



Juliana Halpert/The Miscellany News

Above, members of the Vassar community celebrate last week's reopening of the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, which is kicking off 2011 with "150 Years Later," a photography exhibit featuring contemporary images of the College.

Loeb opens with photography exhibition of contemporary Vassar

Rachael Borné
ARTS EDITOR

In the wake of its grand reopening exactly one week ago, Vassar's Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center will celebrate its freshly renovated space by hosting a contemporary photography exhibition entitled 150 Years Later: New Photography by Tina Barney, Tim Da-

vis and Katherine Newbegin that will open tonight from 5 to 9 p.m. In short, the photographers were asked to capture Vassar. After that, they were each granted complete creative license and freedom to depict the campus with whatever sensibility, style and perspective they saw fit.

In her 'prompt' to the three

photographers, Emily Hargroves Fisher '57 and Richard B. Fisher Curator Mary-Kay Lombino explained: "There's nothing that you can't do; we're not going to reject any of your photographs." Lombino thought of the idea for the exhibition in conjunction with the many sesquicentennial festivities in our

See **LOEB** on page 16

Science center plans presented

Caitlin Clevenger
NEWS EDITOR

President of the College Catharine Bond Hill, representatives from the science faculty, the design team at Ennead Architects and the landscape architecture firm Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Inc. revealed plans for Vassar's \$120 million science facilities project in the Villard Room on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

President Hill, in an interview published in the January issue of the *Chronogram*, identified current problems with Vassar science facilities, saying, "We've got a very charming but outdated physics building that could be used for a *Back to the Future* movie set. Our chemistry building is not that old but unfortunately has been more or less dysfunctional from the day it opened. Our Psychology Department is in a building on the other side of campus from most of our science

See **SCIENCE** on page 4

New student space opening in UpCDC

Matthew Brock
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Tonight at 8 p.m., the second floor of the Students' Building—known to most as UpC—will open as a new student lounge.

According to Assistant Dean for Campus Activities Teresa Quinn, the idea for an alternative

programming space—where students can relax without feeling pressured to drink—came out of the series of town hall meetings that Dean of the College Christopher Roellke and President Catharine Bond Hill held in the residence halls last year.

At these meetings, many

See **UpCDC** on page 3



Juliana Halpert/The Miscellany News

The second floor of the Students' Building will serve as a new alternative space for students from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Thursdays through Saturdays.

Vassar's \$400 million campaign goes public

Molly Turpin
EDITOR IN CHIEF

At the opening of the sesquicentennial year, the College launched the public phase of its "Vassar 150: World Changing" \$400 million capital campaign. The work on the campaign, however, began several years ago, leading Vassar to officially open the campaign on Jan. 18 with \$262 million already received in gifts and pledges.

According to Vice President for Alumnae/i Affairs and Development Cathy Baer, "With the public launch now we want the entire community to know and to participate and understand what the goals are."

The campaign focuses on three broad areas of fundraising—Access to Excellence, Sciences for the 21st Century and the Annual Fund.

The idea for a campaign began near the end of President Frances Daly Fergusson's term at the College. The three themes then began to take shape

when President Catharine Bond Hill arrived in 2006.

"The goals for the campaign arose from conversations on campus after I arrived in 2006," wrote Hill in an e-mailed statement. "We undertook a process to discuss and plan strategically for Vassar's future. These goals arose from those discussions. One (the Annual Fund) encompasses the entire College, one (science) focuses on the academic program, and one (access) supports our commitment to our students. Together they make a very powerful statement about our values and mission."

According to Baer, the goals of the campaign do not only set forth a mission for fundraising, but also articulate a vision of the College's priorities.

"It was clear to me that we needed to start moving to another campaign, partly to articulate a set of goals," said Baer. "You have to have an articulate vision for what it takes to get us there."

See **CAMPAIGN** on page 4



Eric Estes/The Miscellany News

The model, pictured above, represents the new integrated science facilities. The sciences are one of three main pillars of the Vassar 150: World Changing campaign.

Faculty rejects course repeat policy by 1 vote

Aashim Usgaonkar
NEWS EDITOR

The course-repeat policy, which would allow students who earn a D or D+ grade in a course during their first three semesters of college to retake the course, failed to be inducted into Vassar's curricular policy at the faculty floor on Wednesday, Dec. 15. "The policy lost by one vote," said Vassar Student Association (VSA) Vice President for Academics Laura Riker '11.

Offering reasons for the fate of the policy, Dean of the Faculty Jonathan Chenette noted that "a variety of concerns were raised."

"My sense of the primary concern was that D grades are actually quite rare—about .4 percent of all grades in 2009-10—and there are systems in place to notify the Dean of Studies of

and to get them back on track. Why should we go to even greater lengths when so much is done already to support student success? Wouldn't this policy amount to a lowering of our academic standards?" wrote Chenette in an e-mailed statement describing some of the concerns members of the faculty raised at the meeting.

The Committee on Curricular Policies (CCP) first proposed the policy in April of last year. The document, which the committee endorsed last fall, would have allowed students in their first three semesters to submit a petition to the Committee on Leaves and Privileges to be allowed to retake a course in which they received a D or D+. After it was endorsed by CCP, the policy made its way to the VSA Council, which unanimously

See **REPEAT** on page 4

Inside this issue

7 Examining a new, local sushi bargain
FEATURES



8 See our Staff Editorial now in Opinions
OPINIONS



18 Volleyball begins new, challenging 2011 season
SPORTS



Number 25

The Editorial Board holds weekly meetings every Sunday at 9 p.m. in the Rose Parlor. All members of the Vassar community interested in joining the newspaper's staff or in a critique of the current issue are welcome. The *Miscellany News* is not responsible for the views presented in the Opinions pages. The weekly staff editorial is the only article which reflects the opinion of the Editorial Board. The *Miscellany News* is published weekly by the students of Vassar College. The *Miscellany News* office is located in College Center Room 303, Vassar College.

Kitzinger’s lecture reflects on Vassar’s 150-year commitment to the liberal arts

Joey Rearick
REPORTER

The long-awaited series of sesquicentennial events began last week with a lecture on Friday, Jan. 21 delivered by Professor of Classics and Dean of Planning and Academic Affairs Rachel Kitzinger. The lecture focused on Vassar’s commitment to education in the liberal arts throughout its 150-year history, but Kitzinger reached back further than 1861 to ground her talk in the origins of the liberal arts, citing a connection between Vassar’s educational philosophy and ancient Athens.

The lecture, given before more than 100 students, professors, administrators and friends of the College, directly followed the opening of a new exhibit at the Thompson Memorial Library entitled The Most Perfect Education of Body, Mind, and Heart: Vassar and the Liberal Arts. The title references a quote by Matthew Vassar, and both the exhibit and Kitzinger’s talk stressed the relationship between the College’s past and present. President Catharine Bond Hill, introducing Kitzinger, said she hoped the lecture would “underscore the vital role that history plays at Vassar.” But Kitzinger did not limit her approach to the subject to Vassar’s lifetime, swiftly placing the liberal arts in the context of ancient Greece and its theatrical traditions. She noted that “liberal” and “school” have roots in Latin and Ancient Greek words pertaining to leisure and freedom; students were ostensibly unbound

by other pressing obligations, such as work. Revealing her talk’s thematic undercurrents, she noted, “A liberal arts education still has a connection to a state of freedom.” Indeed, as she went on to explain, the liberal arts provided a strong preparation for participation in free democracy.

First, Kitzinger discussed the great tragedies of ancient Greek theater and their refusal to supply a simple, morally unambiguous conclusion. Rather, these plays asked their audiences to question themselves, their values and the brutal aspects of this world, allowing no viewer to walk away unshaken. So too did Plato and Socrates believe in the power of recognizing ethical and philosophical quandaries, said Kitzinger. By posing questions without easy answers, and refuting the assertions of interlocutors, Socrates, as portrayed by Plato in his dialogues, hopes to demonstrate how little can be really known. Kitzinger soon linked this approach to Vassar’s history.

By citing the journal of Christine Ladd-Franklin, Class of 1869, which appeared as part of the accompanying exhibit, she traced the young woman’s path towards seeing the value of not-knowing, much in the way that the greatest intellects of the ancient world set about discovering uncertainty. At first, the journal entries communicate a student confident in her ideas and scornful of her classmates; just three months later, she is questioning herself in every course, utterly consumed by the ambiguity that each class

demonstrates on a range of issues. Kitzinger noted one instance in which the student spent hours agonizing over “the question of the efficacy of prayer,” a subject the devout Christian had never before considered.

But, contended Kitzinger, a liberal arts education is not simply about seeing the complexity of a range of issues, or understanding how little one knows for sure. Rather, it is meant to expand a student’s vision of the world, and allow that decision to make a commitment to action. The liberal arts are not meant to conspire to confuse students; rather, they are the basis for making complex moral decisions in a modern world full of difficult concerns.

It is this penchant for understanding complexity and making well-reasoned commitments to values that makes liberal arts students so valuable as citizens of the future, Kitzinger concluded. However, she did admit others do not share her view, noting the danger of “the judgment that this kind of education is unnecessary.”

“There are some who ask, ‘How could it possibly be worth the hundreds of thousands of dollars it takes to educate one student?’” she said, likening this opinion to the pragmatist critics of Plato and Socrates. Instead, she asserted, the value of a Vassar education lies not in specific practical applications, but a far grander mission: “The kind of questioning that a Vassar student learns to do then and now is a crucial part of a healthy democratic society.”

News Briefs

Students Led Ashtray

At 12:23 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 20, a patrolling Safety and Security officer smelled marijuana on the second floor of Lathrop House; ashtrays, cigarette butts and alcohol were found in the offending room. Students are reminded that smoking in residence halls is a safety hazard.

—Caitlin Clevenger, News Editor

Safety is Derailed

Officers found multiple bikes locked onto handrails of buildings on Jan. 20. The bikes are considered a safety hazard.

—CC

T-Pane

Around 3:00 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23, a Safety and Security officer discovered two broken windows on the third floor of Main Building. Glass was broken on a door in the hallway and a student’s bedroom window.

—CC

Joss Stoned

An officer doing rounds in Josselyn House at 11:32 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22, smelled marijuana coming from a room with an open door. The students inside admitted to smoking marijuana.

—CC

Big Men Off Campus

Two students walking down Raymond Avenue on the night of Sunday, Jan. 23 saw a non-student being assaulted by three individuals. The students intervened and drove the non-student to his residence. Police were contacted and the three individuals were found, but no charges are being pressed.

—CC

New space includes television, board games and updated café

UpCDC continued from page 1

students expressed concern over the lack of alternative programming on campus.

“There was no central location for students to go to on weekends if they did not want to go to parties,” said Vassar Student Association Vice President for Activities Tanay Tatum ’12.

“Our charge was to think of a space where students can go blow off steam late at night—where students can go that would not be programmed with student activities,” said Quinn.

The new lounge, which will open from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, will be stocked with games such as ping-pong, pool, foosball, Scattergories and Cranium. The Students’ Building will also be outfitted with a 52-inch television and a Nintendo Wii.

According to Tatum, students will be able to check out any of these games from the student manager, in exchange for their Vassar College Identification Card.

Along with the rest of the Students’ Building, the on-site cafeteria Java City has also been given a makeover to befit the altered use of the space; it has been rechristened “UpCafé”—pronounced “UpC Café.” Although it will continue to stock all of the same products, Dining Services has replaced Java City with Winchell Mountain Coffee. “They’re a locally grown, family-owned business,” said Senior Director of Campus Dining Maureen King, who discovered the farm at her local farmers’ market in Millbrook.

In honor of the new lounge’s opening, the first 50 students to arrive at the inauguration of the alternative space tonight will receive free cappuccinos. Additionally, the Campus Activities Office will be supplying free pizza from Pizzeria Bacio Ristorante, a candy wall and sumo wrestling for the first night of opening.

Originally, the College had considered installing the new student lounge in the Aula in Ely Hall. However, according to Tatum, “The Aula’s kitchen would have to be remodeled to be able to support the amount of food UpC’s does.”

“When [UpC] was dedicated in 2002, it was intended to be a student lounge space,” said Quinn.

“UpC is already used as a student space,”

Tatum said, “it just needs a formal label,” she added. While observing student traffic in the Students’ Building at night, Tatum reports seeing “students doing their homework, the Barefoot Monkeys practicing, and students hanging out.” Judging by the current use of the space as one that serves such multiple purposes, UpC was thus an obvious choice for Campus Activities for this alternative-programming space.

Unfortunately, converting the Students’ Building into a lounge removes it as a possible location for hosting events created by various student organizations during the lounge’s hours of operation. Many all-campus parties hosted by VSA organizations such as Vassar College Entertainment (ViCE), the Queer Coalition of Vassar College, and the Senior Class Council and many dormitories find their venue in UpC; starting today, such parties will now have to find different spaces on campus to host their events in order to make room for this new use of campus space.

