union

The Island President is a documentary about the efforts of then-President of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed to tackle rising sea levels resulting from climate change. It follows his first year of office, and shows a rare and candid glimpse into the politics of environmental issues, and lets us see what life is like in the Maldives, the lowest lying nation on earth. The movie screening will be followed by a Q&A/discussion panel.

Friday, November 21

Homelessness and LGBTQ People of Color: **Screening of “Pier Kids: The Life”**

5PM - ICC - Queer Lives In Color

Pier Kids: The Life follows three gay and transgender youth of color over the course of three years who, after being kicked out of their home for their sexuality, have become homeless on the same NYC street the Gay Rights Movement began on so long ago.

Co-sponsored by:

American Studies Program, Art Department, Art History Department, Asian Cultural Awareness Club, Benef-Action, Chemistry Department, Christian Fellowship, Classics Department, Dance Department, Economics Department, Education Studies Department, English Department, Environmental Studies Program, FeelGood, Foreign Language and Literature Department, Government Department, Hayat, Health & Exercise Science Department, History Department, Intercultural Studies, Intergroup Relations, International Affairs Program, International Student Union, Late-Night, Latin American Studies Program, Lively Lucys, Management & Business Department, Neuroscience Program, Office of Student Diversity Programs, Physics Department, Queer Lives In Color, Skidaiko, Skid-Eats, Skidmore Unplugged, Sociology Department, Social Work Department, Tang Teaching Museum, Ujima, UNICEF, United Minds, VOX



Halloween Review

By Billie Kanfer '16, Features Editor

Halloween has come and gone, and after weeks of students preparing themselves for the “Halloween,” November has come in full force and the events of the former weekend are a thing of the past. After the cancellation of Moorebid, many students were in an upheaval about the decision, claiming that a Skidmore tradition had been taken away. Year after year, Moorebid presented itself to be a booze-filled, out of control “tradition” that caused many to reflect on its harm to the Skidmore community.

After speaking to fellow students around campus and other leaders, it was clear that the weekend was still a success and that Halloween was just as great as ever. Megan Schachter '17, VP for Club Affairs, said that the weekend “went extremely well! Many groups on campus did their own events – all well attended, and did not encourage reckless drinking.” The clubs definitely did their part as both Friday and Saturday nights were filled with events to occupy students. From performances by Awkward Kids Talking, Breakbeats, the Accents and more, to sports games on both days, Halloween weekend wasn't a let-down and encouraged on-campus fun within the Skidmore community.

In past years, the amount of hospitalizations sky-rocketed come Halloween weekend—last year the number of hospital visits was in the double digits, yet this year the number of ambulances decreased to three. I spoke to Brittany Dinger '15, who works with SCEMS and said that while on-call Halloween night, there were much fewer SCEMS visits than there have been.

Skidmore has been aiming at making the community a much safer environment through programs such as the Social Norms Campaign, the First Six Weeks program, and the cancellation of Moorebid. Their efforts have so far seemed successful.



Seeing Stress Differently

By Brittany Dingler '15, PHE

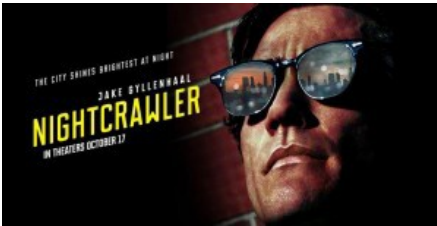
Stress and chaos do not have to compromise our happiness and well-being. In fact, much research in the emerging field of Positive Psychology suggests that changing our perspective of stress allows us to *feel* the stress differently.

Unfortunately, eliminating stress entirely is pretty unrealistic, but also not entirely helpful. Yes, high levels of chronic stress can suppress our immune systems—increasing our vulnerability to colds—or, over time, heart disease and cancer. However, most people have stressful responsibilities in their lives but aren't getting sick from them. In other words, the key to staying healthy and productive may be in the realization that workload and illness is not a one-to-one correlation. For example, if we were to observe a large group of individuals with a heavy workload, strict deadlines, and a host of responsibilities (say, college students?), there would be apparent reactions to stress. Some individuals shuffle around with blood-shot eyes, hunched shoulders, ready to attack, while others bounce along, with wide eyes and straight backs, ready to tackle the next challenge. The answer to this variance appears to be in the perception of these challenges.

To explain, the degree of stress is a product of how we evaluate our experiences: *is this helping me? Is this hurting me? Could this continue to hurt me in the future?* The most important question we must ask ourselves is, do I have the resources to deal with this? If the answer is yes, then overall health, well-being, and even productivity appear to increase as stress deflates to a manageable, even helpful, level. If the answer is no, then our nervous system recruits a stress cocktail of Norepinephrine and Epinephrine (together, known as Adrenaline) with a Cortisol chaser if we continue to feel unable to surmount the challenge.

So how can we change our attitude towards stress to stay happy, healthy, and in control? Positive Psychology gurus offer three steps. First, acknowledge the presence of the stress—*It's here, it's happening, and I'm feeling it in my chest/head/shoulders*. Second, determine the cause of the stress—*I'm behind in Biology and I have a test next week*. Third, and this is key, reevaluate the stress and use it to motivate you—*I might want to be a Veterinarian so this next test is an opportunity for me to get closer to vet school so that I can help puppies*. Once we train ourselves to see challenges as opportunities for growth, we will be able to make our future and present selves happy.

This learned happiness, generated by overriding our initial stress response, helps to boost our health and productivity, sparking a cycle of challenge and success.



Reel Talk: “Nightcrawler” is a slow, but broodingly dark thriller

By Sean van der Heijden

A film debut by writer/director Dan Gilroy, “Nightcrawler” focuses on Lou Bloom, a sociopathic man played by Jake Gyllenhaal who gets involved in crime journalism in Los Angeles. After witnessing a car crash, Bloom decides he can capitalize on the incident by filming it and selling the footage to news stations. After he becomes more involved with his craft, however, he crosses a ton of moral boundaries. Like, a ton—I lost count.

Gyllenhaal plays the part extremely well—it's possibly his finest performance to date. He lost 20 pounds for the role, deprived himself of sleep, and overworked himself by running 15 miles to the set everyday. The dedication shows—his stare eats away at your soul and his unflinching lack of emotion for the crimes he films is both shocking and disturbing.

There are two more great performances in his costars—the first by Rene Russo, a TV news runner who Bloom sells his footage to. Their relationship is at first amicable but grows increasingly darker as Bloom gains more leverage over her. The second performance is by Riz Ahmed, who Bloom hires to help him film the crimes. Ahmed's character grows more and more reluctant to participate in filming them, but his incredible desperation for money drives him far past his comfort level. Bill Paxton also stars as a veteran and competitor in the nightcrawling business.

While the performances are essentially what drive this film, the second half becomes really captivating and, by the end, “Nightcrawler” is impossible to turn away from. The first half is very slow as layers are slowly peeled away from the characters' perfect veneers. Tension builds, however, and makes the ending even more disturbing, moving, and thought provoking.

This is a relentless satire on the state of media today. Both darkly funny and just plain dark, I found it a fascinating story.

Overall: 7.5 out of 10.

Field Hockey Advances to Liberty League Championship Game

By Skidmore Athletics

The 12th ranked Skidmore College field hockey team will have the chance to defend its Liberty League championship after a 4-1 semifinal win over Vassar College on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Wagner Park.



Sam Revera '15 scored two goals / Photo by Jerry Rodriguez

Dani DeGregory '16 led the Thoroughbreds with her team record and national leading 33rd goal of the season. She broke the previous mark set in 2013 by Kelly Blackhurst '15. DeGregory is also one point off Blackhurst's team season point record of 79.

Skidmore (16-3) has won nine straight games and will be playing for its second straight and sixth Liberty League championship in the past seven years.

The Thoroughbreds, seeded second, will host third seed William Smith, a 3-2 winner over top seed University of Rochester on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 1 p.m.

Home field won't hurt the team's chances. Skidmore has won twenty-five straight overall home Liberty League games since 2009. The team is 10-1 in Liberty League playoff games at Wagner Park, with ten straight wins beginning in 2007.

Against Vassar (11-7), Melanie Webb '15 opened the scoring off a rebound and scramble in front at 11:13, with Sofia San Marco '15 getting the assist. Sam Revera '15 made it 2-0 off a rebound at 28:27. DeGregory closed out the first half, scoring when she dribbled in from fifteen yards out, and fired a shot home for her record-setting goal at 32:58.

The Brewers got on the board in the second half when Storm Sideleau scored her third goal of the season off a well played cross from Bianca Zarrella at 44:56. Revera closed out the scoring with her second goal of the game and sixth of the season at 45:25.

Skidmore outshot Vassar 25-6 and had a 9-3 corner edge. Amy Beck '15 stopped two shots for the Thoroughbreds, while Amreen Bhasin stayed busy with nine saves.

The Thoroughbreds last beat William Smith 3-1 on Sept. 26 in Geneva.

Thoroughbreds Extend Streak to Eight as DeGregory Ties Scoring Record

By Skidmore Athletics

Dani DeGregory '16 scored three goals and assisted on a fourth to lead the Skidmore College field hockey team to a 6-3 non-league road win over St. John Fisher on Sunday afternoon.



Dani DeGregory '16 / Photo by Susan Kellering

DeGregory set up the first goal by Becca Halter '17 at 16:54. The Cardinals managed a pair of goals to take a brief 2-1 lead. Skidmore ran off four straight goals to put the game away. Halter scored her second of the game at 35:00 from Sam Skott '15, and DeGregory scored the next three goals. Sam Revera '15 had the final goal late in the game.

Skidmore had a commanding 44-8 advantage in shots. Amy Beck '15 stopped two shots in the net for the win.

DeGregory has thirty-two goals for the season, tying the program record set last season by Kelly Blackhurst '15. The talented forward has seven hat tricks this year: She has thirty-two goals and twelve assists for seventy-six points, three points off of the season total record of seventy-nine set last season by Blackhurst.

Skidmore, ranked 12th nationally, finishes the regular season with a 15-3 record. The team will try to continue their now eight-game win streak when they take on Vassar at home on Wednesday, November 5 at 2 p.m.



The Blue Side: You Better Recognize (Palestine)

By Jeremy Ritter-Wiseman, Contributing Writer

It is time for the United States to recognize a Palestinian state. The deadly summer conflict in Gaza, which killed nearly 2200 Palestinians and over 70 Israelis, highlights the urgent need to resume negotiations in hopes of achieving a comprehensive solution. To achieve this however, both sides need to be equally recognized and legitimized. How can the U.S. hope to negotiate a “two-state solution,” when it only recognizes the sovereignty of one of the proposed states?

In international law, state sovereignty is largely determined by four prerequisites agreed to by signatories at the [Montevideo Convention](#) in 1933. Signed by the U.S., the Convention stipulates that to achieve statehood, a proposed country must have a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the ability to enter into diplomatic relations with other countries. Palestine certainly fulfills the first two requirements. Even the [CIA World Factbook](#) has exact numbers for the populations of Gaza and the West Bank, and most of the world recognizes established Palestinian borders, hence the outcry following each set of new Israel settlements built within those borders. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority unquestionably exhibits a legitimate parliamentary government that holds elections and has demonstrated the ability to enter into diplomatic relations with other sovereign nations, having established embassies and missions worldwide. If Montevideo is the precedent, there should be no reason Palestinian sovereignty should not be legitimated.

Standing in the way of wholesale recognition of the State of Palestine is most of the Western world. Recently though, there have been movements towards Western recognition of Palestine. Last month Sweden became the third country in Western Europe (next to Malta and Cyprus) to [recognize](#) Palestine after the Prime Minister was moved to action by the conflict in Gaza over the summer. The formal recognition followed remarks made by newly elected PM, Stefan Lofven in his [inaugural address](#), in which he noted that any two-state solution “requires mutual recognition and a will to peaceful coexistence.” Added, a symbolic vote was recently cast in the [British House of Commons](#) on whether to recognize a Palestinian state. Following debate, 274 MPs voted for recognition while a mere 12 voted against. Although the vote was purely symbolic and therefore non-binding, it represents growing support for Palestinian statehood among Westerners and increasing resentment towards Israel's brutal tactics in Gaza and ongoing occupation of the West Bank; Chairman of the U.K.'s select committee on foreign affairs Sir Richard Ottaway lamented that the last straw for him was Israel's recent September annexation of 950 acres in the Etzion Bloc of the West Bank.

Despite these recent advancements, the U.S. unwaveringly remains Israel's most crucial ally. Although relations became somewhat [strained](#) during the summer conflict, the U.S.'s promised \$3.1 billion dollars in annual [military aid](#) to Israel is consistently renewed. This near unconditional support proves problematic when trying to mediate negotiations.

