

# Skidmore Scope



VOLUME III, NUMBER 2

SKIDMORE COLLEGE, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK 12866

JUNE, 1971

## Academic Year Ends at Fever Pitch

Temperatures at the end of a college year always are high — reflected in the pace of academic ritual and the tensions besetting students. Exams must be taken, summer jobs found, and for graduates, major lifetime decisions must be made.

May, 1971, found Skidmore almost feverish. Coeducation for fall had been announced late in March. Change was in the air, and traditions were wearing new faces.

As early as April, the annual honors convocation became, this year, an informal reception replacing the usual academic procession, formal lecture, and awarding of an honorary degree. Students had suggested that instead of a ceremony, those winning academic prizes and honors for the year or for their entire college careers should gather for punch and conversation with their peers and professors. So, one spring afternoon 200 students, and faculty and administrators met at the Surrey Inn for an informal reception honoring the most successful students in the college.

Next came a series of end-of-year happenings—a visiting writers festival, senior art exhibition, senior music recitals, theater productions, poetry-readings, a Black arts festival, horse show, and dance concert. (One day, April 29, saw 12 different events scheduled on the two campuses.)

For the first time in years, students elected a junior as

president of the College Government Association. Miss Betsy Sands, of Norwell, Mass., will head the association for 1971-72, as she said in her campaign, “unhampered by typical senior problems, such as the pressures of making graduate school applications and the ‘senior slump.’”

Then just as most students were completing term papers and preparing for final exams, and while the Board of Trustees was in Saratoga Springs for its annual spring meeting, members of the Black Voices of Skidmore and a group of sympathetic white and Puerto Rican students presented President Joseph C. Palamountain, Jr., with a list of demands to be implemented immediately or at least met with guarantees that they would be implemented in the fall.

Among the demands were the admission of at least 50 Black and Puerto Rican students this fall, to be followed by the admission of at least 90

in the four subsequent years; the hiring of one Black faculty member this fall, and one each in the next five years; and the strengthening of the concentration of courses in Black and Puerto Rican studies.

### All-College Meeting

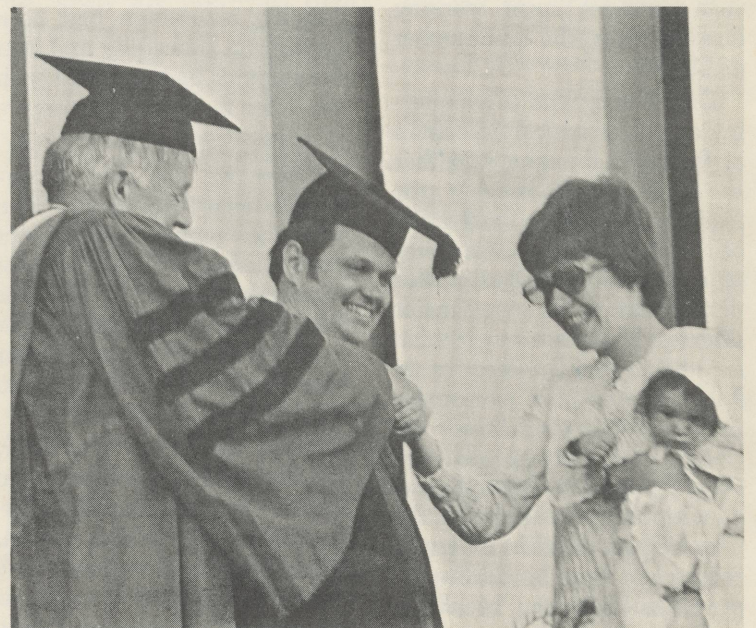
An all-college meeting on Monday morning, May 10, followed a series of meetings in answer to the demands. Dr. Palamountain, Provost Edwin M. Moseley, and Director of Admissions William T. Allen, Jr., explained that the College's tight budgetary situation placed it in a difficult position either to add faculty during the coming year or drastically raise its scholarship and financial aid for students above the present \$472,000 total budget for 1971-72.

### No Unilateral Action

The President said that he could not act unilaterally to meet the demands, but promised to ask the Community Council, a tripartite group of faculty, students and administrators, to appoint an ad hoc committee immediately to consider the urgent demands of Black Voices. Dissatisfied with these assurances, some 30 to 40 Skidmore students, both Blacks and whites, along with others from colleges close by (Union, Colgate, Dartmouth, RPI), occupied the office of Dr. Palamountain and other offices in the administration building shortly after noon.