However, according to Quinn the lounge should not pose a significant scheduling problem because most events are over by 10 p.m., in time for the lounge to open. Some events, such as Roaring 20s, have already reserved the Students’ Building for parties on Friday and Saturday nights, and according to Quinn, they will still be allowed to use the space just for that night alone. From this point on, however, priority will be given for the space to lend itself to alternative programming on weekend nights.

While the Students’ Building may no longer host parties, the College is working to devise new events to fit with the space’s more laid-back atmosphere. Quinn suggested, for instance, that the College may bring in an outside food vendor, such as Twisted Soul, on some weekends.

However, such programming is still a ways away at this point in time, as the College wants to gauge students’ response to the space before making any such plans.

“We wanted to get it going in a short time to see how it goes,” said Quinn, “so now we have something to expand.” She concluded, “I’m anxious to be a month out and see how it’s going.”

THIS WEEK IN NEW YORK

BY CAITLIN CLEVENGER, NEWS EDITOR

Winter weather expected to remain biting

Snow on campus could continue to pile up, as the National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch for Dutchess County this week. Chances of snow totaling five to 10 inches are high on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Cold weather is expected around the state this week, with temperatures reaching 20 degrees below zero in upstate New York Sunday night. Milder weather may return on Monday, but a second winter storm heading up the east coast should bring snow on Tuesday and Wednesday.

State audits Arlington Fire District

The New York Comptroller’s Office recently began auditing the Arlington Fire District, which provides emergency services for Vassar and the Arlington area. The District, which has a \$15 million budget, was investigated this summer in part of a statewide investigation on pension-padding in public employment offices. Dutchess County and the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie were also investigated this summer, but of these only Arlington Fire District was selected for an official audit. The audit, which will be completed this spring, will further investigate Arlington Fire District’s pension and budgeting practices.

State law may ban devices when crossing street

A pending bill in the New York state legislature would make use of cellular phones, music players or other electronic devices illegal while crossing streets. The bill was proposed in reaction to an increase in pedestrian fatalities in the past six months that State Senator Carl Kruger, who proposed the bill, attributes to pedestrian distraction, especially by electronic devices. Pedestrians, cyclists and runners would all be subject to a civil summons and a \$100 fine if they violated the law. As it is written, the bill would apply only to cities of one million or higher in population (The City of Poughkeepsie’s population is just

under 30,000), but Senator Kruger hopes to amend the bill to apply the law to smaller cities.

New York Times considers WikiLeaks model

The *New York Times* is considering creating an anonymous electronic portal allowing leakers to give the news organization files and tips directly rather than through an intermediary like WikiLeaks and its founder Julian Assange, according to Executive Editor Bill Keller. In the past the *Times* has worked with WikLeaks for stories, but following the creation of Al Jazeera’s “Transparency Unit,” which allows anonymous sources to submit documents, videos, photos or tips directly to Al Jazeera, other influential news organizations have considered following in its footsteps.

NYC Bill would give pregnant women free parking

New York City Councilman David Greenfield will introduce legislation next week that could give special parking placards, similar to handicap placards, to pregnant women with physical or mobility difficulties confirmed by their doctors. The placards would grant their holders free parking in no-parking or no-standing zones from the date of issue until 30 days after their expected due dates to ease their entry into grocery stores and shopping malls.

Jets’ Super Bowl Hopes End

The New York Jets lost to the Pittsburgh Steelers in the American Football Conference Championship on Sunday Jan. 23, with a score of 24-19. The Steelers will go on to face the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XLV on Sunday, Feb. 6. New Yorkers and New Jerseyans have found the bright side of the loss, finding solace in the findings of Dr. Robert Kloner, who found that a Jets loss in the Super Bowl could have raised heart-related deaths in the area due to emotional stress.

CCP unlikely to reintroduce repeat proposal

REPEAT continued from page 1
endorsed it on Sunday, Dec. 4.

As evidenced by the vote, faculty opinions were divided on the efficacy of the proposed policy. Chenette was quoted in an article in the 10.10.10 issue of *The Miscellany News* saying, “while a D is a passing grade, it reflects a shaky understanding of the subject. Many of us would prefer that students address this weakness if they aspire to move on to more advanced studies in the same area.” Chenette also pointed out in the same article that some members of the faculty feel that this new policy, if adopted, would go “too far in protecting students from the consequences of their academic miscues.”

There were also concerns about whether the policy made unfounded assumptions about students’ declining academic ability as a function of increasing diversity, which emerged in the form of responses to a survey sent out by VSA President Mathew Leonard ’11. While reporting on the results of this survey last semester, Strong House President and member of the VSA Academics Committee Sophie Wassermann ’13 said that there were some concerns about the policy from the student body as well. Some felt, said Wassermann, that the policy was “put in place because the College believed that people from more diverse backgrounds might have more trouble with courses at Vassar” as a result of increased diversification.

On behalf of the Academics Committee, Wasserman later clarified at VSA Council that the Committee was “not encouraging this policy because Vassar has become more diverse.” She went on to bring the attention of the Council members to a note explaining the same sentiment at the end of the endorsement.

While the policy can be brought to the faculty for a re-vote, Chenette thinks it unlikely that such a policy will be adopted in the near future. “The vote was very close, and so yes it could have come out differently on another day. However, I doubt that CCP would reintroduce that proposal once the faculty has debated it so thoroughly and made a decision, however close. It seems to me that we should honor the work that was done, respect the decision, and move on to other issues,” he concluded.

Campaign articulates College priorities

CAMPAIGN continued from page 1

The College settled on the \$400 million goal after an analysis of its alumnae/i base, history and research into peer colleges. “We did a study that underpinned the decision to raise \$400 million,” said College Trustee and Chair of the “World Changing” campaign Barbara Manfrey Vogelstein ’76. “From both a top-down and a ground-up analysis, we found that \$400 million made sense.”

The Campaign Steering Committee, along with the Office of Alumnae/i Affairs and Development have spent the recently ended “nucleus,” or “silent,” phase of the campaign approaching friends of the College who might lead in donations, setting examples for other donors and laying a strong foundation for the campaign.

This is the first capital campaign that the College has undertaken in over 10 years. Vassar completed its last campaign in 1996, when the College succeeded in raising \$206 million towards a variety of goals, including a renovation of the Thompson Memorial Library. According to Baer, the time between campaigns was unusually long for a college like Vassar.

This, however, is not the only difference between Vassar’s “World Changing” campaign and those of peer colleges. By dividing the focus of the campaign between three broad categories, the College has specifically avoided creating a “laundry list” of projects, hoping instead to encourage more open-ended, unrestricted giving towards the Annual Fund and as well to the other two categories.

The Annual Fund, which supports approximately seven percent of the College’s operating budget each year, is the area of fundraising where the majority of donors will likely participate. Gifts to the Annual Fund are unrestricted in the way that the College may spend them.

“We’re just concentrating on three, and one is Vassar’s Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is something that traditionally doesn’t do well at colleges and universities when they’re doing a campaign because everyone wants to give to the ‘big’ priorities,” said Director of Development Communication Lance Ringel. “It’s basically a vote of confidence saying to the folks running Vassar at any particular time, ‘I believe in the College as a whole; you spend it the way you think it needs to be spent.’”

According to Baer, about 80 to 90 percent of all participants in the campaign will give to the Annual Fund. The aggregate gifts towards the Annual Fund will likely amount to more than \$70 million. As Access to Excellence and Sciences for the 21st Century are umbrellas for several areas of fundraising, the aggregate gift to the Annual Fund would be the largest towards a single budget.

According to Vogelstein, “We’re hoping that in recognition of Vassar’s Sesquicentennial and the campaign, people will give more to the Annual Fund in the coming years.” She explained that a \$10,000 gift to the Annual Fund is equivalent to a five percent draw on a \$200,000 endowment. “A gift like that is very meaningful.”

Though this would be the largest single gift within the campaign, perhaps the broadest of the campaign is Access to Excellence, which will support financial aid as well as professorships through endowed chairs and some capital projects. The category of Access to Excellence will comprise about \$250 million of the total, making it undoubtedly the largest pillar. Baer explained that the idea behind the name and the combination of goals is to improve the ability of students to fund their Vassar educations as well as to improve the quality of that education once they arrive on campus.

Associate Vice Principal for Principal Gifts Jennifer Dahnert identified scholarships as an area that has always been very popular among donors. “It’s so deeply rooted in our core values as an institution,” she said. “It’s a concept that really resonates with Vassar people.”

Fundraising for financial aid stretches well beyond the current or even near-future classes. “We know who our freshman class is going to be in 18 years,” said Dahnert. “We are preparing Vassar’s financial base.” She described how the College can look at families who will be sending their children to college years from now and understand that that population is not getting wealthier. So, just as parents might financially prepare for their children to attend college, Vassar financially gets ready for them to arrive.

The most significant capital improvement included in the campaign, however, is focused around the sciences, specifically the development of an integrated science center (See “Science center plans presented” on Page 1).

Each of these three areas is meant to resonate with the College’s history as much as they are meant to look towards the future. “It all seems so seamless to me,” wrote Hill. “Our vision for Vassar’s future is completely grounded in our history. Vassar has been changing the world since it was founded in 1861 and will continue to do so for the next 150 years.”

And as the world has changed, so have the

Vassar graduates in it. The new campaign is new not only for its approach and focus, but will also be Vassar’s first large campaign to tap into today’s particularly unique mix of alumnae/i in its donor base. This group of graduates includes women who attended Vassar while it was still a women’s college, men and women graduates from the period of initial coeducation, and very recent graduates who experienced a more fully coeducational Vassar.

Since working on the last campaign more than a decade ago, Dahnert recognized the shift in the alumnae/i population. “We’ve really been preparing for this for a long time,” said Dahnert. “I knew that we were cultivating a new generation of donors.”

For Ringel, this poses interesting challenges in reaching out to these different groups. “It’s a real challenge right now at this point in history because you have a whole cohort of people who are used to getting mail and letters, and you have people who are used to getting e-mails, and then you have other folks who have stopped reading their e-mail and only look at Facebook or Twitter. And you have to reach all of them, so that is an extra challenge. It’s kind of reflective to me of where the College’s alumnae/i base is,” he said. “At the same time there’s a commonality in what everyone values that you can stress across communications, so it makes it a very interesting time to do it.”

In order to reach its ultimate goal, Vassar has been relying on alumnae/i not only to give, but also to lead others in giving. According to Dahnert, more than the previous campaign, the current effort relies on alumnae/i to solicit donations, who she says are in a good position to lead their classmates.

Vogelstein agreed. “The best way to persuade other people to give is to have done so oneself.”

The results of the “World Changing” campaign are to be long-lasting in both the improvements to the College that its leaders have set out to achieve, and also in the philanthropic habit that they hope the campaign will inspire, including in Vassar’s current student body. “Students should understand the importance of giving back,” said Vogelstein. “Approximately one third of the overall cost of their education is being contributed by people who came before they did.”

According to Vogelstein, “Once people start getting in the habit of giving back, they will continue to do so.” In this way, the legacy of the “Vassar 150: World Changing” campaign may remain past its official end date of June, 2013.

New science center will bridge main and south campus

SCIENCE continued from page 1

departments.” The project will include renovations of Olmsted Hall of Biological Sciences, New England Building and Sanders Physics Building as well as the construction of a new Integrated Science Center, a bridge building that will connect to Olmsted Hall and cross over the Fonteyn Kill. It is intended both to modernize and to support a collaborative and cross-disciplinary science community. “Facilities should reflect the value we place on faculty-student collaborations, faculty-faculty collaborations, and the collaborations students share with each other,” said Associate Professor of Chemistry and Associate Dean of the Faculty Marianne Begemann ’79.

The project will implement this goal by building shared spaces for use by multiple departments, including an X-ray suite, an animal care facility, a robotics lab, and neuroscan and electrophysiology areas, as well as classrooms. When the project is completed, all of Vassar’s science programs will be collocated on the Academic Quadrangle. The Psychology Department will be moved from its location in Blodgett Hall to the New England Building and Olmsted Hall, the Computer Science Department from its location in the Old Laundry Building to Sanders Physics Building and the Chemistry Department from Mudd Chemistry Building to the new bridge building. Mudd Chemistry Building will be demolished at the close of the project.

Associate Professor of Computer Science Jennifer Walter commented on the move, saying, “We are excited about being included in the science quad itself and the increased visibility of computer science in Sanders Physics.”



The improvement of Vassar’s science facilities will be concluded in 2017 with the demolition of Mudd Chemistry Building, pictured above. The Chemistry Department will move to the new bridge building.

Assistant Professor of Psychology Abigail Baird ’91 thinks that the move would encourage cross-disciplinary work beneficial to the Psychology Department, saying, “We aren’t going to understand human nature until we start to collaborate across disciplines. [The move] will put us into a place where we do better, more thorough, and quantitatively better science.”