The U.S. provides foreign aid in form of economic assistance for the Palestinian government too, although it is highly conditional. The conditions on Palestinian aid reflect the U.S.'s obstinate position towards Palestinian statehood and its consequential inability to be an impartial mediator. For instance, the Senate draft version of [appropriations](#) for State, Foreign Operations and Related

Programs for fiscal year 2015 stipulates that no “Economic Support Funds” be released to the Palestinian government, if the Palestinians “obtain the same standing as member states or full membership as a state in the United Nations,” or initiate a International Criminal Court-sanctioned or any other authorized investigation “that subjects Israeli nationals to an investigation for alleged crimes against Palestinians.” How can the U.S. expect respect as a mediator when it has foreign aid laws that wholly discourage Palestinians from pursuing justice or gaining international legitimacy? The UN has already moved to recognize Palestine's sovereignty by [upgrading](#) its UN status from “non-member” to “observer,” and there have been legitimate claims that Israel is guilty of [war crimes](#) and should be subjected to international investigation and prosecution. To deny aid based on the perusal of these national rights is unethical and undoubtedly affects the ability of the U.S. to be an unbiased arbiter in any negotiations.

Moreover, whether it is due to a sincere passion to unconditionally support the state of Israel, or whether it is at least partially due to the undeniably influential [Israel lobby](#) in D.C., Congress continues to unyieldingly support Israel and is thus utterly opposed to Palestinian statehood. Therefore it would be naïve to expect the U.S. to recognize a Palestinian state anytime in the near future. Nevertheless, progress can be made in reforming biased laws like those in the appropriations bills, especially if the U.S. retains any hope in being the primary mediator in negotiations.

The U.S. needs to play a more prominent role in holding Israel accountable. Shelling of UN schools, continued settlements that violate international law, and collective punishment that goes against the Geneva Conventions, must all be condemned by the U.S. Further, aid to Israel must be used as leverage, instead of providing an annual allowance with no strings attached and that is void of any accountability or oversight. Lastly, the U.S. must begin to respect the notion of a Palestinian state that has more than legitimate claims to sovereignty, and thus the right to pursue justice in the International Criminal Court. Negotiations thus far have been depressingly fruitless. If the U.S. is to mediate a resolution, it must become impartial and recognize the mutual sovereignty of both countries. Otherwise, a peaceful two-state solution will be improbable, and conflicts like this summer's will only continue.

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Campus Safety Reports Oct. 24-30



October 24, Friday]

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 1:11AM: RP discovered a "no parking sign" on the ground near the Dining Hall. Report taken.

ACCIDENT 5:55AM: RP reports the gate to Northwoods from Wait Hill was damaged by an unknown vehicle. Officer investigated incident and generated report.

CAMPUS SAFETY ASSIST 10:05AM: RP reports aggressive behavior towards a Skidmore vendor. Report generated.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 8:45PM: RP reports hall light on second floor damaged. Report generated.

CAMPUS SAFETY ASSIST 6:18PM: RP reports being lost in woods. Officer dispatched and SCSO contacted for assistance. Students located, report generated.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 10:03PM: RP reports loud noise. Upon arrival, students agreed to lower music. Report generated.

FIRE ALARM-OTHER 11:01PM: Fire alarm activation received. Officers dispatched, due to burned food. Report issued.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 11:29PM: RP reports loud noise. Officer advised residents to turn off the stereo for the night.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 11:52PM: RP reports loud noise. Officers dispatched. Officers report loud music.

October 25, Saturday

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 12:16 AM: RP reports a noise complaint in Sussman Apartments. Officers broke up registered party. Report generated.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 1:27AM: RP reports a noise complaint in Sussman Apartments. Officers broke up party, report generated.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 2:24AM: RP reports loud music. Officer reports loud TV on Whitman Way.

FIRE ALARM-OTHER 7:12PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to cooking in Sussman Apartments.

FIRE ALARM-OTHER 8:19PM: Fire Alarm activation received on 12 Whitman Way. Dispatched units, due to steam from shower.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 9:23PM: RP reports two light covers outside Barrett Center have been smashed. Officer dispatched, report generated.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 10:40PM: Officer reports light cover removed & damaged. Maintenance dispatched, report generated. In Wait Hall.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 12:10AM: RP reports a noise complaint. Officers report small gathering, groups dispersed.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 12:35AM: RP reports a noise complaint. Officers report a gathering, group dispersed.
COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 1:20AM: RP reports a noise complaint. Officers report breaking up a gathering.
COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 4:36AM: RP reports noise complaint. Officers report group lowered their voices.
FIRE ALARM-ACCIDENTAL 11:48AM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to steam from shower.
FIRE ALARM-OTHER 5:10PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to cooking.
SUSPICIOUS ODOR 7:07PM: RP reports a suspicious odor of gasoline in stairwell. Units dispatched, unfounded.
COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 11:41PM: RP reports excessive noise. Officers requested music lower and residents complied.

October 27, Monday

ANIMALS 11:59AM: RP advised rabbits and a cat in room in Sussman Apartments. Officers dispatched, 6 rabbits located and 1 cat. Report generated, resident spoken to.

LARCENY 4:19PM: RP in office inquiring about lost and found for a bag left in the Chapel. Report taken.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 6:57 PM: RP advised C/S of a suspicious man near Sussman Apartments. Officer dispatched, gone on arrival.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 10:41PM: RP called to report a suspicious odor in Wait Hall. Unfounded.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 9:09PM: RP reports a male in a red pickup truck that appears to be going through dumpsters near Sussman Apartments. Subject gone on arrival.

October 28, Tuesday

COLLEGE VIOLATION 10:12AM: RP observes chair on the covered walkway. Officer contacted Maintenance to remove. Report generated.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 2:32PM: RP request an Officer to take a report on a suspicious phone call. Report generated.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 5:10PM: RP reports odor of gas. Units dispatched, possibly from CDTA exhaust. Units will follow up.

October 29, Wednesday

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 12:23AM: RP reports loud noise in Sussman Apartments. Units dispatched, lowered volume.

AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT- 10:13PM: RP in office to file a report about unwanted contact in Wait Hall. Report taken.

October 30, Thursday

FIRE ALARM-OTHER- 4:33PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to cooking in Sussman Apartments

FIRE ALARM-OTHER- 5:44PM: Fire alarm activation received. Units dispatched, due to cooking on Cane Crossing.

Award-winning graphic designer Chip Kidd to lecture Nov. 13 at Skidmore



Photo by John Madere

Award-winning graphic designer and author Chip Kidd will talk about the importance of visual communication when he lectures Thursday, Nov. 13, at Skidmore College. His talk, titled “! Or?: Let me be perfectly clear. Or mysterious,” begins at 7:30 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium, Palamontain Hall. Admission is free and open to the public.

The talk is co-sponsored by Skidmore's Visual Literacy Forum and Northshire Bookstore, which will host a book-signing session following the talk.

Kidd writes and designs from several locations: New York City; Stonington, Conn.; and Palm Beach, Fla. He has worked for Alfred A. Knopf since 1986, designing book covers that have helped “create a revolution in the art of American book packaging,” according to his web site (www.chipkidd.com). His awards include the National Design Award for Communications, as well as the Use of Photography in Design Award from the International Center of Photography.

The author of two novels, *The Cheese Monkeys* and *The Learners*, Kidd is also the author of *Batman: Death by Design*, an original graphic novel published by DC Comics and illustrated by Dave Taylor. Kidd has written several books about comics, including *Peanuts: The Art of Charles M. Schulz* and *Jack Cole and Plasticman* (with Art Spiegelman). In addition, Kidd is the co-author and designer of *True Prep*, the sequel to the *Official Preppy Handbook*.

Kidd's 2012 TED talk, “Designing books is no laughing matter. Ok, it is” (http://www.ted.com/talks/chip_kidd_designing_books_is_no_laughing_matter_ok_it_is) has almost 1.3 million views to date. The TED web site calls it “one of the funniest talks from TED2012, in which Kidd shows the art and deep thought of his cover designs.”

Skidmore's Visual Literacy Forum is under the auspices of Project VIS, an initiative to advance strategic, pedagogical, and liberal learning goals in visual literacy and communication. An Andrew Mellon Foundation grant supports the initiative.

Skidmore receives anonymous bomb threat



By Andrew Shi, Editor-in-Chief

Skidmore Update 12:26:

Police and Campus Safety teams have completed their sweep of all academic buildings and all buildings are now open. Classes will begin in some buildings at 12:20 p.m., and in others at 1:25 p.m.

Classes will begin at 12:20 p.m. in the following buildings: Scribner Library, Palamountain, Tisch, Bolton, Harder, and old and new Dana.

Classes will begin at 1:25 p.m. in Zankel, JKB, Filene, Case Center, Saisselin, Ladd, Sports Center, Dance Center, and the Tang Museum.

These buildings have been thoroughly inspected by Campus Safety and police teams with a canine unit. Nevertheless, Campus Safety asks that you be attentive to your surroundings and to report to them any items of a suspicious nature you may see.

Skidmore Update 11:31

Six academic buildings have been cleared to open at noon with classes to start at 12:20 p.m.: Scribner Library, Palamountain, Tisch, Bolton, Harder, and old and new Dana.

All other academic buildings remain closed. These include Zankel, JKB, Case Center, Saisselin, Sports Center, Filene, Tang, Dance Center, and Ladd. Classes in these buildings remain cancelled for the time being.

Skidmore Update 11:04:

Employees may return at noon to the following buildings: Palamountain, Tisch, Bolton, Harder, and old and new Dana.

Skidmore Update 11:01:

Classes will resume at 12:20 in Palamountain, Tisch, Bolton, Harder, and old and new Dana.

Tryptich



Klonopin

Prescribed
for anxiety and
morning sadness,
it sets you in
a sort of halo but
leaves the pebble
in your heart.

She Told Me

"spend time in my shoes"
but pride will have me barefoot
unrepentant child

On Studying

See how her cheeks blush
so feverishly, hands tremble
as she paces and sighs repeatedly.

Some would call it love,
but she knows
it's only the amphetamines.

Blurbs Overheard



"I may be taking a peanut butter and jelly sandwich to school, but I'm no child." Overheard in Case

"You're going to have to start converting your money to more concrete things. Like diamonds." Overheard in Sussman

"Buttholes are forever." Overheard outside Joto

"My mom periodically sits me down and tells me that I'm going to die from my diet, and I still don't fuck with eggnog." Overheard in Northwoods

"There was a ship running from Canada to America filled with Ulysses and gin." Overheard Off Campus

"There is nothing about me that screams." Overheard Off Campus

Career & Internship Connections 2015

By The Career Development Center



He's looking ahead

Career & Internship Connections 2015

CIC events are located in New York City (January 6), Washington DC (January 7), Los Angeles (January 8), and Boston (January 9).

Students! Please be sure to check out this year's Career & Internship Connections Program on The Career Development Center's website.

Deadline to Apply: December 1

Come in and get your resume and cover letter reviewed by a Career Coach between 12 – 4 PM Monday thru Friday in the Career Development Center.

This is an opportunity to be pre-selected for interviews with major companies in New York City, Boston, DC and LA taking place during winter break. The deadline to apply for pre-select interviews is Monday, December 1; but all students looking for opportunities in one of these four cities are encourage to attend the Open Forum in the morning (9:30 – 11:30 am). Token: cic2015

Over 250 employers combined will be participating in one or more locations. If you are selected for an interview you will go online and select an interview time. Even if you are not pre-selected it is worth the time to attend the Open Forum in the morning. In the past over 30% of students attending the morning sessions were invited back to interview in the afternoon.

For more information, please contact The Career Development Center, (518) 580-5790/CDC@skidmore.edu.

A Sampling of Employer Participants (by location):

New York City

AIG

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

AllianceBernstein Skidmore News Online: November 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 4/02/2015.

Americares

APPRISE

AXA Advisors, LLC

Washington DC

Advantage Sales & Marketing

Alliance Bernstein

Anti-Defamation League

Atlantic Media

Bursun-Marsteller

Los Angeles

Authors Marketing Pro

Beach Cities Health District

Chocolate Sundaes Comedy Show Production

FDIC

Front Row Media

Boston

AIG

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Fund for Public Interest

Harvard Orthopedic Trauma Initiative

United Planet



Sports Culture and Participation at Skidmore

By Mia Merrill, Sports Editor

Last week, Skidmore students were asked to take a survey about sports culture and participation. The survey, which was available for six days and received seventy-one responses, tried to pinpoint why students do or do not want to join athletic teams at Skidmore. Does it have more to do with the sports themselves, or sports culture? Does this culture spread good vibes around campus, or does it alienate non-athletes? Are there students who think that we do not have a sports culture? Are there athletes who feel like a school-wide punch line to a bad Division III joke?

The survey tried to pack a lot into a little without losing the attention of its participants. Of course, it started by asking students if they would join a team, given the athletic abilities to compete, and found that 67 percent of participants said they would, while 33 percent said that they would not. Of the 67 percent who would join a team, 91 percent said that they like team sports. Of the 33 percent who would not join a team, 82 percent said that they like team sports.

The survey found that 52 percent of participants said that they believe our sports teams are competitive enough to win, while the remainder thought otherwise. Skidmore students, athletes and otherwise, might see this figure as uplifting, although the majority is slim. Regardless of your personal opinion on the nature of team sports or sports culture, there's nothing wrong with some good old school spirit.

Although the survey did not specify the aspects of sports culture that would influence a student's choice, 61 percent of participants said they do not like the sports culture at Skidmore. Much of that aversion can be explained by the 46 percent who feel that the sports teams here are exclusive and would not expand their social group. Thirty-nine percent of participants, though, do like sports culture here, and believe that the sports teams are inclusive and would expand their social group.