The take-over, always peaceful, continued through the night with students saying they would stay until their demands were met. The ad hoc committee convened but refused to act under duress while the administration building was occupied. Tuesday afternoon, the

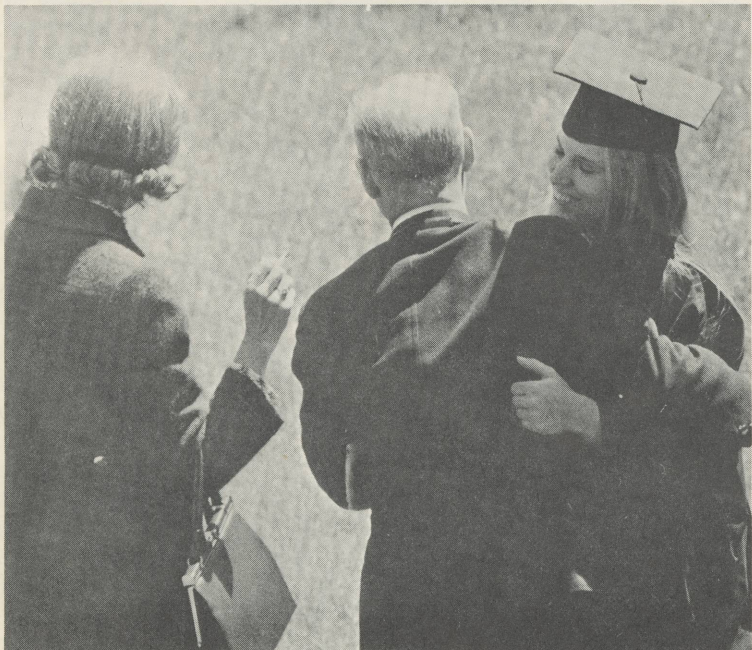
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Possible Skidmore candidate for Class of 1973.



Two new nurses after Pin Presentation ceremony.



Proud parents, happy degree holder, equal Graduation, 1971.

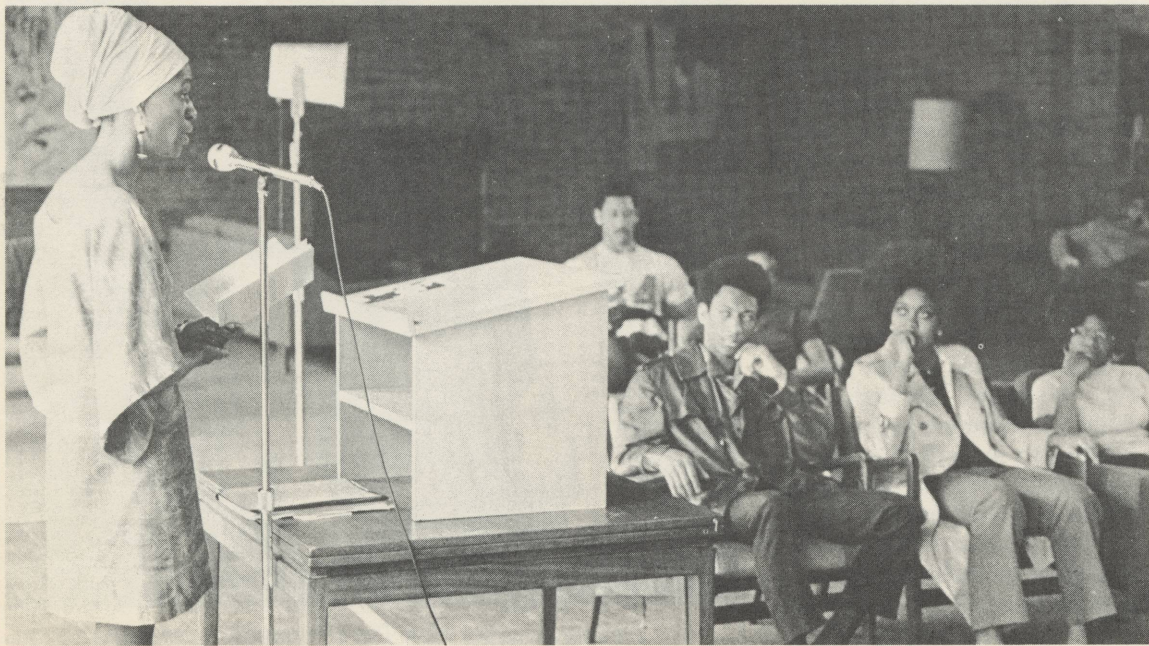
## Polanyi Subject Of Dr. Prosch's Faculty Lecture