Architect Richard Olcott of Ennead Architects, part of the team designing the bridge building, explained that the main problem

in creating a new science facility was finding space. The area surrounding the Academic Quadrangle includes the Shakespeare Garden and Commencement Hill, as well as areas of mature trees and wetlands surrounding the Fonteyn Kill. The bridge building will use space above the Kill and the wetlands. The overgrown space between Olmsted Hall and Skinner Hall was once a site for learning about local plant life, known as the Edith Roberts Ecological Laboratory. Though this area has fallen into disorder

in recent years, the Integrated Science Center will be ideally situated to take advantage of the newly rehabilitated Edith Roberts Ecological Laboratory. Associate Professor of Biology Margaret Ronsheim said Vassar’s biology program would be boosted by “the opportunity to take a class outside to examine a specimen right outside the door...to collect water samples and bring them back immediately to the lab.”

The construction of the new building and the renovations to Olmsted, New England and Sanders Physics will also prioritize sustainability. The construction of the bridge building will be accomplished using cranes that will not disturb the Fonteyn Kill, and Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates Inc. will create a storm water treatment and manage site and roof runoff. The bridge building will use bird-safe fritted glass that also reduces solar heat gain.

The bridge building will provide access to the south campus compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The project plans also include a path between Skinner Hall and the Vassar Chapel and ADA-compliant access to New England Building, Sanders Physics Building and Olmsted Hall. The science facilities project will include the removal of parking lots near Olmsted Hall and New England Building, in accordance with the Campus Landscape Master Plan’s goal of pushing parking and vehicle traffic to the periphery of the campus.

The project is scheduled to begin in May 2013. Under the proposed schedule, the bridge building will be completed in September 2015, and the project will end with the demolition of Mudd Chemistry Building in 2017.

In Memoriam: Officer Betty Francis

Jillian Scharr
REPORTER

Vassar Safety and Security Officer Elizabeth “Betty” Francis, beloved former guard of Matthew’s Mug, passed away over the winter break.

In the wake of this tragic and unexpected news, Vassar students rallied around various social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter to share their grief and their love for Vassar’s most popular security officer.

Francis, who was born in New Bedford, Mass. in 1929, started at Vassar in 1987 as a building officer. (At the time, some officers were assigned to specific dorms while others patrolled.) She “bounced around” between several different dorms, said Director of Safety and Security Don Marsala, before retiring in 1994.

In July of 1999, Francis returned from retirement to work as a part-time security guard at Vassar. “Her primary job in her second tenure at Vassar was at the Mug, where she became a legend,” Marsala recalled.

“She prided herself on being able to catch students at their own game, so to speak, if they tried to scam her with a fake ID or tell a story she didn’t believe. She was always keen of the idea that they were trying to get over on her. She loved it, she really did.”

Aside from her Mug duties, Francis frequently volunteered for overtime, such as extra patrols during a party at night or traffic control during a big admission day.

Francis’ spunk, spirit and verve for the late-



Beloved Vassar security officer Elizabeth “Betty” Francis, pictured third from the left, passed away at the age of 81 on Dec. 27, 2010. Best known for guarding the Mug, Francis retired in August 2010.

night antics of a college campus all played into her seemingly immortal status as a campus fixture.

Francis retired for the second time in August of 2010, primarily for health reasons. She struggled with illness during the past few

months. “She was very weak but still had her spirits,” said Marsala of the visit he and several of her co-workers made to St. Francis Hospital, where she was residing in the rehabilitation ward.

Francis passed on Monday, Dec. 27.

Back home, re-entry after a life abroad

Matthew Bock
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

With the end of the fall semester, hundreds of 2012ers finished their time abroad. Having now returned to campus, they discuss how their experiences overseas have allowed them to cultivate new thoughts and feelings about the campus—and the country—they left behind.

Esther Clowney ’12, who spent a semester studying political science at Lady Shri Ram College in New Delhi, India, returned with an appreciation for the wealth and variety of resources offered here at Vassar, something she overlooked before her time away. “The public college I went to in Delhi was pretty bare-bones. It had about 20 computers in total and a paltry 9,000 books,” Clowney said, instead of the hundreds of thousands of books in the Vassar library. “We have so many resources available to us at Vassar, and great teachers who respect their students—something that was also definitely missing at Lady Shri Ram,” said Clowney. She became more appreciative, too, of the freedom granted students here at Vassar. Lady Shri Ram’s strict and early curfew prohibited members of the university from socializing late at night, even on weekends.

Others found themselves much more in touch with the fact—or feeling—of Vassar being a home. “Being away from the campus made me realize just how much I love it here,” Alexandra Zeman ’12 said. Zeman spent a semester in Athens, Greece studying ancient Greek and classics. She expressed a newfound comfort with her life at Vassar, although she did not hesitate to note that she does “miss the relaxed atmosphere of Greek life.”

“Studying abroad also made me appreciate certain things about America a lot more, like the variety in food and a society that works on a schedule,” Zeman added. Clowney, like Zeman, found herself missing particular aspects of American life. “I missed weird stuff—like gas station convenience stores, fitted sheets and roads with lanes in them,” she reported humorously.

Those who studied in larger universities pointed to both the benefits and drawbacks of attending a big school, even for just a semester. “Being at such a big university made me really appreciate the intimacy of the community at Vassar,” Mickey Mahar ’12, who spent his semester at University College London (UCL)—an urban university with nearly 23,000 students—remarked. At the same time, Mahar, having selected his courses out of a number of options, developed a critical awareness of some of the flaws inherent in Vassar’s academic system. “I realized that the Vassar curricula sometimes recycle the same discourses and rhetoric, failing to view things from a new, perhaps opposing perspective. I was pleasantly surprised by the academics at my university; UCL wasn’t as much of a liberal bubble as Vassar, which allowed for some more useful friction in discussion,” Mahar said. “The scheduling of courses, too, afforded a lot of independent study time, which allowed me to really familiarize myself with the texts we were using in class.”

“I appreciate being back to the closeness and convenience of campus life now,” Sally DeWind ’12 added. She traveled to Tokyo, Japan to study the Japanese language for her fall semester abroad. DeWind had to travel to the outskirts of the city in order to attend her classes. “In Japan we would commute to our university, so life was centered more around the city and not very much around campus,” she explained. This was inconvenient, but also “really different and something [she’s] happy [she] got to experience,” for it allowed her to immerse herself in the city while at the same time taking part in the activities of a student.

“Being abroad emphasized how much of a bubble Vassar really is—though I knew this before,” Zeman said. All students interviewed concurred with her sentiment. However, while it’s always fun to visit, there’s no place like home.

Shoemaker champions diverse events

Danielle Bukowski
REPORTER

Though Vassar College Entertainment (ViCE) is known for fulfilling Vassar’s entertainment needs with an unrelenting flow of diverse music, parties and even film, the word “entertainment” casts a large and often vague shadow, and it’s the Special Events Committee’s job to make sure that ViCE lives up to its acronym. Like all other ViCE committees, Special Events is led by a Vassar student with an eye for detail, a mind for planning and a passion for parties. This year’s Committee Chair, Sean Shoemaker ’12 is no exception as he works tirelessly to dream up the next activity for the ViCE committee with the broadest range and the least straightforward title.

Party programming that is not music-related is handled by the Special Events Committee. In years past, comedians, contortionists, magicians and hypnotists visited Vassar thanks to Special Events. Shoemaker has always enjoyed being a part of organizations, but he didn’t know that he wanted to work specifically with ViCE when he came to Vassar. Describing his decision, he said, “I was involved in student government in high school, and my favorite part was planning the events. I realized ViCE plans great events, and I wanted to make things happen, so I got involved.” Shoemaker has been a part of the Special Events Committee since his freshman year, and was also very involved with the Film League before moving towards music his sophomore year. He is happy to work with ViCE again, now in an executive position.

The ability to see one’s work result in a large amount of people having fun is one of the main reasons Shoemaker enjoys being in ViCE. “I like being busy, and doing something that has a direct impact. It’s great to see people enjoying events that you’ve helped make happen,” Shoemaker said. Last semester, Special Events collaborated with Hip Hop 101 to bring a documentary screening to campus. This semester, ViCE (in collaboration with the Vassar Student Association (VSA)) is looking forward to a guest lecture by Dustin Lance Black, the screenwriter for the Oscar-nominated film *Milk* and recipient of the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay. Black is one of the highest profile speakers ViCE has ever been able to bring to campus. Shoemaker noted that getting an interesting speaker for this monumental year in Vassar’s history was important to the Special Events Committee.



Sean Shoemaker ’12, pictured above, has been involved with Vassar College Entertainment’s Special Events Committee since his freshman year at Vassar. He now serves as the Committee’s chair.

The decision to invite Black in particular to campus was also spurred on by an increased awareness of the bullying faced by homosexual teens, a subject that became prevalent last fall following the high-profile suicide of Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi.

Shoemaker has also been involved in the planning of many all-campus parties. When Shoemaker was part of the Special Events Committee last year, ViCE threw an event called Search Party which incorporated a night vision color scheme and lit up the night with the most lights ever in used during a campus event. All of this production value, however, was not without a cost as the clean up continued until 5 a.m.

As the VSA organization with the largest functioning budget, ViCE was called upon to assist in the planning and execution of the upcoming Sexycentennial Party on Jan. 29. The complex nature of the event made it a perfect project for the Special Events Committee to take point on. “It’s going to be the biggest party we’ve ever done. We have the entire College Center booked. The Retreat,

the Villard Room, the North Atrium and the Rose Parlor will be in use. So everybody should come,” Shoemaker enthused. Dubbed “Sexycentennial,” there will be live jazz, two raging dance floors, wine, sushi, no other conflicting events and more fun than Matthew Vassar could have ever imagined. “These opportunities don’t come around often, so we wanted to make it as special as possible,” Shoemaker explained.

Shoemaker strives for his committee’s events to be understandable, accessible and, most of all, fun! Pleased with the success of the fall semester’s Circus Party and energized by present and future plans, Shoemaker fills in the blanks between the music with flair. Furthermore, Shoemaker asserts that despite a perceived gruff exterior, ViCE is an open, friendly organization that puts entertainment first and checks exclusivity at the door. All ViCE committee meetings are open and energized to bring eager students into the fold, so that they too can fill Shoemaker’s role and continue a tradition of world changing excellence in entertainment.

Make winter a wonderland with 10 affordable activities

Vee Benard
REPORTER

Though this past Wednesday marked the beginning of the spring semester, there is nothing spring-like about the weather in Poughkeepsie. With three snowfalls so far this week, the thought of going outside is daunting to say the least. Students need not remain holed up in their dorm rooms, however; there are plenty of activities on and around campus to make the bitter climate all the more bearable.

Hot Chocolate at the Crafted Kup
The Crafted Kup (44 Raymond Avenue), which is within walking distance of campus, offers a variety of warm beverages, including mouth-watering hot cocoa that puts the All Campus Dining Center hot drink machine to shame. The Crafted Kup is an oasis for students looking to escape campus for an afternoon; those in search of an alternative study venue should know that it offers both Wi-Fi and plenty of sitting room.

Live Music at Babycakes Café
Directly across the street from campus, Babycakes Café (1-3 Collegeview Avenue) is beloved for its rustic atmosphere and amazing food. In addition to its comfortable environment and affordable meals, Babycakes plays host to various local musicians who perform live at the restaurant on Friday and Saturday nights from 8 to 11 p.m. Upcoming performers include We Must Be on Friday, Jan. 28, and Scott Blum on Saturday, Jan. 29.

Sledding at Sunset Lake
Vassar's campus also has some spectacular sledding hills; a particular favorite is the steep hill leading from the back of the science quad down towards Sunset Lake. For those students who forgot to pack their sleds, improvising is always an option, and the full body roll never goes out of style. Be sure to bundle up tight before you look to some snow therapy to loosen



Students won't need to brave the cold for long to visit the nearby Crafted Cup. With warm drinks, Wi-Fi and a cozy seating area, it is the perfect place to spend a dreary winter's day.

you up!

Ice Skating
Though Sunset Lake is ill-suited to ice skating, the Mid-Hudson Civic Center (14 Civic Center Plaza) boasts a sizeable ice arena. The rink is also the meeting place of Iced Brew, Vassar's synchronized skating team. A lesser-known option takes the form of a small skating pond near Kenyon, which, though it hasn't seen official use in some time, is rumored to still be a functional and effective way to get a skating fix!

Bowling at Hoebowl
Regardless of what its name might suggest, the Hoebowl (45 Taft Avenue), our local bowling alley—just take a right on Hooker and let your GPS do the rest—is a great place for some wholesome fun. Though it does not play host to the same Americana kitsch on display in the stereotypical hometown bowling alley, Hoe-

bowl still has all the necessities: plenty of lanes, an arcade and blacklights. So round up some friends, make a team or two and never be afraid to ask for bumpers!