Participants were also asked to reflect on the sports houses, the foremost sources of off-campus parties. Of participants think that the sports houses fill a social void on campus that fraternities and sororities would otherwise fill. Twenty-three percent of participants think that sports houses are inclusive, most likely because they often host open parties. An additional 28 percent of participants think that the sports houses are exclusive, a different question from whether or not the teams themselves promote exclusivity. Fifty-one percent of participants neglected to comment on the inclusive or exclusive nature of the sports houses. One participant commented that the sports houses "create weird group mentalities, and perpetuate potentially negative sexual health-related mindsets," but added that if those mindsets could be adjusted, the houses would be "important to have." Another participant said that the houses "propagate the binge drinking and hazing culture that the sports teams currently have." One participant referred to the house occupants as "pigs." Residents of the sports houses declined to comment for fear of framing their house in a bad light.

In some ways, the sports houses are no different than an apartment full of friends with similar activities or majors, "like any other group of friends that share an interest," as one participant said. But it is clear from the comments in this survey that the opinion of the sports houses is not so cut-and-dry.

There are always more questions that could be asked about sports at Skidmore, but perhaps this survey will encourage more critical conversation about our sports culture.

THE SKIDMORE NEWS

HOME ABOUT US NEWS FEATURES OPINION ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SPORTS PULP ARCHIVES ADVERTISING STAFF

Inside the Mansion

By Noa Maltzman '18 and Janine Kristchgau '18, Staff Writers



Having traveled to 70 countries in her lifetime, Michele Riggi can assert with total confidence “there's not one city in all those places like Saratoga.” Fresh off of a 17-day adventure around the world, including visits to Nepal, China, and Hawaii, Riggi returned home for another special adventure—Halloween at her own home.

For the past 11 years, Riggi and her husband have hosted incredible Halloween festivities, which include cash hidden in chocolate bars, free donuts and cider, petting ponies, a pumpkin weight guessing contest, and incredible decorations. Riggi cannot be missed during the festivities, as she wears an ornate custom-made Cinderella gown. To go along with the Cinderella theme, she also borrows a carriage from the Great Escape amusement park which she places outside her home.

Although Halloween is their trademark event, the Riggi Family is involved in Saratoga life throughout the year. Michele, a former ballerina herself, is the President of the Museum of Dance here in Saratoga Springs. Her son-in-law, David Zecchini, is the owner of various popular restaurants including Forno and Boca Bistro. The family has very generously supported the community, and recently made a donation of one million dollars to the local YMCA to expand their facility.



But what the family is most well-known for is their home on North Broadway. The home has become a hallmark of the upscale residential area that borders downtown. Cars frequently pull over to take pictures of one of the most elaborate properties in the area. The Pallazzo Riggi is home to Michele, her husband Ron, and their famous pets. The interior of the home is equally manicured as the exterior—flowers cover tables, chandeliers hang in various different rooms, and the foyer hosts incredible fresco walls. The Riggis did not build the house for themselves; instead, they built the house with the love of their dogs in mind. At the time that they moved in they only had 13 dogs, a pack that has more than tripled in size since.

The Riggis' pack of dogs has now grown to 41, given the recent addition of Boo, a deaf rescue chihuahua. Taking care of this many

dogs is very time-consuming, so the Riggis have a special housekeeper who spends the day looking after them. “These dogs are kept



better than most people,” Riggi says as she explains how it is particularly hard to take care of a group this large. “They [are like potato chip] “you can't just have one.”

At the start of each day, the dog bedding is changed and each of the four dog bedrooms are cleaned. Then it is time for them to be fed. The feeding of all 41 dogs takes about an hour-and-a-half, as each dog gets fed individually to prevent any fighting for food. The Pallazzo Riggi orders and cooks 100 pounds of organic meat every three weeks. The broth from the meat is mixed with grains before each portion is frozen. This food diet is satisfactory for most dogs, and even helped some lose weight. After the feeding is done, it is time to give some of the older dogs their medications. Keeping track of all the medications and making sure that they always have some left is one of the hardest parts for Michele Riggi about having this many dogs.

The Riggis go to great lengths to ensure the happiness of each and every one of their dogs. One of the eldest dogs, for example, refuses to eat the chicken based meals and instead will only eat McDonald's cheeseburger patties. Every other day, Riggi goes to McDonald's to get eight cheeseburgers for him.

Keep an eye out at the Riggi house as she is now installing her Christmas decorations. For those who missed all the pumpkins in the yard and Halloween decorations, do not worry because she plans on bringing them back next year. She even has ideas on how she can make Halloween at the Riggi's even better and bigger for the following years.

Michele dreams of a Halloween Block Party, in which the entire block be closed to traffic, to make the festivities even bigger. In addition, she is considering changing her iconic costume: from Cinderella to something new. Although she is not sure what that costume will be, there is no doubt it will be lavish-just like everything else Riggi.

In Response to “The Red Side: Free Case Walkway of Condoms”



As of January 2014, states across our nation have enacted more abortion restrictions in the past three years than in the entire previous decade. Over 200 targeted regulation of abortion providers (TRAP) laws have served to greatly reduce the number of reproductive health care facilities serving women. Attacks against reproductive freedom are now constant, and the work of activist organizations has seldom been so critical.

The mission of Skidmore Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood is to mobilize student advocates of reproductive rights, educate about sexual health, and provide students with the tools to lead healthy sexual lives. We recognize the imperative need to offer students an opportunity to engage with these issues—even in a short conversation over free condoms on Case Walkway. Although we often partner with, and certainly support, other groups on campus, we are, first and foremost, a reproductive rights group. In his October 3 article “The Red Side: Free Case Walkway of Condoms,” Jacob Reiskin seems to have confused us with another campus group, mistakenly implying that we have previously advertised with images of sex toys. We have not. We have no intention of making students or faculty uncomfortable with the distribution of free condoms, and we apologize if we have done so. We are certainly open to constructive criticism to help us create a safer, more welcoming space for students to engage.

At each of our monthly Free Condom Fridays we distribute roughly 500 condoms to students. We also supply dental dams and other safe sex barriers. Since we began Free Condom Fridays with the founding of Vox four years ago, students have shown great enthusiasm for this event. Through Free Condom Fridays we have connected with students that—according to their own testimony—would not have otherwise further participated in reproductive rights activism. We do our very best to have some sort of dialogue with each and every student who comes to our table. Free Condom Fridays are an educational tool as well as an opportunity for us to provide students with contraceptives entirely free of cost, recognizing that education would be meaningless without access.

It is critical that our club maintain a visible presence on campus if we are to be useful to the student body. With over a hundred clubs on campus, it would be easy for the resources we provide to go unseen and unbeknownst to many students. Regular events in common areas, such as Case Walkway or the Dining Hall Atrium, are how we connect with the student body.

Finally, we are disturbed by the insinuations of Jacob Reiskin's title “The Red Side: Free Case Walkway of Condoms.” To imply that the work of Planned Parenthood, or even more broadly, the dissemination of free condoms, is a partisan issue contradictory to Republican or conservative values, is both misinformed and misguided. Skidmore Vox has noted support from both the Skidmore Democrats and the Skidmore Republicans. Furthermore, Vox is a deliberately nonpartisan organization. It is unfair, in our opinion, to offhandedly label the “red side” as anti-Planned Parenthood—even anti-free condoms.

We hope that students will continue to be supportive of and engaged with our club, and we certainly invite any suggestions for change and growth. We meet every Monday at 7:00 pm in Ladd 207. All are welcome.

Signed,

Skidmore Vox Executive Board



Blue Side: America's Problem with Guns

By Noah Tananbaum, Staff Writer

[Earlier this year](#), a troubled citizen killed six people and injured 13, before committing suicide. This event has since become known as the Isla Vista killings. While mass shootings are statistically rare, this type of story has sadly become all too familiar to the American people. The topics of gun rights and gun control have always exerted enormous influence over the American people and have been the instigator of many a debate.

Perhaps it is due to the nature of how our country was formed, but America, unlike every other Westernized country, has had an unprecedented level of gun-related violence. [Each year](#), more than 30,000 people are killed due to gun violence in this country which, broken down, translates to roughly 30 people killed each day because of the prevalence of guns. Although there is no national gun registry, there are an [estimated](#) 283 million guns owned by regular U.S. citizens. Total U.S. population is approximately 316 million. These figures reflect an undeniable truth: guns are a deeply rooted aspect of our culture.

America was founded in a blaze of revolution. The men who fought in the Continental Army were ordinary citizens, not trained members of an organized military. Americans have since inherited the notion of having an armed citizenry in order to protect against a potential dictatorial government synonymous to the regime of King George III. While this scenario will unlikely ever manifest into reality, it is important to respect the Constitution and all Americans' rights to defend themselves. However, it is crucial that the clauses of the Constitution be applied to the changing circumstances of our constantly modernizing world.

When the framers wrote that "the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," could they have possibly envisioned the types of deadly weaponry that would evolve from advancement and new technology? Would they endorse the civilian use of such items? When conservatives are posed this hypothetical they generally utilize the oft quoted line that "guns don't kill people, people kill people." While technically true, Americans put guns in a special category, one that is apparently immune to reform, unlike other categories of objects that can kill us. The primary purpose of automobiles is transportation and yet, given what we know concerning the potential dangers of cars, the government has restrictions regarding driving laws in order to make the road safer for all. These laws are not controversial. Yet, when these types of preventive measures are implemented with regard to firearms, there is uproar.

No rational person wants to remove all guns from society. The right to defend oneself is an important one, and law-abiding citizens should be able to exercise it. The process of purchasing a firearm however, should not be as straightforward as getting a Milky Way at CVS. The vast majority of [gun shows](#) are able to sell guns without having to perform background checks. Since the guns are part of interstate commerce, the argument is that the federal government cannot regulate these transactions. Consequently, in 33 states private gun owners can sell their products at these shows and buyers are not subjected to background checks. In fact, [30 to 40 %](#) of guns are purchased without a background check. In 2013, the bipartisan [Manchin-Toomey Bill](#), was defeated on the floor of the Senate. It would have required universal background checks.

While Republicans' beliefs on this subject are no doubt sincere, they are clearly informed by the influence and financial support that

stems from the [National Rifle Association](#) (NRA). The NRA keeps a list of candidates who would be more sympathetic to their interests. If a candidate does not support their extreme pro-gun position, then the NRA will pour money into their opponents'

campaigns in the next election cycle in order to unseat them. No special interest group should have that level of power in the political process. This type of behavior completely undermines the concept of democratically elected leaders. Our elected officials are supposed to represent the will of the people. When 80-90 % of the country supports universal background checks and the U.S. Congress strikes down a bill that proposes them, our government is not working the way it should.

Adjusting for population size, America's rate of gun homicides is 6.6 times greater than the gun deaths in Portugal, one of the most violent countries in Western Europe. No other modern, westernized country comes anywhere close to our rate. Believing in the integrity of the Second Amendment and supporting common sense gun reform do not have to be mutually exclusive. Many conservatives argue that criminals will get their hands on guns regardless of the restrictions and therefore there is little point in enacting tighter restrictions. This argument is utterly lacking in logic. Drivers can get drunk and then get behind the wheel and yet this does not mean that we should not have laws against driving while drunk. If gun reform approaches do not work then different strategies should be pursued, but doing nothing is the wrong response. America cannot afford to sit idly by while year after year, 30,000 Americans lose their lives to gun violence.

Editorial: On Skidmore's Sustainability Ventures

by The Editorial Board



Skidmore College is making some great steps towards improving its sustainability. The school is on its way to achieving geothermal heating and cooling for [50% of buildings on campus](#). Palamountain Lot hosts an electric car-charging station. As of this past October, [12% of Skidmore's energy](#) is solar powered. The school is phasing in water-refill stations all throughout campus, and LED lights are being installed as well.

The future is looking very optimistic for Skidmore's campus. However, the Editorial Board would like to see Skidmore tackle some more fundamental, albeit less exciting sustainability issues.

For example, Skidmore College has no LEED-certified buildings on its campus, which is highly uncommon for a school with the amount of funding that Skidmore has, paired with its focus on sustainability and environmental concerns. LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a certification granted by the Green Building Certification Institute. The different levels of certification rate how efficiently and sustainably a building is designed, constructed, maintained and operated. A LEED certified-building would certainly boost Skidmore's appeal for prospective students interested in attending a sustainable campus. It would also be a drastic improvement for the overall quality of Skidmore's buildings.

Skidmore's most recent building ventures, the new student apartments, have been somewhat unimpressive in regards to sustainability. The Northwoods Apartments were completed in 2006, with one further addition in 2011, and Hillside Apartments were completed in 2012. These projects are so recent, yet the quality of the buildings leaves much to be desired. Walls in the apartments (not to mention in dorms as well) are poorly insulated and the windows so porous that residents can often feel drafts from the outdoors. This also means that heated air is leaking out, which is a waste of energy. The windows are relatively small and feasible fixes that could ultimately save both energy and money, not to mention make the apartments more comfortable to live in.

The Board would like to see Skidmore elect to spend its money on basic, necessary improvements, like stronger windows, rather than spend millions of dollars on flashier improvements. Geothermal engineering and solar panels are both highly beneficial, but the less flashy improvements are equally meaningful.