Dr. Harry Prosch, professor and chairman of the philosophy department, gave the annual Faculty Research Lecture in April on "Cooling the Modern Mind: Polanyi's Mission." In his discussion of the thought of the noted British philosopher, Michael Polanyi, Dr. Prosch drew on his own research and his sabbatical year, 1968-69, spent working directly with the philosopher at Oxford.

Dr. Prosch, who is completing a book of critical exposition of Polanyi's thought, said that the philosopher believes the modern mind is so badly disoriented that it may even doubt its own reality, attributing this disorientation to two major diseases. These are our passion for the explicitly objective in knowledge and our passion for moral perfectionism in our societies. In his speech Dr. Prosch discussed Polanyi's explanation of why and how the present-day moral inversion occurs and how he thinks appropriate limits can be placed upon the two diseases.

Now 80 years old but still actively lecturing and writing, Polanyi spent most of his mature years as a physical chemist. He later changed his field of study to economics and then to philosophy. Dr. Prosch collaborated with him in teaching a course at the University of Chicago last spring and this spring, he gave two lectures on Polanyi at the University of Dayton, Ohio.

*One complaint voiced by Black Voices group was lack of interest in its activities by other students. Here poet Carolyn Rogers reads her work to group during Black Arts Festival.*



## Fever Pitch (Continued from page 1)

College's attorney Theodore Grey, served an injunction restraining the students from occupying College property. Then, some 29 hours after the sit-in began, members of the Black-white coalition met Mr. Grey's deadline and filed out of the building. Dr. Palamountain and other administrators took over their offices at 5:30 p.m. and reported no damage.

### No Police Action

Dr. Palamountain said that they were relieved that the building occupation had been carried out peacefully and that the students had complied with the order to vacate the property without any police action.

"Now we are glad to announce that two donors who wish to remain anonymous have pledged \$5,000 each for scholarships for Black or Puerto Rican students to major in nursing. The pledges, for four years, are for students to enter this fall," he said.

Once the sit-in was over, the committees empowered to implement the demands immediately went into action. The admissions committee committed itself to 18 positions for qualified Black and Puerto Rican students, most of whom must be full-paying students because of the lack of financial aid funds, for the freshman Class of 1975. The Dean of Studies, Dr. Eric Weller, committed his office to working with individual students in planning major programs in Black studies, urban studies, and any other area study in which a major program is or becomes feasible.

Dr. Moseley reported that he would strongly encourage departments in which openings occur to make special efforts to include qualified Black candidates among others.

The Academic Opportunity Consortium committee report-

ed that AOC is not a Black program and cannot recruit Black students only. The consortium, in cooperation with Union, Russell Sage, and Siena Colleges, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, brings to these institutions students on scholarships and financial aid who would not ordinarily meet the academic and economic requirements for admissions. However, the AOC committee reported that of the 10 students offered admission for the fall, 8 are black. The committee said it will cooperate with the admissions office in searching for candidates for the two new scholarships for nursing majors.

### Progress Emphasized

Throughout the meetings, faculty members and administrators emphasized that while the College has far to go in achieving a better racial balance, it is proud of the progress it has made in the past three years.