The Movies at the Poughkeepsie Galleria
Some students might find themselves drawn to the Poughkeepsie Galleria (2001 South Road) in an effort to get rid of the wintertime blues. Though the various retail outlets and food court can provide sufficient distraction for an afternoon, the Galleria also contains a Regal Cinema for those who want to make a day of it. If traveling to the mall in this freezing weather comes off as forbidding, ViCE Film League offers regular film screenings right on campus. Upcoming events are listed on the ViCE website.

Jazz Night at the Mug
To some it may come as a shock that Mat-

thew's Mug is just as active on weeknights as it is on Fridays and Saturdays. To others, however, this is old news—in fact, many students consider themselves “regulars” at weeknight Mug events. The most popular and well-attended is Jazz Night, hosted every Thursday at 11 p.m. after moving from its previous Tuesday time slot. Different groups are featured every week, and students are invited to sit, stand or dance as they listen. Visit the ViCE website for more information on upcoming events.

Vassar Athletics
Though warm weather and outdoor sporting events seem to go hand-in-hand, winter sports can be just as entertaining. With winter athletic seasons in full swing, there are multiple indoor athletic competitions in both the Athletics and Fitness Center and Kenyon Hall every week. Specific sports to look out for are men's and women's volleyball, basketball and swimming. Dates for upcoming games are listed on the Vassar Athletics website.

Stargazing
If the thought of spending an extended period of time in the frigid outdoors is repelling, remember that winter is one of the best times to watch the stars under clear skies. Stargazers might find better visibility by Sunset Lake or the Vassar Golf Course, away from the artificial light on campus.

Nature Walk
For the more ambitious naturalists, Vassar's various paths and trails could prove to be the makings of a cold-weather nature walk. Vassar's campus is undeniably beautiful when the trees are in full bloom, but its winter landscape is equally stunning. A walk to the snow-covered Shakespeare Gardens, Sunset Lake or even the Vassar Farm is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with the nature and wildlife in the area.

Furry friends and reptilian roommates: Pets at Vassar

Jessica Tarantine
GUEST REPORTER

Pets are often touted as a therapeutic boon to the human psyche, and who needs a dose of mental chicken soup more than a college student? Thus, many of the Vassar student body turn to their fine, furry, scaled and feathered friends for a big dose of R&R.

Amongst the more unconventional choices is an honest to goodness horse. Cared for by Carley Gilman '11. In an e-mailed statement, she was quick to clarify: “My horse isn't technically ‘on campus’ but, rather, 10 minutes down the road [in Wappingers Falls].” She made the decision to bring her horse, Blu Moon Rising, to campus after riding competitively for seven years and caring for Blu for four years. Gilman acknowledges that her situation is unique, noting, “My horse really began drastically affecting my college experience when I started to pay his bill myself. Now I have to juggle work, classes and finding enough daylight left to ride.” She continues to explain that her situation is governed by stress. “Being a person prone to homesickness I needed to have something from home with me. While being in college, galloping along the beautiful trails of the Hudson Valley and hanging out in the barn not only give me a space of my own away from the hectic campus life, but also reminds me why I got into riding,” a fact she needed reminding of after a busy high school experience filled with several national competitions.

While Blu certainly offers a high degree of companionship, other smaller animals, while less hands-on, can be a good alternative with far less work.

Julia Eicher '11 has been caring for two rabbits since her freshman year. Through the last three years, she admits that there have been problems: “Sometimes they eat my papers and books or chew cords.” She added, “They can be a little messy sometimes and it's definitely an added stress.” And indeed, for many students like Eicher, finding people to care for pets during breaks and ensuring that the proper supplies are on hand can be difficult.

But despite the challenges, she stated, “It's really comforting to come home to animals; when I've been gone all day they always run up to say hi.”

She explained that she decided to adopt the rabbits, Benjamin and Lola, because she “missed living around an animal,” and that she had a friend “who recommended them to me as good dorm pets because they are easy to keep and are more fun and interactive than things like hamsters.”

But for many students rabbits simply aren't enough, and lizards, turtles and other small animals fail to sufficiently meet the oh-so-important cuddle factor. This leads some students to be tempted to illegally keep cats or dogs. Associate Director of Residential Life for Housing and Student Conduct Rich Horowitz warns against this, stating, “Personally, I'm concerned that students who take on ownership of some pets—especially a cat or dog—are being a bit short sighted. Most students don't know where they're going to be or what they're going to do upon graduation.” He concludes, “Overall, I'd say the costs to owner and pet greatly outweigh the benefits until there's a certain predictability and stability in one's life.”

This is, of course, to say nothing of the punitive sanctions against students illegally keeping pets, which with repeated violation, according to Horowitz, could result in removal from housing. He urged against breaking the College's pets policy not only for the interest of the students, but also that of the animals, stating, “I would prefer that students consider an animal's natural habitat versus what would be imposed upon it and then make a mindful and compassionate decision.”

But for those students who miss their cats and dogs, and aren't ready to take on the serious responsibility of an animal, as Gilman has with Blu, there are other alternatives available. Most notably, many house fellows have pets who are active and involved on campus. Assistant Professor of English and Noyes House Fellow Hiram Perez is often seen with his dog Violet—a welcome sight in Noyes Circle or



Webster, the dog of Professors of Political Science Peter Stillman and Adelaide Villmoare, can often be seen rambling through Rockefeller Hall or the Residential Quad. He is one of many adored campus pets.

during weekly study breaks—allowing students to receive the benefits of having a pet without the responsibility of taking care of one. This rare opportunity for students often results in copious amounts of attention being offered to Violet.

When asked about the attention Violet receives, Perez remarked, “She has worked in the past as a therapy dog visiting nursing homes and children in hospitals, so she's used to being surrounded by people lavishing her with praise and affection. In fact, she expects it now.”

Indeed, the pets of house fellows enjoy a community that is reciprocal and an environment that is collective. A sympathetic Perez explains that “people often mention how much they miss their own pets when they visit with her,” and that “students volunteer to walk her, play with her, and some have even groomed

her,” highlighting the importance students place on interaction with animals.

Perez feels that these exchanges serve to foster a greater sense of community on campus, as well. “It's nice for me, too, because I get to meet so many more students, and they immediately relax when they interact with her,” explained Perez.

Perez and his fellow House Fellow, Associate Professor of Psychology Abigail Baird, coordinated a “puppy break” in the “jetson lounge” of Noyes as a study break activity geared towards relaxation, and a bit of some good, holistic TLC. Describing the study break, Perez writes, “A friend of mine from New Jersey brought a litter of seven-week-old puppies up for a visit. The puppies were huge stress busters.” The day was enjoyed by many, having provided many benefits with minimal costs.

Sushi Village all-u-can eat menu tantalizes wallets, palates

Ruth Bolster
GUEST REPORTER

With Asian fusion juggernaut, Main Street's the Bull and Buddha, open for business, longstanding local sushi joints such as Raymond Avenue's own Sushi Village are feeling the pressure to reclaim the interest of their customer base with flashy deals that promise memorable meals. So move over All Campus Dining Center, because Sushi Village is offering an "all you care to eat" option that hopes to tantalize students into their doors with a promise to go easy on their wallets; however, such deals are not always the bargains they initially seem to be. By charging a flat rate of \$19.95 per person, it is possible to order any assortment of menu items from the sushi bar or kitchen; a deal which, when executed intelligently, is economically sound. However, as with most "bargains" of this nature, Sushi Village's all you can eat option runs the risk of being both expensive and excessive if one is not careful when ordering.

The selection one has when ordering from the all you can eat menu is liberal, encompassing everything from standard sushi to tempura to teriyaki to red bean ice cream. However, before I could sample these delectable items, my friend and I first had to overcome the challenge of ordering, a feat that proved to be surprisingly unclear. Upon entering Sushi Village, we were presented with a standard menu, and—without the slightest explanation—two facedown scraps of paper and a pen. After a minute of thumbing through the formal menu and throwing wary glances at the nebulous office supplies that adorned our table, we announced to our server that we were trying the all you can eat option. In response to this, she flipped over the papers to reveal two checklists—one sporting a list of sushi products, and the other listing hot



Christie Chea/The Miscellany News

A new "all you care to eat" option is now available at Sushi Village. While at first glance a bargain, at a cost of \$19.95 per person, the option is only economical for those who plan to order a sizable amount of food.

foods from the kitchen—and then implied that we should mark the foods we wanted. But there is no need to be hasty. If you find your tummy rumbling after round one, a request for another menu will be honored. Needless to say, those wishing to try this option should be aware of the correct method of ordering.

Although the soups and various tempuras that we ordered from the kitchen were just as tasty as those in any other Japanese restaurant, the star of the meal proved to be the Tri Color Roll. Topped with hearty slices of salmon and orange, green and yellow tobiko (caviar), the Tri Color Roll features a light

but effective combination of crabmeat, avocado, cream cheese and tempura flakes. With or without pickled ginger, this specialty item would be sure to please any sushi connoisseur. If one is in the mood for both the robust and unconventional, however, the Poughkeepsie Roll is the surefire pick of choice. Consisting of salmon, jalapeños, crispy onion bits, shiso leaf (a member of the mint family) and melted mozzarella cheese, the Poughkeepsie Roll expertly fuses both the heat of the jalapeño and the heat of the kitchen, making for a must-try roll of sushi. And while all options may seem scrumptious on paper, it is best to avoid any-

thing that isn't spicy, crunchy or saucy, lest you expose yourself to the off-putting taste of Sushi Village's less "dressed up" items.

While being charged a flat rate to eat anything you could possibly want on the menu seems to be a dream come true for most sushi fans, whether one actually takes advantage of this offer depends solely on what and how much one orders. The bill for two, including drinks, tax and a tip, totaled a staggering \$54.12 (which, especially after purchasing a semester's worth of textbooks, is a lot of money to spend on lunch). And with a punitive fee for leftovers, doggy bags are certainly not an option—so you'd better eat your fill and then some! Given that the options naturally lean towards a tapas-style meal of shared food and conversation, a modest order enjoyed by two can be savored in your favor if you forgo temptation and order off of the standard menu. However, because the all you can eat option features more expensive items such as the specialty rolls, ambitious orderers will benefit from this deal of desperation.

Despite these potential advantages, those who are watching their spending habits would be quick to note the flaws in this flat-rate deal. Unless you plan on ordering copious amounts of food for one sitting, it is impossible to break even. Financial concerns aside, the mediocre sushi coupled with less than perfect service keep this offer from achieving the rank of taste sensation. If you are only hungry enough to eat two or fewer specialty rolls, then the all you can eat option is actually more expensive than if you were to order from the regular menu. While Sushi Village's all you can eat promotion makes a large, not to mention enticing, impression, the quality of the food coupled with the disarmingly high price tag make this a deal that is best approached with caution.

Horoscope scare yields renewed astrological interest

Mitchell Gilburne
FEATURES REPORTER

The recent zodiac crisis featuring the meddlesome, albeit short-lived Ophiuchus, has finally been disproved. As it turns out, most American lovers of astrology follow the tropical zodiac, which is not subject to change in the foreseeable future due to the consistency of star patterns as observed from the equator. As a result of the scandal surrounding the beloved system of gossip magazine augury, those reunited with their original cosmic identities are feeling more in touch with their astrological signs than ever. And while our campus may be small in the grand scheme of the universe, the stars have not forgotten our existence and they shine brightly with portents of the nebulous future of a Vassar student. So, let Leo get his roar back as we dive back in to the familiar zodiac that we know and love.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Aquarians are strong and proud. Not accustomed to failure, your missteps are particularly disarming; don't falter. The tide may be high, but keep holding on. Good things are on the horizon, so long as you avoid the vegan station tomorrow.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

All this snow getting you down? The calm and friendly Pisces is at the whim of his or her environment, but chin up! A warm encounter awaits you just when you think you are at your coldest. Keep an eye out for the cutie in your 9 a.m. class, and make your move while they're too tired to react negatively.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

An Aries is gruff but tender, and knows that stress is no fun! With a 3.5 credit minimum for the semester, you might as well drop that seminar. Sure, you may need it for your major, but your newfound freedom will set your mind at ease. Use the down time to take up a new hobby, start a blog or get invested in a new television show.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A Taurus knows his or her limits and is a me-

ticulous planner, but is stubborn and not prone to compromise. Know that rushing ahead obscures the scenery. A golden opportunity hides behind a moment of indulgence. You don't want to miss it! Keep your eyes peeled for a figure in turquoise.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The people in your life may seem clingy, needy or both. Just remember that they love you, and in the meantime dive into your studies. Do all your reading, or return to a forgotten project. By the time you're done you'll be craving their attention. You may think you love peace and quiet, but you really just want to let loose and party.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You're often quick to judge, and though this has helped you to build a stable life and a valuable support system, a bit of social risk-taking will jumpstart your life and may possibly even lead to love.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Brash and brazen, the Leo is an uninhibited force. Not deterred by hail, sleet or storm, you will accomplish all you set out to do this semester. Beware an overcast Tuesday when a seemingly benign encounter could lead to something more sinister. You have a god or goddess that longs to be embraced within. Steer clear of extreme sports but don't be afraid to be daring.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

It's time to self-motivate. Your lazy days are over. Crack a book, make a friend, find a job! Whatever it is you need to do, the sooner you start, the greater the reward. 150 is your lucky number. Avoid public drinking fountains.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Though Libra, the scale, implies balance, your life seems to be tugging you unevenly in many directions. You are in control of your life, so remember that much of your responsibility was a choice, and you must live up to and honor those commitments. Avoid yellow foods and grapefruit-scented bath products.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You have a presence that could fill a stadium should you choose to let it out to play. Many fear your bite, but you will only gain respect when you learn to bark instead. The world may not always see everything your way, but you will have your moment of triumph.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You are kind, interesting and an excellent socializer, but a terrible flirt. While your romantic prospects may seem bleak, they

are about to turn around so long as you can manage not to lose your V-Card before spring break.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Things will not go as planned this semester. Expect surprises, but know that their content depends on the attitude you adopt and the friends you choose to hang on to. The thing that you fear most may loom over your head, but it will not consume you if you can rise above it.