The Board also has a suggestion for improving the Skidmore Unplugged energy-conservation venture. As of now, Skidmore Unplugged is a project solely for students living in dorm buildings, measuring the amount of energy spent in each residential hall over a course of 21 days. Whichever dorm decreases its energy the most receives a water-refilling station in their building. We believe this project should be a more campus-wide endeavor. It would be useful to let students living in on-campus apartments also gain an understanding of how much energy they are expending. Either at the end of each month or at least at the same time as Skidmore Unplugged, residents should receive fake energy bills, letting them understand how much energy their building has been consuming. This way, residents can at least have some idea of how much energy they are either wasting or saving, and Skidmore Unplugged will not be excluding a large percentage of the student body.

Overall, Skidmore College definitely has sustainability in mind in its future-planning. We only suggest that the College look at some more immediate concerns, ones with the potential for simple but highly beneficial changes.

Technology Disruptions in the Classroom: What Gives?

by Janine Kritschgau '18



Technology use in the classroom is getting out of control. I enjoy my social media just like most Generation Xers, but I have not reached the point of being addicted to texting, Facebook, and online shopping the way others seem to be. Unfortunately, the situation is getting dire. Just walk into any classroom and take a close look at its students. You will see them checking for status updates on their phones under tables or hidden behind books and computer screens. You'll find students using iMessage to text their friends from laptops, and search for the hottest deals on a new sweater.

Educational institutions are struggling to balance the benefits and pitfalls of allowing students to use technology in class. Laptops can be useful for recording lectures, taking notes, and doing research, but can also simultaneously impede the classroom experience. Professors are taking sides; some are prohibiting the use of any sort of device during class, while others trust that students are using technology for educational purposes.

I am sorry to have to burst the bubble, but I rarely see the latter taking place. Even students who use computers to take notes often get distracted at least once, wandering onto social media.

Some students are agitated by professors cracking down on technology. Claiming that since it is their education, these students believe they have the right to shape their own classroom experience. But what they do not understand is that their behavior not only negatively affects their own academic experience, but also hampers the environment for everyone else. The truth is that glancing around the room to find students checking their Facebook, Yik-Yaking, or texting is distracting to other students and to the professor.

Professors aren't blind. When they catch a student getting distracted, some pause the lesson and reprimand the student, often giving a short talk about how they feel disrespected and annoyed. Some go so far as to collect all cell phones in the class. No matter how dramatic the reaction, one thing is obvious; it's a total waste of time, and therefore money.

The average student, taking four courses that meet on average twice a week, will attend 224 classes within the academic year. With tuition rates hovering at about \$60,000, each class costs about \$270. By this logic, every minute a professor has to spend scolding students and lecturing about respectful decorum in the classroom is worth just under \$5. Considering some classes are as short as 55 minutes, wasting even a moment disrupting the classroom experience is shameful. Students in my classes, beware: the next time you cause a major disruption, you owe me a Starbucks.

Reel Talk: 'Interstellar' is a technical marvel and a beautiful film



By Sean van der Heijden

Christopher Nolan's latest film, 'Interstellar,' has, as usual, divided fans and critics. Some are calling it pretentious, familiar storytelling, while others are saying it is a bold, unique film unlike any ever made. While you really have to watch it to find out, the film concerns a group of astronauts who travel through a wormhole in order to find another habitable planet while, back at home, earth is slowly wasting away.

The one thing that I can say about 'Interstellar' is that it is the most well-made film I've ever seen. Every shot is pure perfection—a work of art—and the visual effects are utterly stunning. Black holes, wormholes, and other space oddities are depicted here like never before—they actually had to invent new software based on the works of theoretical physicist Kip Thorne in order to achieve their vision. Other technical components, such as Nolan's direction, a fantastic (but way too loud) score by Hans Zimmer, and striking cinematography from Hoyte Van Hoytema, all help add to the epic vision of space Nolan wanted to convey.

The acting, too, was very good. Everyone is at the top of their game, from Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, and Michael Caine, to supporting actors like Casey Affleck, David Gyasi, Wes Bentley, John Lithgow, Ellen Burstyn, and (surprise!) Matt Damon. An additional standout was Mackenzie Foy, who plays McConaughey's daughter and expertly sets up the emotional tension for the rest of the film.

So why are there so many detractors for this film? There really aren't, it's just that they are being very vocal, and for two reasons: first off, Nolan critics are always fast to point out his heavy use of expositional dialogue and overcomplicated plotlines. Both exist here, but for the most part are handled well. Secondly, the plot itself isn't as grand as the ideas Nolan grapples with here. I don't agree with every plot choice Nolan made—some parts were made overly dramatic for no reason, and small parts could have been cut—but thought the overall plot was pretty original and well thought-out.

Additionally, critics have pointed to the science in the film: while it's mostly sound, a lot of it is very complex, and they do bend the rules a bit for plot purposes. I didn't find either of these to be an issue, and everything was explained in pretty simplistic terms. Also, the film does happen in the future, so holding its world to the limited science of our world seems unfair.

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Club Profile: Feedmore

By Jessica Kong '17, Staff Writer



Matthew Weale '16 and Alexandra Hagney '16 are bringing relief to the local homeless population with help from Skidmore College. Feedmore is a local hunger relief program that collects uneaten, yet perfectly edible food from the Skidmore College dining hall in order to supply vulnerable populations with a hot meal and a gesture of compassion.

Weale, a Mathematics major and Computer Science minor, explained what drove him to bring Feedmore to our campus: "When I first came to Skidmore, I was overwhelmed by the number of homeless people living in the streets, especially given the climate that we live in. It's pretty treacherous. Also, working in the Dining Services really exposed me to the amount of food waste that was going on in the Dining Services."

Weale was scrolling through Twitter one day when he came across a post about a similar program. Combined with his observations of the disheartening number of homeless people in Saratoga and his experience of working with Dining Services, he took the steps to assuage a problem that had been troubling him for over two years. He contacted Hagney, a Business and Dance major, who was also having qualms about the amount of food being thrown away on campus.

Hagney says her interest in joining Weale were for the same reasons that inspired Weale to initiate the program. "Over two years in and out of classes, I've had peers do projects about issues on campus, one being food waste - but no one has really done anything about it. So once we started looking into other schools that were doing exactly what we wanted to do, we realized how easy it was. It was just about getting the right amount of people together, talking to the right people, and so we took on the initiative to do it. Coming from my background at home, I've always been involved with the community and Saratoga has been great to me so far, so why not give back a little bit?"

Every Tuesday and Friday morning at 9 a.m., the Feedmore club meets at the Atrium to work with Dining Hall staff members to collect the excess food into containers and drive it to the Saratoga Soup Kitchen on Circular Street.

Hagney says they have received a heartwarming response from student volunteers so far, but hopes for an expansion of the effort. "We had a lot of kids come that were just as passionate about it. There were freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors. We don't necessarily know them, but we were able to connect with them on this common issue that we want addressed. It's open to anyone. If you want to come down once, great! You made a difference. If you want to come down every Tuesday and Friday, that's even better. We take as many people as we can, whoever wants to help. It's definitely open to the entire community, so hopefully once we start going more, we'll get more donations and more colleges involved."

Weale says moving forward will require publicizing their work to the student body. "Going forward, I hope to open the eyes of the college community in realizing how much food is going to waste, whether it's just the Dining Services planning to throw it away and Feedmore saving it before it's thrown away, or it's people just taking way too much food and then not touching it - which I think is another problem, but that's something we can't do anything about. I would like to ask more people to get involved. It's a really easy cause and its helping so many, and as we get into the winter and get to sleep in our warm dorms and go to the dining hall and eat great food, there's still people out there five to ten minutes away who are struggling to get a hot meal on their plate or even a bed to sleep in. I think this is a wonderful opportunity for people to give back and to realize how lucky they are here at Skidmore as well as the things that we could do through our college to help out the community. Don't be afraid to get involved!"

Check out the Feedmore Skidmore Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FeedMoreSkidmore?fref=ts>) for more information.



VOX Presents Sara Alcid

By Billie Kanfer '16, Features Editor

Many events regarding sexuality, sexual assault and gender equality have surfaced over the years. Within the last year, it featured most prominently in the Supreme Court case known as Hobby Lobby. These various themes are becoming increasingly visible in everyday life. The Skidmore chapter of Vox: Voices for Planned Parenthood, is presenting a lecturer Tuesday, November 18th at 7 p.m. in Gannett Auditorium. Her name is Sara Alcid and she is a queer feminist activist and writer. She hails from the D.C area and is knowledgeable on these topics as well as the politics behind the fight for equality. Alcid has an academic background in Gender and Sexuality Studies where she brings together her strong knowledge of the subject with the practical modern perspective. Her work spans from the intersection of environmental health and reproductive health to dating as a feminist.

Alcid will be joining the Skidmore campus for an evening discussion titled, "The Politics of Sex and Reproductive Justice." The description is as follows: "Where are today's unprecedented attacks on birth control and abortion coming from? Join Skidmore Vox and feminist writer and activist, Sara Alcid, to explore the roots and nuances of the "war on women" through a reproductive justice and positive sexuality lens. In the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby, we must examine the stigma surrounding birth control, why it exists, how it relates to America's campus sexual assault epidemic and impacts the LGBTQ equality movement. Attendees will leave this interactive presentation with a deep and intersectional understanding of the politics of sex and reproductive justice, plus the ability to apply it to other areas of feminist activism."

Vox wanted to address these issues because of their current relevance and because of multiple incidents that have involved the Skidmore community including the off-duty Campus Safety Officer. At the end of last year, the club discussed bringing in a lecturer (Sara Alcid will be their first) to promote Vox's mission of mobilizing student advocates and promoting healthy sexual lives.

This lecture will not just be geared towards female equality, but gender equality as a whole, which is in line with Vox's mission statement that focuses on gender equality and healthy sexual lives. Alcid, in accordance with Vox, has structured her discussion to involve talk about the treatment of women, Hobby Lobby decision, birth control accessibility and the stigma over reproductive rights.

The event will not just inform the students but will also educate Vox on these matters so that they may enhance their own discussion on Skidmore's campus.

Check around for posters regarding the event!

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Campus Safety Reports Oct.31-Nov.6



October 31, 2014 - Friday

BURGLARY 11:00AM: RP reports possible burglary in dorm room of Rounds Hall. Officer dispatched, report taken.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 1:42PM: RP reports a burning hair/plastic odor in Art Center. Facilities on scene trying to locate the odor. Odor coming from hot wax in sculpture room.

COLLEGE VIOLATION 10:47PM: RP called to report a large gathering in a room in Kimball Hall. Officers dispatched, report generated.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 11:56PM: RP called to report a large party in Sussman Apartments. Officers dispatched, group dispersed, report generated.

November 1, 2014 - Saturday

CAMPUS SAFETY ASSIST 12:11AM: RP called to report that he has called SSPD to advise of a large party off campus that is out of control. Officers advised.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 2:43AM: RP reports females are being too loud in Sussman Apartments. Officer dispatched, spoke with students who agreed to quiet down.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 1:22PM: Officer reports graffiti in the north side elevator wall in Jonsson Tower. Report generated.

LARCENY 5:00PM: Student reports her cell phone was stolen and is currently at an off-campus location. Report filed with SSPD.

CAMPUS SAFETY ASSIST 6:18PM: RP has wallet and requests to give directly to student. SSPD contacted & student contacted. Report generated.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 10:43PM: RP caller reports excessive noise in Sussman Apartments. Students agreed to quiet down.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 10:51PM: RP reports a suspicious odor in Jonsson Tower. Officer dispatched, report generated.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION 11:21PM: Officer reports a Liquor Law Violation in Rounds Hall. Alcohol violation referral.

November 2, 2014- Sunday

COLLEGE VIOLATION- 01:58AM: RP reports excessive noise on Whitman Way. Officers dispatched reports residents lowered volume upon request.

LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION 01:33AM: RP reports liquor law violation in plain view in Penfield Hall. Report issued.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 12:53PM: RP reports a suspicious odor in Tower. Officer dispatched report no odor detected.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 08:03PM: RP reports a complaint of a suspicious odor emanating from the third floor of Jonsson Tower.

Skidmore News Online: November 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 4/02/2015.

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BURGLARY 08:32PM: RP reported items missing from his room in Penfield Hall. Investigation initiated and report issued.
November 3, 2014- Monday

COLLEGE VIOLATION 12:16AM: RP reports excessive noise from third floor common area in Penfield Hall. Officers dispatched report group was located and instructed to lower the volume. All complied.

FIRE ALARM 01:50AM: Fire alarm activated on Moore Way. Campus Safety Officers, SSFD, and maintenance dispatched. Burnt food determined to be cause. Report issued.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 10:05AM: RP reports odor of marijuana in Jonsson Tower. Officer dispatched reports source of odor undetermined.

HARRASSMENT 11:04AM: RP reports unwanted contact by student in Jonsson Tower. Report issued.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 12:40PM: RP reports permanent graffiti in stairwell of Jonsson Tower. Officer dispatched reports report issued and damage documented.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 08:56PM: RP reports a suspicious activity in Wiecking. Officers canvassed area for suspicious subject with negative results. Periodic checks made. No problems reported. Report issued.