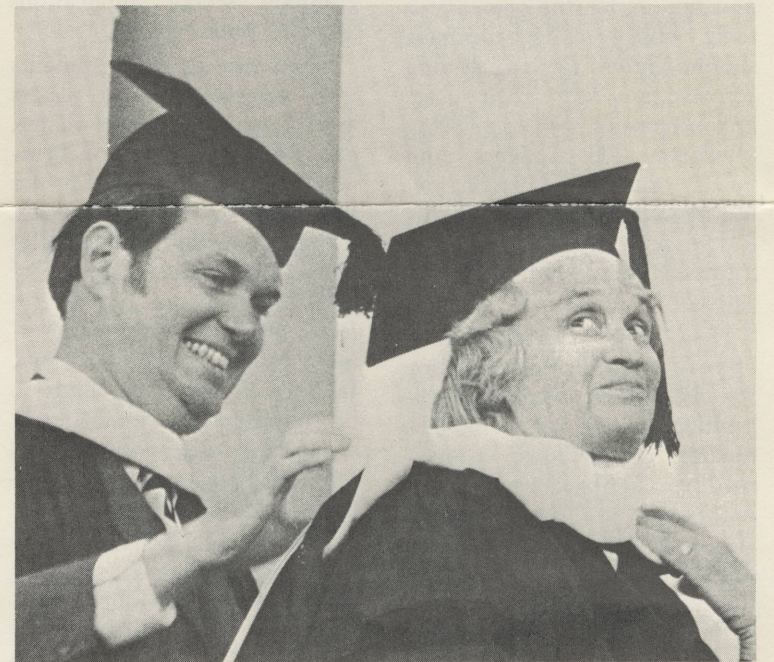
Despite a last minute announcement by the 22 Black students that they would now resign from Skidmore and transfer to other institutions, thus far only 2 have requested that transcripts be sent to other admissions offices.

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights, composed of faculty members and students, met to consider disciplinary action against the group which occupied the building, required under New York State's Henderson Act. The committee has made its report to Dr. Palamountain, who will make his recommendations for discipline when the College reopens.

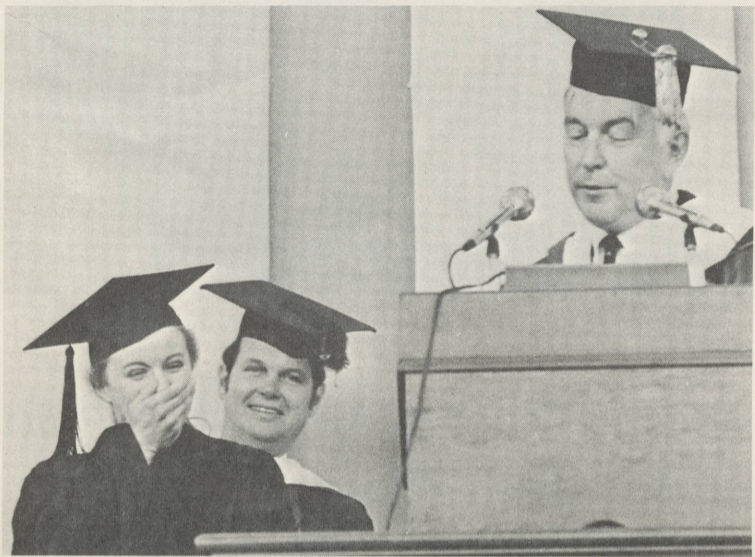
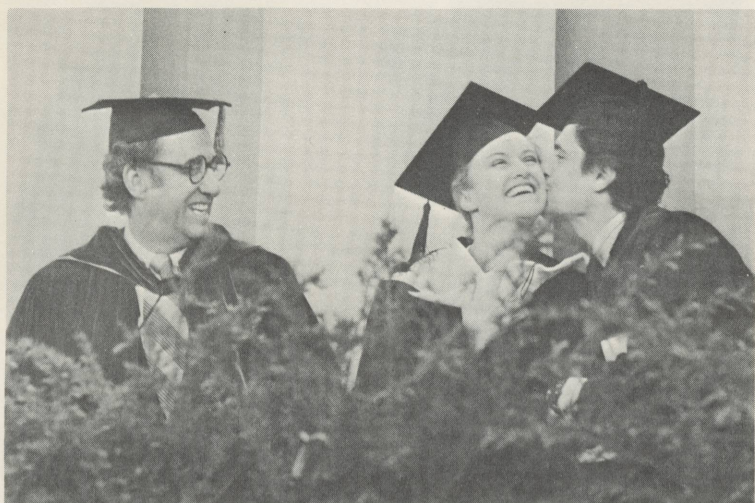
With this unhappy episode ended, most of the students who had studied, sunbathed, and tossed frisbies on the two campuses while the take-over went on, voted to allocate 10 percent of the total College

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## Commencement: Informal



# Views of a Formal Scene



## University Without Walls Begins in Fall Term, 1971

The new University Without Walls program, approved by the faculty a year ago and funded by grants from the federal Office of Higher Education, is thriving and promising to grow into a real part of the College, reports Mark Gelber, UWW director.