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MISCELLANY NEWS STAFF EDITORIAL

Vassar 150 campaign vital to preserving College's legacy

Vassar kicked off more than its Sesquicentennial Celebration last Tuesday, Jan. 18. The anniversary of the College's founding also marked the public announcement of an ambitious fundraising campaign, Vassar 150: World Changing, which seeks to raise \$400 million to fund three priorities: improved science facilities, a robust financial aid program and the College's Annual Fund.

As we celebrate the College's legacy, we also share a responsibility to continue and uphold it. The three initiatives to which this campaign is devoted will serve to ensure that Vassar remains a leader: a leader in providing access to a strong and innovative education.

The improvement of the College's science facilities will play a key factor in ensuring Vassar's continued leadership. As was revealed in a Villard Room presentation last Wednesday, Jan. 19, the College plans to renovate Olmsted Hall of Biological Sciences, New England Building and Sanders Physics Building, as well as to construct an entirely new Integrated Science Building across the Fonteyn Kill. These renovations are intended to modernize Vassar's science facilities, allowing for the kind of multidisciplinary research that has become central to present-day scientific study. The capital campaign is central, then, to bringing Vassar's

facilities into the 21st century and onto the cutting edge of scientific research.

Perhaps even more important than ensuring a strong and innovative Vassar education, however, is ensuring that a Vassar education is affordable in the first place. The College has maintained a commitment to financial aid since its early years, when Matthew Vassar created an endowed scholarship, the Matthew Vassar Auxiliary Fund, in his last will and testament. This commitment has been strengthened in recent years particularly; Vassar returned to a need-blind admissions policy in 2007, and the Class of 2014 is currently receiving more financial aid than any other class in the College's history. This generosity on the part of the College has, among other things, resulted in the creation of a more diverse student body, one that enriches the Vassar experience through the inclusion of different perspectives and experiences. The expansion of financial aid that will be made possible by this fundraising campaign will sustain these benefits well into the future as well as uphold one of the highest goals of the founder. The third pillar of the campaign—Vassar's Annual Fund—serves as a checking account for the College to draw on for its greatest needs. From faculty salaries to subsidizing students' tuition, from heating build-

ings during frigid conditions to funding DVDs that students can borrow from the Thompson Memorial Library, the Annual Fund drives the machinery of the College at every level. Composed of unrestricted gifts from donors, the Annual Fund supports approximately seven percent of the College's total operating budget. In 2009-2010, the College raised \$8,269,084 from 10,295 individuals, who comprised 90 percent of the donor pool.

Although financial aid is addressed separately in the Vassar 150 campaign, the Annual Fund provides its own brand of aid as well; the distinction lies in the fact that the Annual Fund subsidizes each student on campus, even those not receiving any need-based financial aid. The full cost of keeping a student on campus—of providing a student with a world-class faculty, strong academic programs, a beautifully-maintained campus and famous library—is not covered by the tuition, which only pays for 53 percent of a Vassar experience. The "gap" of 47 percent is accounted for by the Annual Fund, which makes sure that our tuition does not add up to upwards of \$100,000 per year. Giving to this Annual Fund is equivalent to giving a gift certificate to the College—one that it can use to make the Vassar experience a reality for students seeking excellence all over the world.

Keeping these three initiatives and their importance in mind, the Editorial Board of The Miscellany News advises readers to donate to this capital campaign. We acknowledge that, for many students, contributing to the campaign while still enrolled at Vassar does not seem possible. We would like to stress, though, that even small contributions make a difference. Your \$10, \$50 or \$100 could fund any of the wonderful amenities on campus or help pay the salary of your favorite professor. No amount is too small when added up with the gifts of our peers, and each amount donated signifies that you believe in the world-changing power of a Vassar education.

As future alumnae/i, we feel it is imperative that students begin a pattern of contributing to Vassar, symbolizing the start of a lifetime of supporting Vassar's ongoing commitments. This editorial board believes that it is incumbent upon current students to ensure by way of donation that the day-to-day experiences and privileges that we enjoy at Vassar would not only be sustained but also improved for the next 150 years to come.

—The Staff Editorial represents the opinion of at least two thirds of the 15-member Miscellany News Editorial Board.

Obama, GOP laudable for commitment to economic growth

Joshua Rosen
OPINIONS EDITOR

It is truly wonderful to see that the total value of goods and services produced—or gross domestic product (GDP)—in Michigan is about the same as that of Taiwan. And this, as *The Economist* noted on a map comparing U.S. states to countries with equivalent GDPs, is "despite years of auto-industry hardship." It seems like the United States is still an economic superpower. This is, without a doubt, true. However, a focus on improving American competitiveness—improving, namely, U.S. GDP growth—certainly would not harm the United States, and President Barack Obama's State of the Union, with its mentions of American economic competitiveness, deserves credit. Obama, too, deserves plaudits for earlier pro-growth statements, namely the exceedingly encouraging claim in his Jan. 22 weekly address that "we [the United States] can out-compete any other nation on Earth." This is encouraging particularly because of what it augurs: lower corporate tax rates, a push for opening more markets to American goods—which, naturally, benefits both Americans and our trade partners—and a five-year spending freeze, which would help to reduce the burden of debt for future generations.

Lowering corporate tax rates could very well prove to be a boon to domestic production and productivity. Currently, the United States has the second highest corporate tax rates at 39 percent among the nations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a group of 34 free market democracies that includes nations such as Germany, Japan, Canada and the United Kingdom. Our tax rates are only second to those of Japan, the government of which has committed itself to reducing these rates, according to a Jan. 23 article in the *Wall Street Journal*. Lowering corporate tax rates in the US is hugely beneficial to American growth and competitiveness; according to OECD economists,

"lowering statutory corporate tax rates can lead to particularly large productivity gains," which could result in substantial GDP growth. In fact, Austan Goolsbee, the chairman of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisers, made it known on Jan. 25 that corporate tax rate cuts would be considered by the president to stimulate business growth, according to Bloomberg News, a financial news service. If corporate tax rates do fall, American businesses may very well be able to help reduce the unemployment rolls—increasing hiring as profits rise—and could possibly increase tax receipts, even at lower rates, due to higher corporate profits.

Improving access to foreign markets, again, something the president has pushed for with some success, would both benefit competitiveness and long term growth, not to mention the international standing of the United States, as well. Obama has pushed for—and obtained—trade deals with burgeoning economies, including South Korea and India. These trade deals increase American exports—supporting job growth and business productivity—and may very well contribute substantially to the climb out from recession.

Perhaps the most popular—at least, among those on the right—proposal of Obama's is the five-year spending freeze, which, according to a Jan. 25 article in the *Washington Post*, will freeze non-defense discretionary spending. This plan may save up to \$400 billion over 10 years, according to Bloomberg News, not an insubstantial amount of federal spending. Not to mention that any reduction in federal spending growth helps to prevent the national debt from continuing to balloon as it has during the first two years of the Obama administration, growing by \$3.445 trillion in two years—a full \$160 billion more than President George W. Bush ran up the national debt in his eight years as president, according to the *Weekly Standard*. Of course, the move to freeze spending does suggest a change in priorities by Obama and his administration, perhaps towards fiscal sustainability in the face of

mounting GOP opposition to rampant spending.

While I do laud the administration's proposals to increase American competitiveness and growth, they are nowhere near perfect. Further steps for growth—some which I have mentioned in the past—should be borne in mind by policymakers. In particular, cuts in taxes on investment may help improve the economic future for many Americans, both by improving growth and by decreasing unemployment: According to work by economist John B. Taylor of Stanford University, the GDP-to-investment ratio is inversely related to the unemployment rate. Additionally, removing costly pro-

visions of—or repealing, perhaps—the well intended, albeit extremely expensive and growth-reducing Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) could save substantial amounts. The GOP response to the State of the Union, issued by Representative Paul Ryan (R-Wisc.), is quite right in stating that "fiscally responsible, patient-centered reforms that actually reduce costs and expand coverage" are needed in place of the PPACA, and while it may not be feasible to repeal the entire law, parts of it—like the burdensome 1099 provision that forces businesses to file a "1099 form every time they spend more than \$600 per year for goods and services from a company,"

according to the *Wall Street Journal*—must be removed.

As a whole, the competitiveness proposals made by the Obama administration could prove quite useful in reducing the ever-expanding national debt and improving prosperity for all Americans. However, those on the opposite side of the aisle have some equally useful—and perhaps better—ideas, and nothing other than bipartisan work can help move the United States forward towards greater growth and reduced burdens on future generations.

—Joshua Rosen '13 is opinions editor of The Miscellany News and an economics major.

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Israeli parliament shake-up troubling

Allison Good
GUEST COLUMNIST

There has been much speculation since Tuesday, Jan. 18 about the consequences of the split of the Israeli Labor Party and the creation of the Independence Party. Israeli political parties split apart and rearrange themselves all the time. Labor is a coalition of several former parties and Centrist Kadima broke away from Likud in 2005, so how is this situation any different? Ariel Sharon created Kadima in a crisis of conscience. He could not drum up the support for disengaging from the Gaza Strip without leaving Likud and moving to the center. It was a means to an end, the end being the advancement of the peace process. This time, though, Ehud Barak pulled a dirty, wily trick on his fragile former party. Labor has been plagued by infighting ever since it joined Prime Minister Netanyahu's right-wing coalition in 2009. Its leftist members were threatening to abandon the coalition, while its more centrist members wanted to keep their jobs, Barak included. As *TIME* reported on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in creating Independence, "Barak guaranteed that he will keep his current job—and it's a big one. Not only is he in charge of Israel's armed forces, the former commando also serves as de-facto foreign minister, since the minister who bears the formal title, Avigdor Lieberman, stands in public opposition to the peace talks that Barak and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu say they want to re-start with Palestinian leaders." It is also telling that "Eight in 10 Israelis, according to the poll commissioned by the daily Yedioth Ahronoth, said Barak quit the party not over principle but for his own interests." Netanyahu also helped, of course, to save his own political skin.

Enough Labor members are moving with Barak to Independence that Netanyahu's coalition will stay intact with 60-plus members, but those remaining Labor Members of Knesset (MK), the Israeli parliament, have officially quit the government and declared the peace process dead. Labor's obituary was written in 2000 following the failure of Camp David and the eruption of the Second Intifada but, as columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in Yedioth on Monday, "only yesterday was it properly laid to rest." All of this would be politics as usual, especially compared to what is currently happening in Tunisia and Algeria. I have decided to be provocative and call Barak's action a coup, as in coup d'état. I understand that what happened this week does not literally fit the definition of a coup, but it comes pretty close. Independence deposed Labor, and while the move was legal, it has left a very, very bad taste in the public's mouth. The act of overthrowing was committed by a small group within the coalition, which changed the makeup of the Knesset and officially made it the most right-wing government in Israel's history. And no one has tried to thwart Barak and Netanyahu, at least not yet. A very troubling sign of just how much the "new" government is consolidating power is the establishment—announced Wednesday—of the Homeland Security Ministry. Homeland security is important, and it is probably about time that Israel caught up, but the Prime Minister has given the portfolio to Independence MK Matan Vilna'i. Furthermore, three of the Labor MKs who resigned held ministerial portfolios, which have created a vacuum that will probably be filled with MKs from Likud, Independence, Shas, and/or Yisrael Beiteinu.