November 4, 2014 - Tuesday

COLLEGE VIOLATION 12:15AM: Excessive noise complaint on Whitman Way. Dispatched officers report condition corrected. Noise level lowered by residents.

FIRE ALARM 09:22AM: Fire alarm activation received on Cane Crossing. Dispatched officers, maintenance, and SSFD. Source of activation determined to be a humidifier. Report issued.

LARCENY 08:00PM: RP reports items of clothing taken from the third floor storage room of Wilmarth Hall. Investigation initiated and report issued.

November 5, 2014 - Wednesday

COLLEGE VIOLATION-Skateboarding 7:48PM: Officer reports skateboarders at the loading dock in Case Center Lot. Officer requests the two subjects to leave and they complied.

COLLEGE VIOLATION-Noise 11:18PM: RP reports a noise complaint in Penfield Hall. Officer reports subjects in area talking.

November 6, 2014 - Thursday

COLLEGE VIOLATION-NOISE 2:38AM: RP reports noise complaint in common area of Wilmarth Hall. Students told to quiet down.

FIRE DRILLS 10:26AM: Fire alarm testing conducted. Found to be a good drill. In Greenburg Child Care Center

FIRE ALARM-OTHER 08:26PM: Fire alarm activation received in Sussman Apartments. Units dispatched, due to cooking.

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Beatlemore Skidmania 14: The Beatles Arrive in America A fall tradition at Skidmore explores globalization of The Beatles



Skidmore Music Professor Gordon Thompson and his students are heading into the home stretch before Beatlemore Skidmania 2014, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21 and 22, in the College's Arthur Zankel Music Center. For this, the 14th version of the annual event, Skidmore musicians will perform tunes from 1964 to showcase the 50th anniversary of the Beatles going global by arriving in America. The show annually features a mix of a cappella groups, rock bands, and acoustic acts and their remarkably original interpretations of Beatles repertoire.

Said Thompson, "This year we celebrate the breakthrough of this important band into the American market. They had already achieved considerable success in Britain and Western Europe, but they had had very little success in the North American market. More fundamentally, they opened up the American market for British performers who had been largely treated as novelty acts up to this point."

The program reflects this theme. Selections from the albums *Hard Days Night*, *With The Beatles*, and *Beatles for Sale* will be performed, as will the singles "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Can't Buy Me Love," "This Boy," "Long Tall Sally," and "I Feel Fine." (Please visit <http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/music/courses/Skidmania/2014-Beatlemore/index.html> to see the program lineup.)

As in the past, the production will serve as a fundraiser again this year. In 2013, approximately \$12,000 was raised from show proceeds and sale of such things as posters and T-shirts. Two thirds of that amount went to Skidmore Cares, the College's community outreach program, and the other third was contributed to student financial aid.

Performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. Nov. 21, and at 2 and 8 p.m. Nov. 22. (Ticket information follows.) The Saturday night show is reserved for a Skidmore-only audience. In recent years there has also been a live stream via the College's web site to reach

Skidmore alumni around the world. This year, first-year students in London will also have the opportunity to view the show over the web and there will be viewing parties for alumni in New York City and Boston. Boston-area alumni are welcome at Harvard Club “ Back Bay, 374 Commonwealth Ave, from 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 22, while New York City alums are invited from 7 to 10 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Playwright Irish Pub, 27 West 35th St. Admission to both events is \$10 per person and \$7 for young alumni. T-shirts and posters designed by students will be available for sale at each event. For more information, please contact the College's Alumni Affairs Office at 518-580-5610.

Over the years, Beatlemore Skidmania has morphed from a fairly casual, one-show songfest to a far more professional production staged three times over two days. This year's show will feature more than 70 performers and “a much higher energy level among the bands,” noted Thompson.

Instead of this being a class project for his fall “Beatles Seminar” course, Thompson is working this year with a small group of students who are combining talents and their love of the Fab Four to produce the show. The 2014 Beatlemore Student Committee consists of Roslyn Wertheimer '16, Noah Samors '15, and Lisa Fierstein '16. They are responsible for a significant number of show elements: selecting the line-up, choosing a poster winner, marketing, outreach, merchandise sales, stage crew, working with Skidmore Cares, and making sure the show runs smoothly. The three students are officially enrolled in an independent study, earning academic credit for an alternative educational experience.

Said Thompson, “In the past some students have said this is the most important educational experience they have had at Skidmore. It's a hands-on look at putting together a show that allows students a chance to learn all aspects of a production, from the basic mechanics of recruiting performers and securing rights and permission for the music, to putting the performance together: balancing bands, a cappella, acoustic; the order and set-up of bands; and the quick exchange of performers. There's a lot of planning involved to keep the show fresh and balanced.”

Tickets for the Nov. 21 and 22 Beatlemore Skidmania shows are \$10 general admission, \$7 for seniors, faculty, and staff, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may be purchased online at <http://www.skidmore.edu/zankel/>

Posters are \$5 and T-shirts, \$15. They may be purchased in the Zankel lobby during the shows.

Almost from the start in 2001, Beatlemore Skidmania has been a fall performance tradition at Skidmore. It has typically attracted an enthusiastic group of students to audition, and audiences always include a solid mix of campus and community members. Thompson says, “I have only a general idea why it's been this successful. In part, it's become a tradition that people just expect. In part, the concert provides a context in which different student (and faculty) performers can share the stage. In part, it's the music, because the Beatles helped to establish the model that much of today's popular music follows. The intergenerational enthusiasm comes significantly from parents (and now grandparents) sharing their love of the music with their children (and grandchildren).”

Women's basketball edged in season opener



[The Skidmore College women's basketball team](#) was held off by Trinity College, 65-62, Saturday evening in the second game of the 38th Skidmore Invitational Tournament at the Williamson Sports Center.

The Thoroughbreds go to 0-1, while the Bantams move to 1-0.

Skidmore Freshman guard Kelly Donnelly posted a double-double, leading all scorers with 21 points and pulling down a game-high 12 rebounds. Angela Botiba added 12 points and nine boards and Amber Holgate chipped in with seven points and six rebounds off the bench.

The Thoroughbreds got out to a 10-2 lead to start the game, as Botiba and Donnelly rattled off four points each and Allie Keller added a layup. Trinity managed to pull within five just over six minutes into the half as Mackenzie Griffin converted on a layup and the ensuing free throw. Skidmore responded quickly, stringing together an 11-5 run and taking a 23-12 lead on a Donnelly jumper.

The Bantams continued to chip away at the lead and came back within two with a 12-3 run capped by a Melanie Mills layup, but the Thoroughbreds scored the final four points of the half to take a 30-24 lead into the break.

Molly McLaughlin hit a jumper to extend the Skidmore to eight, but Trinity put together a 10-4 run, tying the game at 38-38 on a Taylor Higgins 3-pointer. Skidmore responded with a 7-2 run with baskets from Migle Vilunaite and Holgate, but the Bantams hung tough, eventually taking a 56-52 lead with 6:18 to play after a pair of Mills free throws and three points from Higgins.

Holgate and Botiba provided a response for Skidmore, combining from 10-straight points to give Skidmore a 62-56 lead with 1:37 remaining. Sheena Landy's layup brought Trinity back within four with a layup and Kaitlin Lewis drilled a 3-pointer on the Bantams next possession to make it a one-point game. Bianca Brenz made two free throws pulling down a defensive rebound and made two more with 14 seconds remaining to put Trinity ahead 65-62. The Thoroughbreds had one last possession, but they could not find the shot they needed.

Higgins had a team-high 16 points for the Bantams to go along with five rebounds. Griffin had 15 points and a team-high nine rebounds and Christina Raiti had 10 points and five boards.

Skidmore shot 25-of-67 from the field and 2-of-8 from 3-point range, while Trinity was 23-of-60 from the floor and 5-of-14 from three.

The Thoroughbreds host the US Coast Guard Academy at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16.

Campus Safety Reports Nov.7-Nov.13



Friday, November 7

COLLEGE VIOLATION - NOISE 12:36 AM: RP called for loud noise in Kimball Hall. Disp. Officers who report the group was asked to quiet down and they complied.

COLLEGE VIOLATION - NOISE 2:22 AM: RP stated there is loud noise on Whitman Way. Disp. Officers.

BURGLARY - NO FORCE 11:32am: RP reports sometime between 2pm and 4pm yesterday person(s) cash from stolen from room in Penfield Hall. Disp. Officer. Report made.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3:03pm: Report of missing pool sticks in Kimball Hall. Report made.

BURGLARY - NO FORCE 9:12PM: RP reports money missing from room in Wilmarth Hall. Report taken.

COLLEGE VIOLATION - NOISE 11:45 PM: RP reported loud noise on Moore Way. Dispatched Officers. Group dispersed.

Saturday, November 8

COLLEGE VIOLATION - NOISE 12:26 AM: RP reported a noise complaint on Dayton Drive. Dispatched Officer who reports loud music. Volume lowered.

COLLEGE VIOLATION - NOISE 12:50 AM: RP reports a noise complaint in Sussman Apartments. Dispatched Officer who reports loud talking. Subjects lowered volume upon request.

COLLEGE VIOLATION - NOISE 2:15 AM: Officers heard loud music on Whitman Way. Occupants told to turn music down.

COLLEGE VIOLATION CONTRABAND CONFISCATION 11:55 pm Officer reports confiscating a flask containing alcohol on Falstaff's Pavilion. Alcohol dumped. Flask tagged and bagged.

Sunday, November 9

FIRE-NON RESIDENTIAL 12:57 AM: RP reports seeing a small campfire behind Chapel. Dispatched Officer who reports students ran away and fire was extinguished.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 11:20 am - RP reports finding piles of human hair in the bathroom and hallway of Wiecking Hall. Officer and Housekeeping dispatched. Owner located. All is okay.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 11:35 am - RP reports an EXIT sign torn from the ceiling on the first floor of Wiecking Hall. Report generated.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 11:50 am - RP reports 2 suspicious people in Northwoods. Disp. Officer who searched the area. Subjects were gone upon officer arrival.

FIRE ALARM-OTHER 7:46 PM: Fire alarm activation due to burnt popcorn in Sussman Apartments

Monday, November 10

FALSELY REPORT AN INCIDENT 7:32am - RP reports finding a suspicious note stating regarding the denotation of a bomb in an academic building. Disp. Officer, SSPD, and nearby Police Agencies.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 9:20AM: RP reports unknown person entered apartment the day before in Sussman Apartments. Report taken. Found to be employee working on a problem in the apartment.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 10:40am - RP states the entire floor reeks of marijuana in Jonsson Tower. 12:04pm - Disp. Officer to conduct a walk-through. Officer states there is still a faint odor of marijuana by the elevators; however, he is unable to determine the source of the odor.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 1:00PM: RP reports suspicious odor in Jonsson Tower. Officer dispatched, report taken.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 2:09PM: RP reports person on bicycle with big bags on side in Case Center Green. Officer dispatched.

HARRASSMENT " SIMPLE 2:20 p.m.: RP reports that an unknown male assaulted her boyfriend while they were having lunch at a cafe Saratoga Springs.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 2:20 p.m.: RP reports that an unknown male assaulted her boyfriend while they were having lunch at a cafe Saratoga Springs.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 04:43 PM: RP called to report a male playing a trumpet and yelling out about religion. Disp. Officers who identified the male and advised him to leave campus and not return.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 7:48 pm. Multiple reports of a burning odor around Campus. Advised Officers.

SUSPICIOUS ODOR 09:46 PM: RP reports a suspicious odor. Disp. officers. Officers unable to location any odor. 11:15 PM: RP called back stating there is a suspicious odor. Disp. officer.

Tuesday, November 11

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 1:04pm: RP reports someone broke off her side view mirror on her car in west lot

ACCIDENT 2:08pm: RP states he has accidentally backed into a pickup truck at the loading dock in Case Center Lot. Disp. Officer who responded and took a report.

Wednesday, November 12

COLLEGE VIOLATION - NOISE 1:26 AM: RP approached a group of students being loud in Wilmarth Hall. They were instructed to lower the volume.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 8:09pm RP reports a rumor of someone building an explosive device in Northwoods. Disp. Officers who report locating the person who was building parts for a computer. No illegal activity occurring.

CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY 8:40pm. RP reported observing two unauthorized males driving a college-owned golf cart in Harder Hall Lot. Disp. Officers who report locating the golf cart and males; identified as a students and reprimanded for their actions.

Thursday, November 13, 2014

CAMPUS SAFETY ASSIST 08:26AM: RP called requesting a welfare check on her son in Rounds Hall. Officer dispatched and message delivered.

PARKING 10:55AM: Officer reports booting a vehicle parked in Tower Lot due to it having numerous tickets for the same violations. Report issued.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 11:15PM: RP reports a suspicious activity in Howe Hall. Dispatched officers. Officers report speaking with a student who was upset. Situation alleviated.

ACCIDENT 11:58PM: RP reports an auto accident at the bottom of Wait hill. Officers on scene. Officers report no injuries. Car was moved to West lot.