Skidmore and 16 other colleges and universities are cooperating in the program which was proposed originally by the Union for Experimenting Colleges and Universities, a group of schools searching for ways to educate students outside traditional classroom walls.

The program approach proposes, among other things, that compensation should be made for differences in rates of learning among individual students, that evaluation of learning be a joint venture between students and teachers, and that new ways of presenting materials (taped discussions, films work-study, and internships) be found to make educational experiences more meaningful to the present socially-conscious generation.

### Begins in Fall

The UWW program will get underway at Skidmore this fall with 30 students planning to begin degree work. Another 30 were making application in early June.

A profile of the UWW students shows that the average age is 34, with some as old as 58 and as young as 18. The first group is divided almost equally male and female, and most have had some college training, from such schools as Barnard, Radcliffe, the Universities of Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Maine, and Montreal. Most already have actual experience which will count toward their degree plan.

One student, for example, has published two books and a number of important articles dealing with the history of the Civil War; another holds a responsible position with a large electronics company; many others are leaders in their communities.

But all share one thing in common: they lack a bachelor's degree. And because they do, many are prevented from advancing in their professions and sometimes they suffer feelings of social inferiority.

### Degree Requirements

Mr. Gelber explained that to earn the degree through Skidmore's UWW, the entering student meets with an adviser who, with the help of other experts and the student himself, evaluates how past work and achievements fit into the degree plan. Then the student and adviser formulate a program which may include formal classroom work at Skidmore and other colleges, independent study and reading with consultation, on-the-job training, and other educational experiences which the student and adviser deem beneficial. A final requirement is a project conceived of and completed by the student.

Mr. Gelber said that the UWW approach to undergraduate education is forcing those in higher education to ask basic questions about the nature of a degree, its value and how it can be made available to more people.

"Hopefully," he said, "these and other large questions will be answered as we try new ways to approach the undergraduate degree through the UWW program."



Mrs. Josephine Young Case and Dr. Palamountain at Commencement exercises in Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Mrs. Case is retiring as president of the Board of Trustees. Mrs. Katherine Scranton Rozendaal, board chairman, received honorary degree.

## Mellon Fund Gives \$200,000 To Skidmore

Skidmore has received a grant of \$200,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation of New York for faculty support primarily in the humanities. The support, according to Charles S. Hamilton, president of the foundation, should include salary increases, additions to faculty, and paid released time as determined by the college. The grant will be apportioned for use over a spread of several years according to terms stipulated by the foundation.

Dr. Palamountain, in accepting the award, expressed the College's warm gratitude for the Mellon Foundation's generous support, "which could scarcely have been more timely in terms of maintaining faculty development, freedom for some maneuver, and morale." The 15 institutions also receiving similar awards include Barnard, Bowdoin, Colby, Earlham, Goucher, Haverford, Hollins, Kenyon, Middlebury, Pomona, Swarthmore, and Sweetbrier Colleges, and Colgate, Lawrence, and St. Lawrence Universities.

## In Memoriam

Prof. Margaret Ellen Clifford, 63, chairman of the Department of Theater, died May 4 after a lengthy illness. Said Dr. Palamountain, "Miss Clifford had been a member of the Skidmore faculty for nineteen years, and as chairman she placed her own distinctive and uniquely personal stamp on the Theater department. But it is especially as a highly individual person, displaying the dramatic flair and bent of her profession and deeply committed treatment of others as unique individuals, that she leaves a void no one can fill."

\* \* \*

Miss Deborah W. Van Slyke, '73, died of heart disease, March 29. A memorial service, sponsored by the Black Voices of Skidmore, was held May 2 in Wilson Memorial Chapel. Miss Van Slyke, daughter of Mrs. Donald Thompson, of Schenectady, was president of the organization at the time of her death.

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Miss Patricia Hope Miller, '72, died accidentally of asphyxiation in her residence hall May 17. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Miller, of Palatine, Ill., and president of her floor in Skidmore Hall.

(Continued from page 2)  
Government Association budget for recruitment of Black, Puerto Rican, and white students. Another first.

Amid the familiar pre-graduation ceremonies, the Pin Presentation for graduates in nursing, the President's reception, senior dance, this year another new feature appeared: the formal election to membership of 17 graduates by the College's new chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.