Members of Knesset in general have taken up arms. Kadima MK Meir Sheerit, for example, said Tuesday, "I've been here 30 years and I've not yet seen such a fishy trick. I'm sure that many of the coalition members need to take pills against nausea in order to vote for such a dirty maneuver." The most interesting quote, though, comes from former minority affairs minister Avishay Braverman of Labor: "Barak and [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu made [Foreign Minister Avigdor] Lieberman de facto prime minister of Israel... This was an impeachment of Israeli democracy." I would not put it past Lieberman to assume de facto control of the government. He has mass support from Russian immigrants, and the peace process is currently at an impasse. The Palestinians have not made any moves to suggest that they are ready to go back to the negotiating table, which strengthens the legitimacy and influence of Lieberman's platform. Netanyahu is still flip-flopping, and Barak has deliberately chosen to depose the party that built the modern State of Israel. Barak may have been elected a Labor prime minister, but Camp David revealed that he had centrist-rightist tendencies all along. Lieberman cannot be allowed to gain such power over the Knesset. A Yisrael Beiteinu-led government would be detrimental to the democratic character of Israel and would certainly result in war with its neighbors given Lieberman's brash and violent rhetoric and attitude. In the meantime, all we can do is pray for a no-confidence vote that will dissolve the government and require new elections.

—Allison Good '11 is a political science major at Vassar College.

Inflexible Congress stymying legislative process Both parties to blame for political gridlock

Emil Ostrovski
GUEST COLUMNIST

Last Wednesday, Jan. 19, the House of Representatives voted 245 to 189 in favor of repealing health care reform. There is, of course, no chance that the repeal will clear the Democrat-controlled Senate, and even if it did, Obama would veto it. The Republicans know this as well as the Democrats. So what, then, is the point of the Republicans' action? Representative Joe Barton from Texas said, "Unless we repeal the law in the House, we don't have any credibility to do anything." Barton is right—the Republicans' doomed attempt to repeal health care reform is all about credibility, and though Barton doesn't say this, I think it's also all about 2012, the year the world ends. Not with a bang, but a whimper (and a-whimpering I will be if the Republicans are victorious at the polls). I'm not exactly rediscovering America when I say most registered Democrats vote for Democrats, and most registered Republicans vote for Republicans. However, the independents as a whole tend to be much more fickle. They like to punish the party in power when times are bad, and favor the party in power when times are good. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," and its corollary (which I just made up), "If it's broke, what are you waiting for?" apply here. The Republicans made the gains they did in the 2010 election, I think, largely for two reasons. First, the economy did not make a full recovery, and was still at a relatively low point after two years of almost complete Democratic control. Then there's the fact that the Republicans blamed the Democrats for the economic low and argued that Obama's "job-killing health care law" would only exacerbate the problem. Had the economy been booming, independent voters would have ignored

Republican arguments that health care reform would weaken the economy, and instead sided with the Democrats. With the economy at a low, however, the Republicans and their agenda, as the only alternative to the agenda of the party in power, automatically gain credibility at the same time as the Democrats lose it. This, in turn, allows them to make the Democrats and health care reform into something of a scapegoat. There is nothing unusual about this, of course. It is par for the course in politics—the Democrats would and have made scapegoats of the Republicans when possible. I am worried, though, about what the Republicans' symbolic attempt to repeal health care reform reveals with regard to what the next two years are going to be like. We may very well have two years ahead of us in which absolutely nothing gets done, because of a Republican-controlled House determined to make the Democratic president and Senate look bad by opposing them at every turn. The result would be a gridlock, a stalemate, and the eventual winners would be the Republicans, because when 2012 comes along and we are still in a slump, the party perceived to be most in power—the Democrats—will be blamed, as they were this past election, and the Republicans will not just take the House, but very possibly the Senate and the Presidency to boot. Before we get too indignant at the Republicans' dirty tricks, however, it is important to consider how many times the Democrats, how many times Obama himself, on his campaign trail, either directly said, or implied that the administration of former President George W. Bush was responsible for all the woes our country was facing. Sure, you might say, maybe some of what was said by the Democrats was overblown, but at least it had some truth to it. Where is the truth to Obama's death panels

and turning America into a socialist state run by a foreign-born Muslim? But to categorize all Republicans, the entire right, as that extreme, and to imply that independents are just stupid, ignorant and gullible isn't doing the complexity of the situation any justice. Both sides are willing to skew the truth in order to secure votes, and this, in itself, is the most serious betrayal of democracy that it can be—a betrayal of which both the left and the right are guilty. We all know former President Abraham Lincoln's famous words, that "a house divided against itself cannot stand." Lincoln didn't mean that our nation cannot stand in the face of conflicting ideologies and beliefs. What he meant is that underlying the conflict of ideologies and beliefs must be a shared willingness to cooperate. There must be a genuine and mutual devotion to working together toward what is true and right. Without that shared willingness, without that common vow to work together, to build a truth and rightness together through the means of compromise and mutual understanding, democracy itself breaks down. We may want to feel outraged at the prospect of the Republicans "gaming" the democratic system in the way they may seem poised to do, but upon reflection, how can we find the surprise necessary for outrage when we know well that both sides have been "gaming" democracy for a while now? How can we be surprised that the Republicans are playing for total victory, when the rules of the game—rules both the left and the right had a hand in shaping—clearly state that only one side can win? And unfortunately, we're riding on the momentum of those rules now, and no matter how much we clamor for "change," no matter who is doing the clamoring, there can be no real change if we're still playing by the same rules.

—Emil Ostrovski '12 is a philosophy major.

Word ON THE STREET

What would you give Vassar for its 150th birthday?



Sam Wagner '13

"Gender equality."



Melissa McClung '12

"Bring back the Vassar brewery!"



Jack McKillop '13

"A fruitcake."



Chiara Kuryan '11

"Dishwashers for senior housing."

—Joshua Rosen, Opinions Editors
Juliana Halpert, Photography Editor

Word on the tweet



bluegreenpen
@miscellanynews

Actual bells, on the condition that at midday the bells would play the Theme from the Harry Potter movies
10:31 PM Jan 22nd via Echofon in reply to miscellanynews



rfb211
@miscellanynews

I would give Vassar a new parking lot!
9:56 PM Jan 22nd via web in reply to miscellanynews

facebook comments

Carrie Hojnicky An even gender ratio
January 25 at 7:34am

Jill Scharr A moat and drawbridge around Skinner. And a dragon to guard it.
January 25 at 8:42am

—Marie Dugo, Social Media Editor

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2011/150

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Blame for shooting misplaced *Loughner solely responsible*

John Kenney
GUEST COLUMNIST

The tragic violence in Tucson, Ariz. earlier this month once again brings to light the question of what a school can do to prevent an act of violence from occurring. The shooting in a Safeway store that left six people dead and 13 wounded should make us reevaluate how well schools have adapted to neutralizing psychological threats since the Columbine and Virginia Tech shootings.

Since the shooting occurred, information has come to light showing that the administration of Pima Community College was well aware that the accused shooter, Jared Loughner, was mentally ill. The school had suspended him in September 2010 and asked him not to return without a mental health professional's letter showing he no longer posed any danger.

The question, of course, is whether the school did enough to help Loughner. Arguments against the school's actions include the fact that in suspending Loughner they may have helped further his disconnect from society and that the school also had the option to have him involuntarily evaluated by mental health officials.

It should be remembered, though, that the alleged shooter went to a commuter college attended by 68,400 students, so he may very well have felt like just a number. Loughner was also still living with his parents at the time and had been cutting off contact with most of the friends with which he had once surrounded himself.

The point here is that the faculty and students of Pima Community College were not the only people in Loughner's life who would have observed his disturbed behavior. However, we should restrain from blaming the school,

the parents or friends of Loughner for the fact that he is an adult who, although obviously disturbed, was—at the time—legally responsible for his own psychological care, as he hadn't been declared incompetent. While the state of Arizona does allow for involuntary commitment at the sign of "evidence of danger," according to Laura Waterman, a psychologist and clinical director of the Southern Arizona Mental Corporation, there seems to have been confusion regarding the law. The police chief for Pima, Stella Bay, believed that the college could only initiate an evaluation in the case of a student being "an imminent danger." As there is now a wider awareness of the law, hopefully in the future that awareness will lead to the law being better utilized. However, other states do not have such laws, and had Loughner gone to school in one of those states this option would not even have been available.

If Loughner's school had been primarily residential or smaller, then events may have unfolded differently, as many of those schools have mental health centers on campus to refer such students to proper treatment and try to ensure that they receive it. However, there is still the chance that the horrors of Tucson would have occurred anyway. There is no definitive way to know. There is no foolproof system to stop people from committing acts of violence, and unless people are stripped of all of their rights there never will be.

These events will hopefully push schools to try to find and provide help to students like Loughner in the future, but Pima doesn't deserve blame. At the end of the day, Loughner was the one who pulled the trigger.

—John Kenney '14 is a student at Vassar College.

In wake of shooting, schools should prioritize mental health

Kris Yim
GUEST COLUMNIST

Amidst the shooting at Tucson, Ariz. earlier this month, Pima Community College, which the alleged shooter Jared Lee Loughner had attended, is receiving criticism for not requiring an involuntary psychiatric evaluation following his frequent reports of "bizarre outbursts and violent Internet fantasies," as *The New York Times* article, "College's Policy on Troubled Students Raises Questions," published on Jan. 13, puts it. Concerned with Loughner's behavior, the college suspended him and required that he return with a professional psychiatric note ensuring that he poses no threat. Loughner never got that note; he withdrew from the college as a result. In particular, Laura Waterman, a psychologist and clinical director of a nearby mental health institute, takes the stance that Pima Community College had a responsibility to seek a mandated mental health assessment.

As Waterman suggested, Loughner should have had a mandated psychiatric evaluation; schools should not be reluctant to enforce this on those whom they suspect to pose a threat. I initially struggled with this idea. After all, Pima Community College had already updated its threat assessment system since the Virginia Tech massacre, and they did exercise their authority as a school rather than simply being idle. The Tucson shooting was undeniably a horrific tragedy caused by a clearly deranged killer, but I wondered if being more willing to issue involuntary psychiatric evaluations was the proper solution. It was the term "involuntary," with its intrusive connotation, that had me consider that it might promote excessive monitoring

and alarmist paranoia that may do little or nothing to prevent multifaceted cases of homicide. I soon concluded that this view was baseless.

I became sure of the opposite stance upon researching the background information behind the Virginia Tech massacre. The assailant, Seung-Hui Cho, was court-ordered to receive a psychiatric assessment almost two years before the incident. At the time, campus police had just contacted him about stalking two other female students. *The Washington Post* reports, "That night, Cho e-mailed a roommate saying he might as well kill himself. The roommate contacted police, who brought Cho to the New River Valley Community Services Board, the government mental health agency that serves Blacksburg." There, they found him "mentally ill and in need of hospitalization," so he was detained until a special justice reviewed his case and mandated involuntary treatment. It struck me that suicide prevention treatment is much more available and open, and mandated treatment for those who might harm themselves is not intrusive at all. As much as we'd like to put shooters out of our minds, it's equally dangerous, and with people's safety as a top concern, to think otherwise became absurd. Colleges nationwide should provide help to troubled students grappling with violent thoughts, and should not be reluctant to mandate aid for those who might harm others, just as treatment is given to extremely depressive and suicidal students.

Still, Pima Community College acted reasonably, albeit insufficiently. As the article suggests, their decision to suspend Loughner

See PIMA on page 12

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Virginia Tech model
a good starting point

Facebook: The dot-com bubble, 2.0?

PIMA continued from page 11 only isolated him further, rather than helping him. This was not unreasonable, however, as Loughner suddenly developed unruly behavior and had recurring encounters with campus authorities. A college spokesman said of Loughner, “His behavior, while clearly disturbing, was not a crime, and we dealt with it in a way that protected our students and our employees.” In other words, hindsight bias makes the situation seem more preventable than it actually was. It’s easy to point at the unsettling outbursts in the security records, but at no time did the school have a full mental blueprint of the future gunman; it was a complex situation that had to be handled delicately.

Indeed, there are a lot of factors that drive disturbed people—some of whom are students—to the point of violence. For example, the gunman behind the Virginia Tech massacre suffered from major depressive disorder and anxiety disorder, compounded with pent up rage exacerbated by his selective mutism, the inability to speak due to social anxiety. The shooters behind the Columbine High School massacre had vague motivations perhaps caused by a mix of an isolated social environment, psychopathy and depression, and many other speculated factors.

However, Loughner’s case seems to prove that above all, these situations can be unpredictable. Loughner’s mental conditions were developed after his high school career, when he was remembered by his peers and co-workers as a normal, seemingly healthy person at the time. Because these cases are much more complex than they seem in hindsight, more schools should follow Virginia Tech’s lead in creating their own “Threat Assessment Team,” which, like Pima, they have been doing since 2007. The *New York Times* article cites the following statistic: More than half of the United States’ colleges and university have “acknowledged the need and have formed some capacity” to evaluate troubled students capable of harming others. This is not enough.

Also, the article notes that low-cost commuter institutions like Pima Community College do not have internal mental health centers, implying that fiscal concerns restrict overall psychiatric care within many community colleges. While Pima Community College does direct cases to the nearby South Arizona Mental Health Corporation, any campus should provide and prioritize treatment for the mental health of its students.