Nov. 7 Faculty Meeting



By Emily Singer

This past Friday, the Skidmore College faculty gathered in Gannett auditorium for the college's monthly faculty meeting. Beau Breslin, Dean of faculty and Vice President of academic affairs, led the meeting this week due to the President's absence, starting off by discussing his recent visit to Trinity College for the Northeast Dean's Conference. This conference brings chief academic officers together from liberal art colleges to discuss new ideas colleges are implementing, problems schools share, and practices that are successful at schools that others could learn. This meeting focused on Title IX and shared governance, and it became apparent that compared to peer-aspirant schools, Skidmore is doing very well.

Some of the success that Skidmore is experiencing includes an overenrolled class, more applicants, and the school is receiving more money. Some practices done though were questioned, such as having faculty meetings on Friday afternoons instead of the middle of the week to ensure that all faculty attend the meetings. Some other ideas from the conference included consolidating committees into one academic affairs meeting for faculty to attend and help faculty move forward, and changing department chair authorities to make a more successful department.

Dan Rodecker, Nancy Bruno, and Jane Kjaer all received shout-outs from Vice President Breslin for the behind the scenes work they do to make the school function. Dan was recognized for overseeing most facilities, including many sustainable initiatives. Nancy is from human resources and was recognized for her successful 28 years at Skidmore, and Jane from Scribner Library was recognized for her work in reserves, circulation, and special collections.

Mehmet Odekon, chair of the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) covered two proposals to the faculty that would clarify wording in the faculty handbook. One of the amendments included inserting the heading "the council" to the faculty handbook, enabling the section under revision to apply to a large group of faculty.

Kim Frederick, a chemistry professor, spoke about the planned center for integrated sciences that is in the process of being formulated. They showed a video of the building that highlighted its facilities, demonstrating the plans that have been constructed over the past 10 years. The planned construction would include a gut renovation of the Dana Science Center and an addition to the building where Harder Hall is. The project is planned to begin soon, however the school is still waiting on more pledges from donors. So far \$32 million has been raised, but there is a lot more money needed in order to complete the job.

CEPP, the committee on educational policy and planning, began a discussion about the curriculum, putting up three questions for faculty to vote their support of lack thereof. Questions included whether student requirements should change based on individual backgrounds (if the student already speaks another language, should they need to take a language course?), should students be assigned reflective essays outside of class throughout their time here, and how to best advise students in the most constructive way.

Raab Visiting Artist: Richard Sennett

By Billie Kanfer '16, Features Editor



Richard Sennett

Skidmore College presents the 2014 Raab Visiting Artist, Richard Sennett to campus Friday, Nov. 21 in Gannett Auditorium at 6 p.m. Sennett, author of the critically acclaimed book, *The Craftsman*, has written extensively on class, cities, and culture. He currently teaches sociology at New York University and the London School of Economics. The lecture is sponsored by Skidmore alumna Rosanne Brody Raab and the college's Department of Art. Sennett is the 20th lecturer in the Raab Visiting Artist Lecture Series.

Craft Matters, on exhibit through Dec. 19, 2014 at Skidmore's Schick Art Gallery, features work by the previous 19 internationally known fine craft artists who have also delivered the Raab lecture at Skidmore. Admission to the Nov. 21 lecture, as well as the *Craft Matters* exhibition, is free and open to the public.

Tang Teaching Museum Receives Transformative Gift of Contemporary Art Works from Peter Norton Collection

Gift includes works by Matthew Barney, Glenn Ligon, Gabriel Orozco, Lari Pittman, Kara Walker, Carrie Mae Weems, and Fred Wilson



Devil's Postpile, 1993, by Fred Tomaselli is included in the gift from Peter Norton and is on view in the exhibition I was a double through Jan. 4, 2015, at the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College. (Tang Teaching Museum photo by Arthur Evans)

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College has received a gift of 75 works of contemporary art from the collection of the computer programmer and philanthropist Peter Norton. This is the first in a series of gifts to university art museums and teaching museums throughout the country—drawn from Norton's personal collection—to support the integration of the visual arts in higher education, foster creative museum practice, and engage diverse audiences with contemporary art.

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museums receiving a gift from Norton include: UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, California; Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois; California Museum of Photography and Sweeney Art Gallery at UCR ARTSblock, University of California Riverside, Riverside, California; Hammer Museum at UCLA, Los Angeles, California; Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri; Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts; and Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts.

The gift to the Tang includes works by some of today's leading contemporary artists, including Polly Apfelbaum, Matthew Barney, Nicole Cherubini, Willie Cole, Renee Cox, David Hammons, Glenn Ligon, Gabriel Orozco, Lari Pittman, Martha Rosler, Erika Rothenberg, Lorna Simpson, William Villalongo, Carrie Mae Weems, Fred Wilson, and Millie Wilson. In addition, the gift will bolster the Tang's photography collection, adding key works by Sam Durant, Anna Gaskell, Louise Lawler, Malik Sidbe, Hiroshi Sugimoto, and Gillian Wearing, among others.

Building on the Tang Museum's interest in acquiring works that reflect the museum's exhibition history and teaching mission, the gift also includes works by a number of artists who have had major solo shows at the museum, including Nayland Blake, Nicole Eisenman, Joseph Grigely, Martin Kersels, Dario Robleto, Alyson Shotz, Fred Tomaselli, and Kara Walker, as well as works featured in the Tang's current exhibition *I was a double*.

“On behalf of the Tang Teaching Museum, I would like to express my profound thanks to Peter Norton, he has substantially raised the profile of the Museum's collection with this generous gift,” said Ian Berry, the Museum's Dayton Director. “It fits perfectly with our role as a laboratory for ideas and dialogue, where art serves as a catalyst for students, faculty, and the public to advance knowledge across disciplines. These works will enrich the many audiences who come to the Tang, including the students who work with us, the faculty and classes who study here, and the artists and museum visitors from near and far.”

“The Skidmore College community accepts Peter Norton's gift with the deepest gratitude,” said Beau Breslin, Skidmore's dean of the faculty and vice president for academic affairs. “The Tang creates inventive ways to reveal the vitality of artwork through thought-provoking and challenging interdisciplinary exhibitions and programs, and we are thrilled to integrate these works into the Museum's collection. We are excited to present these works for the Skidmore community and the public in new and unexpected ways.”

Highlights of the gift include:

Fred Wilson, *Pharaoh Fetish*, 1993, plaster, leather, and wood beads. Wilson was featured in a career retrospective at the Tang Teaching Museum in 2002, *Fred Wilson: Objects and Installations 1979-2000*, and was the Luce Distinguished Visiting Fellow for the Program in Object Exhibition and Knowledge at the Tang Teaching Museum from 2006-08.

Nayland Blake, *Feeder 2*, 1998, gingerbread on a steel frame; *Gorge*, 1998, video. Blake's works were featured in the Tang's 2003 survey exhibition *Some Kind of Love: Nayland Blake, Performance Video 1989-2002*.

Kara Walker, *Keys to the Coop*, 1997, work on paper; *I'll be A Monkey's Uncle*, 1995, work on paper; and *The Bush, Skinny, De-boning*, 2002, sculpture. Walker was featured in the Tang's 2003 solo exhibition *Kara Walker: Narratives of a Negress*.

Martin Kersels, *Buoy*, 1999, mixed media including a mirror ball, a Walkman, an amplifier, a speaker, a tin can, a flashing light, and a motor. His work was featured in the 2007 Tang survey exhibition *Martin Kersels: Heavyweight Champion*.

Visitors to the museum can now see selections from the gift on view in the groundbreaking exhibition *I was a double*, co-curated by the Tang's Dayton Director Ian Berry and Pulitzer Prize-winning Composer David Lang. Artists with newly accessioned work from the Norton gift in *I was a double* include CÃ©leste Boursier-Mougenot, Karin Davie, Tony Feher, Fred Tomaselli, and Gabriel Orozco.

About Peter Norton

Peter Norton is best known for his namesake antivirus software and computer books. Starting in the late 1980s he began to amass what is now one of the largest contemporary art collections in the United States.

Norton was most interested in emerging artists and collected more than 3,000 works of art over two and a half decades. At the same time, Norton turned toward philanthropy with a focus on funding art and social service organizations. He has close ties with art institutions throughout the U.S., and is or has been a board member of a number of institutions including the California Institute of the Arts, Reed College, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

“Collections reflect the sensibility of the collector; I tend to be drawn to artworks that have ideas embedded in them, but not works that are dryly conceptual,” Norton said. “One of my ideals for an artwork is that there are thoughts and ideas behind it, but that the work nevertheless has so much visual content that it appeals to viewers who have no understanding of those ideas. I am drawn more to works that are three-dimensional, as they connect better to the actual world, and I like to buy the work of artists in their early careers, not only as it supports, encourages, and gives heart to them, but also as it does the same for their contemporaries. I also tend to be drawn to work that reflects non-mainstream backgrounds: feminist art and art from Black, Hispanic and Asian cultures.”

About the Tang Teaching Museum

The Tang Teaching Museum, located on the Skidmore College campus in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is a leader in the museum field, recognized for its innovative, interdisciplinary curatorial projects and for its deep commitment to advancing knowledge through educational practices on multiple levels.

The Peter Norton gift will boost the museum's collection to more than 7,000 objects, and strengthens the collection's holdings of late 20th-century art. The collection offers opportunities for study, inspiration, and discussion for the Skidmore community and beyond, through multi-disciplinary courses and innovative exhibitions.

The museum is open noon – 5 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday, with extended hours through 7 p.m. Fridays during the summer, and through 9 p.m. Thursdays during the academic year. The museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. For more information call 518-580-8080 or visit www.skidmore.edu/tang. Follow the Tang on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TangMuseum> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/tangmuseum>.

The Case Against Playing Hooky

By the Editorial Board

Class attendance varies greatly across college campuses. Students at huge universities may attend the first day of class and then only return for exams, while students at small colleges face stricter attendance policies and participation grades. The Editorial Board believes that, at a school like Skidmore, classroom attendance should be mandatory, contrary to the insistence by many of our peers that the opposite should be true. Our opinion is predicated on the belief that students respect their peers and professors and the understanding that a pillar of a liberal arts education is discussion-based learning.



But I don't want to get up for my 8:40...

Skidmore's [average class size is 17](#), and the majority of those classes are small, discussion-based seminars. In most classes, a percentage of the final grade is based on participation- this number can vary from five percent to 50 percent. In such small classes, a group dynamic emerges as students become more comfortable with each other. Missing a significant number of classes can directly affect the learning experience of other students by altering this classroom dynamic. Out of respect to the classroom environment and our peers, students should be required to attend all classes.

A liberal arts education is, in part, differentiated from the traditional university education by its focus on discussion-based learning. Companies hiring from liberal arts schools understand that distinction and anticipate hiring students who have spent considerable time honing their discussion skills and critical thinking in a classroom. If the school has done its job well, a liberal arts graduate should be able to make a strong verbal argument and hold their own in a discussion. Mandating classroom attendance would ensure that Skidmore graduates have developed these skills through many hours in the classroom.

Detractors of mandatory attendance policies often argue that, because they're paying nearly \$50,000 for tuition alone, it should be at their discretion whether they attend class or not—let the professors evaluate their completion of the course through essays, exams and projects. However, what that money is paying for is a diploma that signals to prospective employers a standard of education. As has been argued, much of the learning, whether through lecture or discussion, occurs exclusively in the classroom. The truant may be able to ace the material without entering the classroom, but that does not mean they absorbed all the material they could have or, perhaps more importantly, developed all the skills they could have (e.g. critical analysis). To waive mandatory attendance would dilute the significance of the liberal arts degree.

Yet, the Editorial Board understands that some absences are unavoidable or deemed necessary by students, for example in the case of an overwhelming workload in a given week. Many professors acknowledge that tough situations arise, but we have seen one too many syllabi without this exception. We ask that professors allow for at least two unexcused absences per semester, and thank those who already do so. To clarify, this would not replace the permitted excused absences, the stipulations of which are, or should be, clarified at the beginning of the semester. Rather, these unexcused absences are no-questions-asked and have no punitive consequences other than missed material.

The Editorial Board believes there are times that justify absence, but we generally uphold the policy of many professors to make attendance mandatory and factor of final grades. It is fair that professors expect it of students, and, for those who still fail to see the logic, mandatory attendance should have been expected upon matriculation into a liberal arts college.



A Tradition of Thanks

By Brittany Dingler '15, PHE

Nearly four-hundred years after what we consider the “First Thanksgiving” in 1621 at Plymouth Colony, the average American embraces this adapted tradition with friends and family around a dinner table, passing stuffing until stuffed. Whether Thanksgiving appears as a festive feast or simply a time to step back from the Skidmore bubble and breathe before the wave of finals hits, most of us would agree that *thanks*, or the gentle concept of gratitude, pokes its head up on the third Thursday of each November, even if it's fated to become a thing of the distant past once we arrive back on campus.