The Class of 1971 chose to hear, instead of the usual commencement speaker, a dialogue on dance and the arts between gifted dancers Violette Verdy and Edward Villella of the New York City Ballet. Both also received honorary degrees.

A surprise ceremony as part of the 60th graduation exercises was the awarding of a Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Mrs. Katherine Scranton Rozendaal (Mrs. Hans M. Rozendaal,) of Schenectady, newly-elected chairman of the Board of Trustees, for "countless hours of volunteer service" at the local, state, and national level; "in deepest appreciation of (your) sagacity and service in years past and in anticipation of steadfast leadership as chairman in years to come . . ."

Miss Helen Boyd, of Atlanta, Ga., senior class president, addressed her classmates, and

then a proper summing up of the spring's uneven blend of the traditional with the totally new was sounded by Mrs. Josephine Young Case, retiring chairman of the Board of Trustees, after 11 years of brilliant service to Skidmore. (A member since 1938, she will continue as a member of the board and will be chairman of the college's Second Half-Century Celebration which will begin in 1972.)

Said Mrs. Case in her own valedictory: "Unless in the uncertain future, people become Yahoos, servants not to horses but to machines, there will always be women and men of insight and understanding in education, to whom the only possible way of life is the instruction of the young. Even a college on a space-station could not function without these. The printed book did not displace them, nor will television and teaching machines. The logs of tomorrow may be different, but the immemorial relationship will be the same. . ."

"Our college is less mortal than ourselves: to her, and to those before us who transformed her uncertain future into our heritage, we owe like effort in our own span. Because of her past, and her present, and because of you, 1971, I look with confidence toward her next half century."

## Newest Admissions Staffer, Jeff Jannuzzo, Is Honor Graduate, Coeducation Advocate

When admission letters went out in mid-April to prospective freshmen in 36 states and 29 foreign countries, for the first time in at least two decades they included men. And one of the College's most enthusiastic advocates of the change to coeducation is Jeff Jannuzzo, who was its first male graduate in many years.

The 22-year-old graduate from Wantagh, Long Island now will continue his Skidmore affiliation as the newest member of the admissions staff.

He will be interviewing high school seniors and juniors on the two Saratoga campuses and in travels to high schools and prep schools around the country. "But I won't recruit only male students," he said, because he believes all colleges would be better if they ended discrimination of all kinds. "Discrimination against men is as bad as against any other group. Maybe worse," he added with a grin.

### College Transfer

Jeff received special permission from the trustees two years ago to be accepted formally as a transfer from Colgate University. Now, with junior Steve Cohen, another Long Islander and transfer from Colgate, he probably has more practical opinions about being a "coed" than anyone else.

What do men think of a women's college? "Well, I liked it enough at Skidmore after being in the first group of Winter term exchange students in January, 1969, to ask to be admitted as a full-time student," he said.

With the transfer he changed his major from sociology to theater. "Not such a big change, since what appealed to me in sociology was the drama of ritual and communal activities of large groups." He said he and Steve enjoyed their roles as "token males" on the campus, because the classes

were exciting, the girls friendly, and Saratoga Springs is a lot livelier than Hamilton, N.Y., Colgate's locale.

Actually he and Steve were far from token, for since the change to the 4-1-4 academic calendar in 1968, Skidmore has had male exchange students from a number of single-sex and coed institutions, including besides Colgate, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Kirkland, Union, Wells, Lincoln, and Trinity. In the two regular terms and in January, as few as 50 or as many as 120 men have been on campus for the past three years.

### Academic Quality High

Jeff said he believes the main appeal to men students will be the academic quality of the classes at Skidmore and the healthy atmosphere of Saratoga, rich in history ("My home town's only around 10 years old") and yet lacking in many small-town attitudes. "Probably that's because of the tourism, performing arts, racing, and Caroline Street," he explained. "Saratoga always has attracted big city people."

Caroline Street is a downtown street lined with shops in the hippiesque lifestyle: mod clothes, leather goods, health foods, crafts, records, paperback books, all successful and all with youthful proprietors. Close by is Caffe Lena, the coffee house which features folk and rock singers. Many big names got their start there and still return to perform:

Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, Dave Van Ronk, Arlo Guthrie, and Jean Ritchie.

Men students were housed on the New Campus in one residence hall this year, but plans now call for them to occupy residences on both campuses in the future.