—Kris Yim ’14 is a student at Vassar College.

Mazi Kazemi and Kelly Shortridge
GUEST COLUMNISTS

At the beginning of the new millennium, the dot-com bubble burst, and with it, thousands of Internet- and technology-based startups failed. While there had been hype for this new era of Internet companies and commerce, many highly valued companies simply did not produce the results that were expected. It turned out that these companies had very little revenue, and thus they were clearly overvalued. Only industry giants like Google managed to still keep investors interested.

However, a new Internet titan has risen in the past few years—Facebook—and with it has arrived a new wave of Internet startups. With hundreds of millions of members, many weren’t surprised at its multi-billion dollar valuation; however, people were shocked when Goldman Sachs suddenly valued Facebook at \$50 billion and invested \$450 million in the company for its clients. What does this mean? Is this a new dot-com bubble, this time heavy on social networking and discount-based sites? The fact that Facebook raised new private funds clearly was a signal—despite speculation otherwise—that Facebook has no intentions of going public anytime soon by holding an initial public offering (IPO), where the company would issue shares of stock to the public to raise capital. Any hopes of a regular citizen investing in Facebook are most likely dashed, at least in the near future. Facebook has announced that it plans to release its financial statements to the public no later than April 2012. Therefore, a Facebook IPO should be coming in the next year and a half, which would increase transparency and allow for public investment in the secretive, but allegedly lucrative company. If there is a Facebook IPO, all details will be on the table, and the true value of the company can more likely be established.

Recently, Goldman Sachs announced that investors based in the United States

would not be able to participate in this investment, which caused many Americans—especially those with funds at Goldman Sachs—to be outraged. After all, Facebook is a company founded and based in the United States, so what was Goldman trying to pull with this move? Well, Goldman’s results for 2010 were far from spectacular, and the deal was starting to garner attention from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)—a lawsuit that Goldman smartly wanted to avoid in tough times. Securities laws in the United States state that if a company has more than 500 investors, financial information must be disclosed to the public. Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook’s founder, is notably private, and by avoiding an IPO clearly has shown that he does not want to reveal Facebook’s secrets to the public. Goldman simply was making the best move to avoid regulation by only offering a stake in Facebook to its non-American investors, as the SEC does not have jurisdiction over foreign investors.

Given that Goldman’s profits were down recently, as well as other data revealed in its earnings statement, it’s pretty clear that Goldman is actually working for its clients’ interests. While it may be a tough pill for U.S.-based Goldman investors to swallow, and an even tougher one for Americans who are dying to get in on Facebook action but can’t, very little about this deal implies immoral scheming.

However, it does raise a few questions about Facebook. It’s speculated that Facebook’s revenue is on par with Groupon’s (perhaps even slightly less), another hot Internet company right now, but Groupon’s valuation is at \$15 billion, 30 percent of that of Facebook. Will Facebook actually be able to figure out how to generate revenue that matches its valuation, given its awe-inspiring user base, or will it be the cause of the next tech bubble? Given that its user base is already so large, it’s unlikely that the company will grow enough on its own to increase revenue. Furthermore, it will be difficult for Face-

book to charge for its services given the nature of the site. As of yet, there are few outlined plans for how Facebook intends to generate the huge revenues people are expecting.

Moreover, because of its success and enormous valuation, many similar social networking sites are trying to hitch a ride on its hype so the owners can cash out and retire early. Given that IPO business has been slow at investment banks, the banks might be more than eager to provide underwriting services to help firms offer stock to the public. However, if those also garner astronomical valuations without the revenue to back it up, could we be looking at the next dot com crash?

Finally, it must be asked why Facebook, and perhaps Zuckerberg in particular, is so protective of its information. Are they simply trying to avoid copycats, or is there something to hide? Given that Zuckerberg has a noted distaste for Wall Street, why did he choose Goldman—perhaps the face of Wall Street today—to raise funds? Is Zuckerberg bluffing, realizing he doesn’t have the revenue to back up the valuation, so he can try to forge a master plan to make Facebook bigger than Google?

The secrecy harkens back to the days of Long Term Capital Management (LTCM). LTCM, a hedge fund run by academics rather than “go-with-your-gut” Wall Street traders, had long avoided sharing any information about its investments or revenues. They were secretive up until the point where its failure almost brought down Wall Street. When times were good, the secrecy paid off, but the company’s arrogance and discretion almost cost everyone once its “genius” strategy failed. If Facebook cannot follow through with its expected future revenues, will they admit it, or bring down the market with them?

—Mazi Kazemi ’13 and Kelly Shortridge ’12 are economics majors and officers of the Vassar Business Club.

Crossword

by Jonathan Garfinkel, Crossword Editor

ACROSS

1. Certain superstar, briefly

4. Baby horse

8. Chi. airport

11. Porn

13. “_____” from New York, it’s Saturday Night!”

14. “Dark Knight” Actor Eckhart

16. Extra-stiff breeze

17. Ancient library site

19. Molecular bit

21. Object causing discomfort for a certain

princess

22. Challenges for some H.S. seniors

24. Lessee

28. Like a certain reaper

32. Oft-rolled joint

34. Possess

35. St. Petersburg’s one-time namesake

36. Corrosive stuff

37. _____ Pointe, MI

39. AFL-_____

40. Appear

42. Bkfst. spot

44. Feel sick

47. Country farm, old

style

49. “Moby Dick” captain

53. Pimp accoutrements

55. “Hurt” group, briefly

56. Tilt

57. _____-Ball (arcade game)

58. Entreats

60. Sharpness

61. Slime

63. Land measurement

65. Boxer, and others

71. M*A*S*H Actor Alan _____

74. _____ Coeur, MO

75. Icy drink dispenser

76. Sit

77. American Airlines’ parent, briefly

78. Greek god of lust

79. “Game, _____, match”

DOWN

1. Chinese food chemical, briefly

2. Whence the Swift-West showdown, briefly

3. New Jersey “Skyway”

4. Fire

5. “Black gold”

6. Thoroughfare, briefly

7. “Superman” baddie Luther

8. Bruin great Bobby

9. Versailles resident once upon a time

10. Nuc. material

12. Vietnamese holiday

14. Chemical ending

15. Proverb

18. Mortgage datum, briefly

20. Valuable rock

22. Group for U.S. drivers

23. Pittsburgh ballpark name-sponsor

25. Victors at the Battle of Hastings

26. Jeter’s number

27. Flag asea

29. GOP steering group

30. Certain Britney hit, in ancient Rome?

31. Alphabet trio

33. Mormon Church, briefly

35. Feline sign, perhaps

37. World cup third-placer (abbr.)

38. “_____’s a Witch!”

41. Ovum

43. Skillet

44. Six pack contents, perhaps

45. Kind

46. Rest

Answers to last week’s puzzle

C	A	P		B	M	S		B	S	N	S							
P	O	R	E		Y	E	T	I		I	T	E	S					
A	U	D	I		B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T					
S	R	O		S	I	D	E	D	O	O	R							
S	T	R	E	A	K	E	R		S	C	R	E	A	M				
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48. Dr. Tesla, to his buddies perhaps

50. “War of the Worlds” writer

51. Certain “Clay” replacement

52. Wager

54. Israeli desert

56. NY Jets grp.

58. Certain ISP

59. Desert rest-stops

62. Matador’s cry

64. Snoop specialty

65. Old electronics corp.

66. Epoch

67. _____ Air (Fresh Prince?)

68. _____ de France

69. “_____ father...”

70. Many an aid group (abbr.)

72. Lady-deer

73. Suitable

A message from your neighborhood Girl Scout

Alanna Okun
HUMOR & SATIRE EDITOR

Welcome back, team! So the holiday season is upon us. “But Alanna!” you scream, spraying your copy of *The Miscel-lany News* with unsightly bits of quesadilla, “We just finished with the holiday season! Christmas and New Years and everything! Look, I even have this gift card to Yankee Candle from my senile great-aunt Marcia that I will never ever spend as proof!”

Hush now. You’re forgetting about quite possibly the most important event to ever grace the solar calendar, the three-month-long revelry that defines America as we know it: Girl Scout cookie season. The timing varies from year to year and state to state, but generally cookies are sold between January and March and distributed around April. In the olden days, little girls clad in innocent green vests used to go door-to-door peddling their wares to strangers, until the Girl Scouts of America realized that this business model was less than effective in terms of children not getting kidnapped. Now they’re encouraged to sell to people they know, utilizing the age-old strategy of “begging your parents to buy lots of some-thing (i.e. cookies, magazine subscriptions, raffle tickets) so that you can get something else (i.e. a merit badge, novelty sunglasses, more raffle tickets).” Some renegade troops have even been known to set up stalls outside grocery stores, selling cookies at a markup in exchange for over-the-counter service—no waiting an arbitrary and ago-nizing month-and-a-half for Trefoils if you get serviced by Troop 2478!

How do I know all this insider info? Well, not to brag or anything, but I was probably the best cookie salesgirl the Eastern Sea-board has seen in decades. My naturally piercing voice, combined with an early gift for smooth-talking, meant that for the four years I spent in Girl Scouts, I outsold the other members of my troop three-to-one. For two years, my house even served as the illustrious Cookie House, wherein all the orders in my town were stored until

the other Girl Scouts came to pick them up. Basically, I ran shit. Think you’re not interested in forking over 20 bucks for a six-pack of Samoas because of your “coco-nut allergy” or “type-2 diabetes?” Wrong.

Truth be told, I wasn’t really more con-vincing than any of the other pigtailed entrepreneurs; my secret weapon was my dad. He works in a huge office in down-town Boston, and every year I’d send him off with the cookie order form. Once word got out among the sugar-starved tax con-sultants that Barry Okun was the guy to see for Thin Mints and Peanut Butter Patties (I WILL NEVER CALL THEM TAGALONGS YOU FASCIST COMMIE SLUTS), all we had to do was sit back and watch the re-quests pour in. I was the bucktoothiest little kingpin you ever did see.

I quit the troop when I realized that my total lack of coordination seriously ham-pered my chances at the juiciest merit badges. I don’t know any Girl Scouts any-more; most of my friends’ younger siblings are too young/old/pierced to belong to the organization, and I passed the benchmark where it’s okay to have tweenage friends a whole bunch of years ago. I interviewed (selflessly, journalistically, and with no ul-terior motive) my 13-year-old brother to find out if any of his shrieky, bebrace’d lady-friends might be hawking cookies this year. His response: “What? [Girl Scouts] still exist?” Homeboy makes a fair point—how does an organization stay in business if its product is only available on a who-you-know basis, especially when the “who” in question is required to wear polyester vests made of the least flattering green to ever grace this good Earth? I guess it’s just one of life’s great mysteries, like why that tree outside the Retreat smells like feta cheese and where jeggings come from. And so my quest for cookie nirvana continues.

Editor’s Note: I have since located a small child who is willing to peddle me two boxes of Peanut Butter Patties, two boxes of Thin Mints and one box of Samoas. AND NONE OF YOU CAN HAVE ANY HAHA.

Live Blogging | My first and last trip to the gymnasium

Tom Renjillian
GUEST COLUMNIST

Over break I learned something new about myself. I was casually chatting with an elderly female customer at the grocery store where I work when she decided it was vital to take a step back, survey my body and inform me that I was “so grossly emaciated that it’s sickening—literally sickening.” After I finished crying and squeezing her bread like a stress ball, I decided it was time to, as we say on Bodybuilding.com, “Bulk Up.”

So I bought myself a one-month membership at a place called “Planet Fitness.” It’s a name that, to me, conjures images of some sort of sweaty intergalac-tic hell, an unsettling mix of “Star Trek” and those nights at the DC when you accidentally eat at the table next to the whole lacrosse team.* “Whatever, it’s only 30 dollars and I can tan for free!” I told my-self. Did I actually go to Planet Fitness? Have you seen those commercials with that scary guy who talks about lifting things up and putting them down WHILE ACTUALLY DOING SO? Of course I didn’t go.

I decided I would put off starting my new healthy lifestyle until I got back to Vassar. “Since there are no sports teams the gym will be a lot less intimidating,” I reasoned with myself. Here is what ensued.

Gym Day One:
10:25 a.m. - I update my Facebook status: “Going to the gym!!!”
10:26 - I improve my Facebook status: “gym.”
10:35-11:00 - I practice my “gym face” as I walk. (The trick to gym success, I’ve heard, is to have a face that says, “I know you’re judging me but I’m judging you more. Bitch.” Like when you saw those kids from Marist College standing outside the Poughkeepsie Galleria Hollister.)
11:00 - I walk into the gym brandishing my V-Card and change of shoes. “There’s no place like home,” I exclaim.
11:02 - I enter the Fitness Room and walk right past the ellipticals (what am I, a girl?) to the more manly gym equipment.
11:10 - I decide to try something called “Urgging.” Ac-cording to my friends on the crew team it’s like row-ing a boat. I went canoeing with my grandparents once. Great!
11:11 - “Where are the oars?” I inquire.
11:12 - “Stop being a smartass,” I advise myself.
11:13 - But seriously, I can’t find the oars so I decide to move on.