How is gratitude perceived during Thanksgiving? According to Professor Mark Rye in the Psychology department who has done research in the field of positive psychology and gratitude, “Thanksgiving provides us with a wonderful opportunity to spend time with loved ones and to consider what we are grateful for. Some people make it a regular practice to count their blessings every day, and there is evidence that this can have a positive impact on their lives. Two students, however, admit that they could use a bit more “gratitude gravy” on their Thanksgiving turkey. Tori Eldridge '16, believes that “gratitude has a much smaller role in thanksgiving than its roots might imply” and worries that “a few nice words might be shared but Turkey Day is a much more commercialized holiday than it seems.” Sam Skott '15, believes that this tradition of “thanks” not only holds for her big family, but is also important in “reminding us there are many things in our everyday lives to be grateful for, even if you think that your luck has been less than stellar lately. Skott admits that she, like many of us, “takes for granted many aspects of her that other people would be extremely thankful for.”

If you're looking to incorporate gratitude into your daily lives and not just during Thanksgiving or whatever holidays in which you choose to partake, follow the lead of Professor Mark Rye. Professor Rye states that, “keeping a gratitude journal involves spending 10 to 15 minutes each day to write about what you are grateful for.”

According to Professor Rye, the gratitude letter is recommended by Positive Psychology guru Martin Seligman who suggests “writing gratitude letters to people you are thankful for” or, for a more intimate experience, having a “face to face meeting where you read the letter aloud” even if that means over Skype. The third gratitude intervention Professor Rye recommends, is a gratitude *partner*, “just as having an exercise partner can keep you motivated to achieve your workout goals, a gratitude partner can help you stay motivated to focus on your blessings.”

So why should anyone do this? Why should we consider implementing this positive psychology concept into post-holiday life? According to Professor Rye, “psychologists have found that gratitude interventions can have beneficial effects for both your physical and mental well-being.” Specifically, according to the Greater Good program at UC Berkley, those who practice gratitude on a regular basis are more likely to have stronger immune systems, lower blood pressure, and higher levels of joy, optimism, and happiness.

For some, incorporating gratitude consistently may seem daunting. Perhaps it could be made less so, however, by incorporating just one of the methods above and by following the lead of Eldridge who finds daily gratitude “in the little moments or interactions: the crisp breeze when I step outside, the sun shining through my curtains in the morning, a friend going out of their way to say hi. These moments make me feel happy and grateful to be alive and well enough to be experiencing them.” To end with the most basic kind of gratitude, a nice start to being thankful for even the little things, students were asked to think about the Thanksgiving foods and traditions for which the Skidmore News Online: November 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 4/02/2015 whole family. Eldridge

looks forward to her dad's pies and hearing what her family is thankful for as they go around that table and reflect on the past year before we eat. In the true spirit of modern-day Thanksgiving, however, she also admits that she's

Special Report: Molly at Skidmore



<http://www.jsonline.com/>

By Andrew Shi '15, Editor-in-Chief

Additional Reporting by Zachary Zeller '18

Editor's Note: To protect the identities of some of those interviewed, names have been changed. The Possession and sale of Molly is a crime in the state of New York.

Who is Molly?

"It was—orgasmic"

That's how Chris Watterson described his experience at a foam party in Albany. The blasts of foam were great, as were the scantily clad girls with tight t-shirts, but what truly made the experience for him was the dosage of methylenedioxy-methamphetamine—abbreviated to MDMA and more commonly known as Molly or Ecstasy—coursing through him.

When asked if he will be rolling again soon, he smiles. There's a Halloween rave in two weeks. He's certainly not going sober, and there isn't a more opportune time to take it again.

Molly is a synthetic drug that has been around for quite some time. It was created by chemists at Merck, a pharmaceutical and chemical company, in 1912. In the 70s it began to be used as a recreational drug and was readily adopted by new users. Today, it is also known as the 'rave drug' for its popularity at electronic dance music (EDM) festivals.

According to Professor Hassan Lopez, Director of the Neuroscience Program at Skidmore College, "the basic idea is that MDMA combines aspects of hallucinogens and stimulants. Take amphetamines, a basic stimulant, and combine it with a basic hallucinogen like LSD. Mash those two molecules together and that's what MDMA is."

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At Skidmore, surveys sent out by The Skidmore News and the Office of Health Promotion found that 20 percent of survey respondents have used Molly (or Ecstasy for the latter survey). That is much less than the 65 percent of respondents who have tried marijuana; but according to Jeremy Parker, another user and previous dealer, the difference is shrinking. When asked if the use of Molly is on the rise at Skidmore, he nods. "Certainly more now, more than there has been in the past few years."

The attractiveness of the drug is self-evident: it's a burst of joy and energy in a small pill or pinch of powder, but as this report will discuss, there is the potential psychological and physiological detriment that warrants its status as a Schedule I drug by the FDA, along with LSD and marijuana. This report will also explore further the use of Molly, in general and at Skidmore, the Molly trade at Skidmore, and finally it will consider if the administration needs to worry about its rising popularity and how it could respond.

The Good

"As soon as you do it...you take it and you immediately feel pumped up...then you get a little further into it, and the amphetamines kick in before the serotonin. You start to get jumpy, and usually within the first half an hour you feel anxious...then your vision starts to get a little blurred. I usually just get a huge smile curl across my face. Your body starts to get a little tenser—but in a good way—and it feels really good. The rest of the energy kicks in. Everything is beautiful, you're hugging everybody. Once the happy kicks in, you can run forever. I usually just take my shirt off. Everything is beautiful, colors are more rich, people seems much prettier."

That's the long version, according to Parker. The short version is, "there is only pleasure in your body."

The moniker, Ecstasy, is no mistake, nor is the drug's draw.

When asked why people take Molly, Stephen Leahy, a current dealer who would only agree to be interviewed through a series of questions passed on to a third party, had similar things to say. "I think people take it first and foremost because it is pure, unadulterated euphoria. You feel an incredibly deep connection to the people around you."

The unique blend of dopamine and serotonin, stimulant and hallucinogen, provides a powerful kick of pleasure, energy and distortion. One of the reasons it is so popular at raves is the invigorating and unmitigated energy it provides. Colors, courtesy of the standard flashing lights at shows, lend an otherworldly atmosphere. And, of course, the music is more intense—the reason why EDM, known for its already rapid, up-tempo beats and proclivity for high-octane bass, is so popular among Molly users.

Despite Molly being in part a hallucinogen, takers do not need to be concerned about the psychedelic trips experienced on drugs such as LSD or Shrooms, says Professor Lopez. It's "not full blown hallucinations, but altered perceptions, sounds and tastes. Music sounds different, food tastes better, sex feels better."

The Bad

Like every drug, there are the undesirable effects. When asked why it is dangerous, Professor Lopez replies, "one answer is that it is not dangerous if it is taken in low doses, not repeatedly, and by someone without something such as cardiovascular vulnerabilities...if someone is perfectly healthy and takes a single dose, ninety-nine out of one hundred times there won't be any real danger to that." However, Professor Lopez stresses that Molly taken outside of these restrictions poses potentially grave consequences.

"Another area where people talk about danger is when people take the drug in a particular context," says Professor Lopez. "For

example rave culture. You take MDMA and go to a club or a music festival and just dance all day, and you're not drinking enough water and you're overheating and MDMA has this effect on temperature regulation...so what has been seen in some cases is people can get brain damage. Not super common, but can happen."

Leahy, too, stresses the need to consciously stay hydrated, but warns to avoid drinking too much.

Indeed, drinking too much water, says Watterson, is one of the more dangerous side effects of Molly. According to him, most complications come from people who drink too much water, a situation called water poisoning. "When on Molly, drinking water just feels so good," he says. At the recent Halloween rave, his friend spent \$80 on water. Water poisoning can lead to the swelling of brain cells, which at first causes mild headaches, but as the situation exacerbates leads to stymied blood flow and excessive pressure on the brain stem. To complicate matters further, Molly increases levels of the Antidiuretic hormone (ADH), which inversely lowers the production of dilute urine, causing water to be retained in the body. Severe water poisoning can result in seizures, brain damage and, sometimes, death.

Another danger, and the danger more potentially serious, is the very effect that people take Molly for. As Leahy puts it, "it temporarily nukes your serotonin levels."

Molly functions in part by communicating to the brain to release serotonin, and the flush of serotonin leaves the brain depleted of the neurotransmitter that is known to regulate happiness and to be related to depression.

"It's the comedown," sighs Parker. "Much worse than an alcoholic hangover." It's also a hangover that can last two to three days.

Leahy advises vitamins which can boost the synthesis of serotonin, such as 5-HTP.

However, while the aftermath of Molly is unpleasant, the real danger comes from taking multiple doses in quick succession.

The average dose of Molly, according to Leahy is .15 grams. Parker says it's .25 grams. "Take .15 first and then .1 later." Molly's effects can wear off after a few hours, and many users will roll a second time to perpetuate the experience.

According to Professor Lopez, "in the literature, people call it stacking. People take a dose, and then four to six hours later, when it's wearing off, they take another dose. Everyone would define that as dangerous. That is not healthy...you're depleting yourself of serotonin...but then your brain runs out of serotonin. Yet then you take another dose, and you tell your brain to release more serotonin, and that puts a certain amount of pressure, not physical pressure, but metabolic pressure, on your brain. And that can damage your neurons."

"Repeated use within a constrained time period is always the most damaging...over the weekend, over the day, I think those are the types of dosage patters that worry people the most."

Professor Lopez says he cannot provide an estimated duration of time that might be considered safe to take Molly again, but Leahy says to space it out by a month at the minimum. Watterson, despite taking it two weeks in a row, says normally he would only take it at most two or three times a year. "It'll fuck you up."

Professor Lopez agrees. "The greater danger, at least from my perspective, and I think most neuroscientists feel this way, is not the acute use, not in the single use, but in the repeated use, by those people who are taking it chronically, even on a weekly basis. That would be potentially very dangerous. There is some research out there that shows that repeated use of MDMA can damage brain tissue."

Studies of primates given MDMA over an extended period of time have shown permanent brain damage. Professor Lopez cites research that has shown heavy MDMA users don't perform well on cognitive and memory tests as compared to heavy marijuana users and heroin addicts.

It's even unclear if Molly's non-addictive quality, one of the most frequently cited benefits of taking it, is factual. Leahy says it isn't addictive, but Parker disagrees. "You can get hooked on it for sure." After a moment's thought, he continues. "I do have one friend that is a genuine Molly addict."

"There are some people who get addicted to MDMA, says Professor Lopez. "But it is not as addictive as other drugs out there, such as heroin, alcohol or nicotine." He places Molly in a fuzzy zone, in the company of other drugs such as marijuana, caffeine and cocaine.

Most users do not have to worry about permanent damage from Molly. For the infrequent taker, addiction, and brain damage is extremely unlikely. Repeated intake within a short span of time can have severe consequences, but even when stacking, users don't usually consume enough to trigger serious complications.

Instead, what may be the greatest danger is taking something that isn't pure MDMA. "What is often found, the vast majority of the time, is that in that dose it's MDMA plus other stuff, often speed, amphetamines and other stuff that you don't what it is," Professor Hassan says, citing reported police investigations. "Sometimes that mix can be potentially hazardous, too."

"I was having an extremely good time, and then about thirty minutes in I just freeze, and feel this wave of paranoia hit me, and that's when I knew that it had been cut with something else," Watterson says, recalling his Halloween rave. He was fine, but he shares hearsay of users who were sold Molly cut with bath salts (the drug, not the minerals used for bathing), cocaine and even laundry detergent.

"There are completely legal test kits that are sold online and for very cheap that will tell you instantly if what you are taking is real," Leahy says. The problem is, according to Watterson, that if you're above to go raving, you're not going to pull out the chemistry set and safety goggles and run tests on your Molly.

And The Ugly

Testing what's in that white powder may be a nuisance, but it can also save a life. A spate of Molly-related deaths over the summer brought the drug to national attention. The Daily Beast reported instances of Molly being cut with gasoline and baby powder, although this was not the cause of the death for four young adults. Two of them overdosed, one taking six hits, which sent him into a seizure, and ultimately killed him. Another collapsed from overheating and dehydration, and after being rushed to the hospital, was declared dead. Molly-related deaths are very uncommon, but from 2004 to 2011, Emergency Room visits due to the drug's toll increased by 120 percent to over 22,498, according to a report by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Use at Skidmore certainly does not reflect that meteoric rise, but its popularity is still growing nevertheless.

Some Hard Numbers

In a recent survey sent out by The Skidmore News, we found that nearly 20 percent of students who responded have used Molly at least once. thirty-five percent of those who use it have used it only once, while another 35 percent use it once per year. Fifteen percent of users reported using it more than once per month. Our sample size was 99 students.

Have you ever used Molly (MDMA)

Answer Choices

Responses

—Yes

19.19%

—No

80.81%

How often do you use Molly (MDMA)?

Answer Choices

Responses

I've only ever taken it once

35.00%

Once a year

35.00%

Once per semester

15.00%

Once per month

10.00%

Once per week

0.00%

More than once per week

5.00%

When did you first take Molly (MDMA)?

Answer Choices

Responses—

Before high school**0.00%****High school****40.00%****Between graduation from high school and college****15.00%****College****45.00%**

The Neuroscience department sent out a similar survey last year, although they looked at a wider range of drugs. The department's survey had a 45 percent response rate. The department found that 31 percent of students who responded could be considered 'drug users', those who habitually use drugs other than alcohol and marijuana. The remaining 69 percent of the student body could be called 'non-users'. Of the 'drug users', 60 percent used Molly. Only 8.5 percent of 'non users' have experimented with Molly.