### Changes for Women

Jeff said that the most important change which full coeducation will bring to women students is that they will realize their full potential as human beings in a totally unsegregated atmosphere. "In an all-girl school, students think of grades, boy friends, and life styles, rather than defining themselves as artists, scholars, or scientists. That's the main change. Men will bring more competition, more task-oriented attitudes."

So that his women's lib friends won't label him as completely chauvinistic, Jeff said that the student passivity he sees in women is a result of cultural pressures. "Girls tend to be brought up to be socially oriented, without peer group pressure to succeed," he said. He believes that coeducation will bring keener competition, both in class and outside.

"Whether the change from a less tense, less creative, but certainly pleasanter, atmosphere to one charged with tension and higher creativity will be a good change or not is up to the students. I think it will. And that's what I'm going to tell prospective students."

Another change he already has seen in the death of the weekend syndrome at Skidmore, with students leaving in large groups for social weekends at nearby men's colleges. "Since the exchange programs began, we have gone to a seven-day week rather than the old four-day study and three-day play week. With social events now on campus, students can stay here with the pressures relaxed and yet with longer periods for study."

Enthusiastic about his new job as assistant director of admissions and boasting a near perfect 3.9 average in his two years at Skidmore (he was graduated with honor and elected to membership in Periclean for academic achievement), Jeff has one other important thing going for him. His draft number is 365.



A view of things to come, as coeducation begins in fall, 1971.

## Summer Sessions, Special Programs See Campuses Busier Than Ever

Summer will be busier than usual on campus this year. The first summer session in many years began June 3, with 100 students enrolled in classes which varied from those of high current interest, such as "Women in American Culture" and "Sociology of Conflict" to those of the more traditional style, "Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, and Romances" and "Introduction to Mathematics."

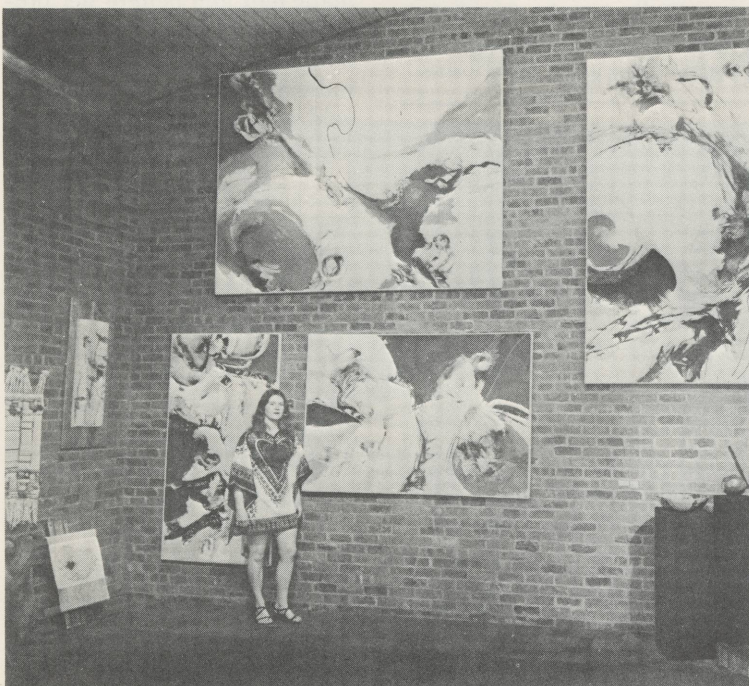
The second session will begin July 6 and continue through July 30. Dr. Eric Weller, dean of studies, said that all the classes are meeting on the New Campus in the mornings, with the Skidmore Shop and the Rathskeller open for the students' convenience. The sessions are coeducational and open for credit to all qualified students.

The courses offer students an opportunity to enroll in a

single course for each four-week term, giving emphasis to in-depth study, much in the same manner as the January Winter term.

The SIX: Summer in Experiment special program in the arts is set to begin June 28 for its fourth season. It will continue through August 6, according to Prof. Peter Baruzzi, director. Both high school graduates and college undergraduates are enrolled for the program which will have basic and advanced courses in painting, drawing, ceramics, and photography, along with two special advanced classes in studio problems and independent study.

In addition, more than 1,500 individuals in 27 different programs or special groups are scheduled to use facilities on the two campuses for summer activities and programs.



The senior art exhibition showed wide scope of media and techniques in Starbuck Center in May.