In 2013, the Office of Health Promotion also sent out an extensive survey on drugs and alcohol to students. The survey did not include questions on Molly, but did so for Ecstasy. In regard to the data, Director McDonald warns that some disagree about the synonymy of Molly and Ecstasy, and that comparison and extrapolation cannot be made. Some claim that Molly is a purer form of Ecstasy, as Ecstasy can often be laced with other drugs such as caffeine. As discussed, though, so can Molly. Still, the active ingredient in both drugs is MDMA, and many, including the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#), conflate the two. In addition, 161 respondents skipped the first question asking if they have ever tried Ecstasy, which could mean that reported usage rates are not representative of true usage rates. The data collected by the Office of Health Promotion is thus not entirely reflective of the true usage rate of Molly on campus and conclusions should be taken with a grain of salt. Despite the flaws of the data, it should be able to provide a general picture of the use of Ecstasy on campus.

The Office of Health Promotion found about 80.4 percent of the respondents reported to have never used Ecstasy. Nineteen percent reported trying it at least once. At the time of the survey, of those who used it, 68.3 percent had used it within the past year, 16 percent in the past month and 3.9 percent in the past week.

The 16 percent of those students who have used Ecstasy in the past month only comes out to three percent of total respondents. But to extrapolate that number to the total student body, that is still 82 students who used Ecstasy in the last month. Chances are that those students aren't using Ecstasy once per month, but just happened to have used it the month the survey came out. A better estimation of chronic users may be the four percent who used it in the last week at the time of the survey. That's only .76 percent of the student body or 20 students, and that's also probably an overestimation. To compare it to other drugs, 15 percent of respondents smoke weed at least once per day, nine percent smoke weed multiple times per day. Thirty-two percent of surveyed students smoke weed at least once per week.

For perhaps a more comparable drug, 15 percent of respondents had tried cocaine at the time of the survey. Of that 15 percent, 16.7 percent had used it in the last month and 11.9 percent in the last week, or 2.5 percent and 1.8 percent of the total sample surveyed, respectively. The survey from the Office of Health Promotion had a sample size of about 500, but that number fluctuated by question as participants could skip questions. The sample size for general questions never dipped below 450, but for questions directed at a specific cohort, such as those who have used Molly, or Ecstasy in the case of their survey, the sample size ran from about 50 to 100.

From the numbers, Molly is clearly not the most popular drug. That honor belongs by a large margin to alcohol and marijuana. But it

Skidmore News Online: November 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.skidmorenews.com> on 4/02/2015.

is more popular than cocaine and heroin, the latter which only .65 percent of the respondents have every tried.

The Molly Trade at Skidmore

"Conceptually, it is very popular," Parker says. "There are a lot of people who want to try it. Actively, I wouldn't say it is very hot, just because it is difficult to acquire it."

When Parker gets his Molly, he drives down to a friend in Providence, Rhode Island. He knows others who travel to New York City or order it online. He says the Silk Road was big until the FBI shut it down last year. On Nov. 6, 2014 the FBI effectively shut down Silk Road 2.0 after arresting its administrator. Regardless, most, he says, get it from "somewhere outside here."

Leahy wouldn't elaborate much on his trade, his source or his prices, but Parker says a gram of Molly usually sells at between \$80 to \$100.

Leahy reveals, though, that he doesn't get too many repeat customers. "I don't have regular customers, and I wouldn't sell it regularly to one person. It is both morally wrong and financially unnecessary." He also says that he finds there are two kinds of buyers, "those who take it for specific events, like concerts, and those who buy it with five or six of their friends and chill together for a night." He adds on, "you would get very, very strange looks if you showed up rolling at a random house party. That isn't really done."

Parker notes that demand definitely goes up around Fun Day. He also mentions demand increases when Pretty Lights puts on its annual show in Albany, the same show at which Watterson found himself experiencing something more than Molly.

None of those interviewed could provide an estimate of how many dealers there are at Skidmore, but as Parker says, "cool thing about the Skidmore drug trade—people are very willing to help each other out. People will go out of their way to find what you want."

The Skidmore Molly trade may not be particularly vibrant at the moment, but the infrastructure is there to facilitate an expanding market, and as Parker said, if people want it, they will be able to get it. Should this be a cause for concern?

Final Thoughts

In correspondence with David Karp, Dean of Campus life, he revealed that the "College's "response" [to Molly] is currently limited to prevention work out of the Office of Health Promotion."

According to Jen McDonald, Director of the Office of Health Promotion, "we do not currently have anything in place in the Health Promotion Office addressing Molly." A new survey they plan to send out next spring may be cause for reassessment, but as far as Molly goes, it is not at the top of the College's list of concerns or priorities, nor should it be.

According to Mr. Karp, "we haven't had any Campus Safety Reports or hospital transports or students arrested for Molly as far as I can remember."

Molly has the potential to do serious harm, but only when taken in heavy doses in rapid succession, or when consumed chronically. Overheating, dehydration, and excessive hydration are other causes of concern, as is tainted Molly. The truth is, though, that the College can do little about this.

The Office of Health Promotions^Â aggressively implemented a drug awareness and deterrence program this year.^Â The campaign sought to redefine social norms by making students aware of their false perceptions about the amount of students consuming illicit drugs, a number most erroneously inflate. However, unlike alcohol, the main target of the social norms campaign, there is little peer pressure to take Molly.

Instead, the best thing the College could do is to provide concise information about Molly and what students can do to prevent serious repercussions, such as avoiding stacking, drinking enough, but not too much water, and purchasing test kits. The College doesn't need to condone Molly, nor should they, but they should tacitly recognize that this isn't a problem that they will be able to extirpate and instead direct efforts to keeping students as safe as possible. With the popularity of Molly rising, it will be all the more important that first-time users understand the safety hazards that accompany the ecstasy.

This report is not intended to support or condone the use of Molly. Molly remains an illicit drug, and as such, neither the author nor The Skidmore News supports its consumption. Rather, the purpose of this report is to provide a balanced, accurate and thoughtful examination of an emerging drug at Skidmore and among young adults.

Special thanks to Professors Hassan Lopez and Robert Hallock and Director Jennifer McDonald for their help with this report.

Correction: In an earlier version of this article, we attributed to Professor Lopez the view that Molly is not "inherently dangerous." This was wrong. "Inherently" is a rather subjective and an unscientific term in this case, and it should be clarified that Professor Lopez believes Molly is one of the most dangerous recreation drugs and in no way condones its use. Apologies for this mistake.

Correction: We also erroneously called the "Social Norms Campaign," implemented by the Office of Health Promotion, the "First Six Weeks" program, which is something entirely different.

Clarification: Throughout the article, we equate Molly and Ecstasy as the same drug because they are both based on the same molecule, MDMA. However, the survey sent out by the Office of Health Promotion only asked respondents about the use of Ecstasy. Because not all respondents would have known Molly and Ecstasy are the same drug, results from the survey would not have fairly represented the true usage rate of Molly. Those who know Molly only as Molly would not have responded to having used Ecstasy in questions concerning Ecstasy.

‘Birdman’ is just really confusing and not much else.

By Sean van der Heijden, Copy Editor



As you might have been able to tell by the title, I really don't know what to think about ‘Birdman,’ the latest film by Mexican auteur Alejandro González Iñárritu. So many things about the movie are absolutely perfect—the acting, the direction, the cinematography, etc.—but the whole thing is just so ambiguous that I don't know what to think about it.

The film is about a washed-up actor who used to be a blockbuster superhero, and tries to stage a comeback through starring in a Broadway play. Keaton is exceptional and delivers by far the best performance of his career. Other standouts are Edward Norton—who plays a cocky, pretentious co-star in the play—and Emma Stone, who plays the cynical, fresh-out-of-rehab daughter of Keaton's character. Naomi Watts is great, too, as Norton's ex, and Amy Ryan, Andrea Riseborough, and Zach Galifianakis round out the cast.

Additionally, the whole film is shot to look like one take. That means there are no cuts within the film to other scenes—it's all just one constantly moving scene. It's great art, but the film is literally nonstop—it just keeps going and going and going and going to the point where I just wanted it to stop so I could take a rest and breathe. I never realized how important cuts were within films.

Also, the soundtrack has the same issue. Instead of being mostly orchestral, like a traditional score, it is almost all percussion instruments. This was neat, but the music just gets annoying and I really wanted it to go away.

All of the technical marvels in the film are cool, but distracting from the actual story—”which, it turns out, isn't much. Honestly, the film just turns into a “life imitates art” example, which makes it incredibly predictable and hollow. While I was never bored and I definitely laughed at the darkly comic aspects of the movie, the problem is that ‘Birdman’ aspires to be so much more than it actually is.

As for the ambiguity of the film—especially the ending—I really can't say much without spoiling it, but again it's the same problem: ‘Birdman’ wants to be profound, it wants to make a statement, and wants to get you thinking. Because of its ambiguity, the film really only achieves the latter—and all I'm thinking about is how confused I am. A film can't make a point if I don't know what it's trying to say, and ultimately ‘Birdman’ feels really important, but in the end turns out not to be.

Overall: 6.5 out of 10.

What's the Best Predictor of Skidmore Students' Probability of Smoking?



By Mohammed Almashhadani & Anh Vu Nguyen Lam, Contributing Writers

Smoking cigarettes is noticeably prevalent on the Skidmore campus, despite the recent change in the smoking policy. As non-smokers, we were curious about the motive for smoking, whether it be associated with stress or socialization, for example. Thus, in our Intermediate Data Analysis class, MA276, we were interested in finding out the best predictor of the probability that a Skidmore student would smoke cigarettes.

We created a survey on Survey Monkey and shared it on Facebook. We hypothesized that a student's family history of smoking, along with GPA and gender might be used to predict whether a student smokes more than two cigarettes a week. Eighty-six students, mostly from the sophomore class, responded to the survey.

Prior to using statistical methods to determine the best predictor of our response variable, we assumed that male students smoke more than female students. This was completely drawn from our experience on campus. We also thought that family history of smoking would increase the probability of smoking. Finally, we assumed that lower GPAs would be associated with higher probability of smoking.

Drawing on Rstudio, a statistics program, we found that family history significantly correlates to whether a student smokes, while gender does not. The probability that a student with a family history of smoking smokes is 40 percent while a student having a GPA of 3.5 correlates with a 4 percent probability that he or she smokes. A student with a 4.0 GPA is predicted to have close to 1 percent probability of smoking.

Because the survey was open to Skidmore students, with the exception of the Class of 2018 as first-year students do not yet have a GPA on the files, we believe that our model avoided sample bias. However, one may assume that randomness does not hold because we shared it on our Facebook walls, which would limit the respondents to only our friends.

We conclude that the best predictor for the probability that a Skidmore student smokes is family history. GPA is also a good predictor, while gender is not. Despite these results, a population of 86 is not entirely representative of the Skidmore student body, so these conclusions should be taken with a grain of salt.

Don't Be Blue, Get the Flu Shot



Flu season is creeping around the corner. If you want to avoid a sudden bout of sickness in the middle of finals week, or if you have a sibling at home that you'd rather not see coughing, then take some time to get the 2014 Flu Vaccine if you haven't already.

According to the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) online reference guide to influenza, January is prime time for that unwelcomed bug. In fact, there is more than one strain of influenza that you should watch out for.

Health Services at Skidmore is offering the standard-dose trivalent shot (IIV3), which protects against three different strains of influenza. Get it as soon as you can, because it takes approximately two weeks to become effective. IIV3 contains gelatin and eggs, so people with corresponding allergies should talk to a doctor about other available options. You should also avoid the generally available flu vaccine if you have Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), have had an allergic reaction to previous flu vaccines, or are currently suffering from a serious illness.

Health Services is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Walk-ins are accepted every day. Call (518) 580- 5550 to make an appointment for a weekday if you're in a rush and want to be seen quickly.

Health Services will be closed on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Break and will be open on the following Monday during regular hours.

Thanksgiving Break is a good time to see your doctor to make sure everything is functioning properly after a long, exhausting semester. If you can't make it to Health Services, see your doctor back home for a flu shot and a quick check up.

For those convenience junkies, select CVS pharmacies nationwide provide flu vaccines at Minute Clinics. Check to see if your area has one at <http://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/clinic-locator>.

For a more comprehensive guide to understanding seasonal influenza and what you can do to prevent it from infecting you and those loved ones around you, check out

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/whoshouldvax.htm#flu-shot>

Men's Basketball Season Starting Up

By Skidmore Athletics

The Skidmore College



The season is starting up for the men's basketball Thoroughbreds men's basketball team begins its quest for its third Liberty League title when it hosts Ithaca College on Saturday, Nov. 15.

The Thoroughbreds return ten players and four starters from last year's team that advanced to the Liberty League semifinal, posting an overall record of 16-10 and a conference record of 10-6.

Among the returners are two-time All-Liberty League First Team selection guard Aldin Medunjanin'16 and 2013-2014 All-Liberty League Honorable Mention selections Erik Sanders'16 and Connor Merrill'15. Sanders led the team in scoring and field goal percentage last season, while Merrill ranked first in rebounds per game and blocked shots.

Skidmore takes on the Bombers on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m.