11:17 - I decide I want to exercise my “biceps,” so I sit down at the “Bicep Exercise Machine” and set the weight to 100 pounds.
11:19 - I struggle immensely. Nothing happens.
11:20 - “Come on Roman Czula! You can do it Roman!” I tell myself.**
11:21 - I realize I can’t do it. But I figure since my arms really hurt, I must have exercised.
11:25 - I realize, “Maybe I’m closer to being a girl than I thought,” and find an elliptical next to someone whom I know I can beat in the race.
11:27 - I notice that the portly boy on the elliptical next to me keeps glaring in my direction. I assume he’s looking at my “biceps.”
11:28 - I take off my headphones to tell him not to get jealous, that one day, with a lot of hard work and dedication, he too can get to my level.
11:29 - With my headphones out I realize that, just maybe, my new friend isn’t staring at me due to my admirably improved physique, but because my iPod is so loud that approximately everyone in the gym can hear me rockin out to my “Taking Back Sunday Workout Mix.”
11:30 - Ashamed, I put my headphones back in, make my “gym face” at my panting friend, and look away.
11:33 - I turn the volume down (I would have done it fast-er but “Cute Without the E” just came on and like it was really getting me pumped up).
11:34 - I begin to pant heavily.
11:36 - I begin gasping for air.
11:37 - I stop breathing entirely.
11:38 - I begin my “cool down” phase.
11:39 - I exclaim, “Overdid it again!” and casually leave the gym.

Despite some setbacks, I think Vassar is the perfect place for me to get “in shape.” It’s not as embarrassing to confuse the treadmill and the benchpress when the kid on the bike next to you is wearing yellow skinny jeans. So feel free to come visit me at the gym; I’ll be there pretty much 24/7 or like a couple more times this semester at least.

**I don’t have the slightest clue what lacrosse is or who plays it. I just assume that any large group of straight males is the lacrosse team.*
***I decided I would give myself a “gym alter ego” to mo-tivate myself and randomly came up with the name “Ro-man Czula.” It makes me feel like a gladiator!!!*

Weekly Calendar: 1/27 - 2/2 by Alanna Okun, Humor & Satire Editor

THURSDAY, 1/27 3 p.m. Tea. Things you missed about Vassar over break. Rose Parlor. 6 p.m. Modfest: Late Night at the Lehman Loeb. I can’t be the only person who’s mourned the lack of Late Night this badly. Nobody else I know wants to give me free cheese and show me his Pollack AT THE SAME TIME. (Euphemism? You decide.) FLLAC. FRIDAY, 1/28 12 p.m. Teen Visions 2011. “I made this collage out of a cigarette butt, poems printed out from my LiveJournal and all my Hot Topic receipts from the past year. It represents alienation and how much my parents are the worst.” Palmer Gallery. 3 p.m. Tea. Campus Dining Services. In the real world, any restaurant that occasionally closed off half its seating with-out warning and served nothing but stale bagels and Pop-pin’ Pink Hi-C would be considered a failure. Here, it’s a lifestyle.	SATURDAY, 1/29 8 p.m. Modfest Concert: Orchestral and Chamber Ensem-bles. Nobody has ever bothered to explain to me what Mod-fest actually is, so I’m just gonna go ahead and assume that it’s like that scene at the end of <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> when the computer takes over and modernity is revealed to be a self-defeating nadir of despair. Spoiler alert! Skinner. 9 p.m. Sexycentennial Party. I swear to God, the next person who gleefully puns on the word “sesquicentennial” is going to be in for a world of hurt. Rose Parlor. 10:30 p.m. Sexycentennial Party. WERE YOU NOT EVEN LISTENING TO ME, VICE?!? Villard Room. SUNDAY, 1/30 3 p.m. Tower of Babel. Bloogen floogen ya blyuyu schnitzel. Translation: I can’t fucking believe they haven’t run out of plays to put on here yet. Rose Parlor. 5 p.m. Lecture by a Former Sudanese Refugee. Whoa. Heavy. Rocky 200.	MONDAY, 1/31 3 p.m. Tea. That wicked hot junior who lived on your hall last semester, who has since gone JYA and been replaced by a pasty, self-righteous junior who just got back from Africa and openly judges you in the bathroom whenever you use running water. Rose Parlor. TUESDAY, 2/1 3 p.m. Tea. The mild, temperate climate. Ha ha! See what I did there? It’s like the opposite of what’s true and that’s why it’s funny!! Also if I slip on the snow-slush-ice-terror-deathtrap one more time, I will immediately stop recycling, just to speed up this “global warming” thing that sounds so delightful. Rose Parlor. WEDNESDAY, 2/2 3 p.m. Tea. The sesquicentennial festivities. Because the last time you celebrated attaining 150 of something, you were 11 and that something was Pokémon. Rose Parlor. 3:30 p.m. Art, Dance, Music and Words. Thanks, but I’ll be occupied with Naptime, Hummus, No Pants and Shower-Singing around then. Villard Room.
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In honor of the sesquicentennial, over the course of the semester Vassar College Special Collections will release a previously un-seen document that showcases Vassar’s rich history: the Twitter page belonging to a member of the school’s inaugural class.

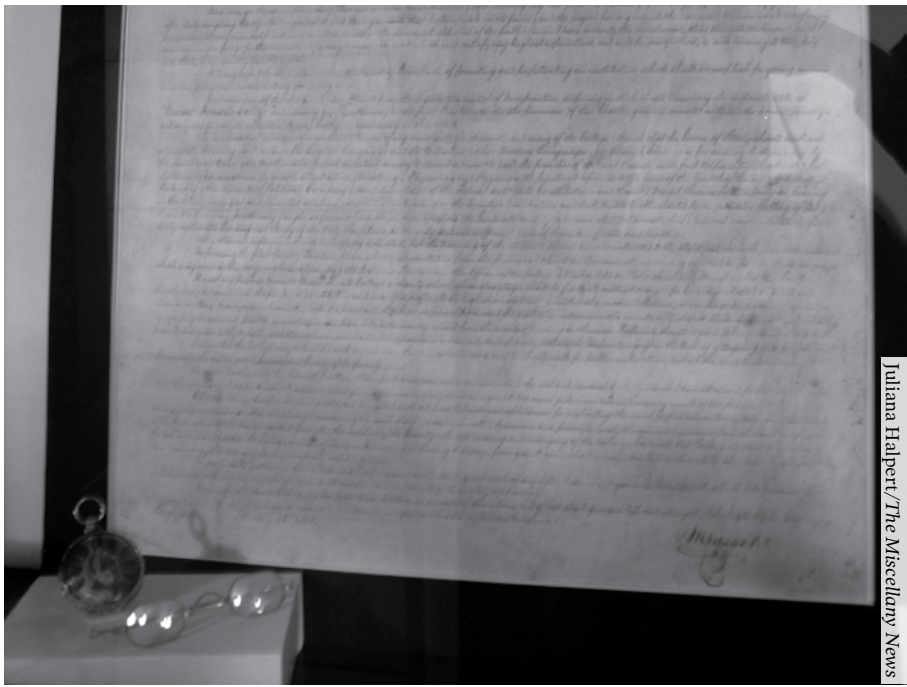


VssrGr1865 Just moved into my room! So small! Feel like I’m living in servant’s quarters, except my actual servant’s quarters are half the size of mine.
about a fortnight past via Twitter for Telegraph

Library exhibition documents Vassar liberal arts values



Juliana Halpert/The Miscellany News



Juliana Halpert/The Miscellany News

The Thompson Memorial Library's latest exhibit, which explores Vassar's history as a liberal arts institution, features Matthew Vassar's own pocket watch and eye glasses, among other items.

Adam Buchsbaum
REPORTER

The first document in the Thompson Library's new exhibit is a parchment next to Matthew Vassar's old pocket watch and eye glasses. This crinkly and fading parchment is not merely any parchment, though; it is Matthew Vassar's first statement to the Board of Trustees. The document is one of many in the new, sesquicentennial-inspired exhibit now on view in the Library.

The exhibit's title, *The Most Perfect Education of Body, Mind, and Heart: Vassar and the Liberal Arts* serves as an ode to a phrase Matthew Vassar himself used in his first statement when expressing what he wished Vassar to impart to its students. "[The statement] is just such an impressive document. It really gives you a sense of the time," Special Collections Librarian and curator of the exhibit Laura Finkel said. "That document in particular was hanging in the president's office for some time." The exhibit is composed of 20 cases containing archival documents and objects. Multiple themes are explored within the exhibit, such as student life and the curriculum, but the focus is on Vassar's founding and first 50 years.

Also, the exhibit explores the ever-changing notion of a liberal arts education and its relation to the College throughout its history. In fact, there was initially some debate at Vassar concerning the inclusion of the arts and music within a liberal arts education. "The founders wanted to be very careful to make sure the school didn't seem to be just another finishing school or boarding school for well-to-do women," Finkel said. But from the beginning Matthew Vassar thought arts just as important to a liberal arts education as the sciences were. "The founders hoped to graduate well-rounded women who could contribute to society by having a basic knowledge about arts and music as well as the sciences and literature, math, history," Finkel said. The arts ended up being taught from the beginning, but were initially classified as extra-collegiate and separate from other subjects, though well-respected and well-taught nonetheless. In 1891 the arts were finally integrated into the curriculum as simply another subject.

The sesquicentennial has served as the perfect opportunity for Vassar to celebrate this rich history and evolution over time, and the Library has been busy in preparation for quite some time. "We've actually been thinking about

[the sesquicentennial] for about three years," Finkel said. Planning for this particular exhibit has been going on for roughly a year. Still, despite the lofty responsibility of commemorating Vassar's anniversary on the curators of the exhibit, they had fun with the exhibition. "[I] really enjoyed getting to delve in and do some research in the archives," Finkel said. Co-curator and Professor of History Rebecca Edwards had fun learning about earlier, lesser known, yet notable graduates. "It's amazing how many went on to become engaged in public service," Edwards said. Despite the stronger focus on Vassar's beginnings, curator Finkel was still keen to bring up the more modern, and still important, history of the College in a short epilogue entitled "My Motto is Progress," after what Matthew Vassar said.

An old, 1920s issue of the *Vassar Quarterly* inhabits one case, a black-and-white picture from World War II adorns another, and there's a case containing a 1970s yearbook and an acknowledgement of Vassar's new co-ed system. The last case showcases current student publications. "The more modern items are actually more difficult for us," Finkel noted. "We're trying to cover a lot of time in those last four cases." Beyond the displays and cases the library has provided many archival images for the sesquicentennial's website, and Edwards will lead a special course on Vassar's founding and history for the next fall semester. Accompanying Vassar and the Liberal Arts exhibition is a small, elegant book with relevant, reflective writings. It begins with Finkel introducing and explaining the exhibit. Then, Edwards explores the interplay of the women's rights movement, women's education and the founding of Vassar. The book concludes with a final essay by Dean of Planning and Academic Affairs and Professor of Greek and Roman Studies Rachel Kitzinger that explores Vassar's relationship to the liberal arts from its distant past to its modern present.

The opening reception last Friday was packed with people chatting about Vassar and eating free food from enticing platters. Amidst the crowd was alumnus Scott Mendelson '93. He stood lingering beside the case containing Matthew Vassar's statement to the Board of Trustees. Reflective, he said, "It's only when I get together with Vassar people that I am with people who have a larger vision of the world."

Modfest introduces operatic work, "Aethelred the Unready"

Connor O'Neill
REPORTER

Although the spring semester lacks the long days and warm weather of the fall, it does offer a wide range of engaging arts related events to keep away the winter blues. Modfest, Vassar's annual festival that celebrates and explores arts of the 20th and 21st century will no doubt help usher everyone into a new semester.

The festival kicked off on Jan. 20, continues through Feb. 5 and runs the gamut from the visual arts and film to drama, dance and literature. Modfest is now in its ninth year, having been founded in 2003 by Vassar alumna Adene Wilson '69 and her husband, Professor of Music Richard Wilson.

"I've been to other festivals that have many components, drama, music, art that comes from all over," Adene Wilson says of her idea for the festival. "But I've always thought that we have such resources here with the students, the faculty and alumnae/i...[that] we'd really be able to celebrate our own artistic accomplishments."

And that celebration has grown in its reach each year since its inception. Originally featuring only music, it has swollen to include work by 12 departments on campus, collaboration with alumnae/i, the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center and the College Bookstore.

Adene Wilson has spent the past nine years digging deep into the Vassar community. After retiring from her work as a schoolteacher, she began taking language classes and getting more acquainted with the diverse art world on campus. "I've tried to get to know people more and then I try to bring them in [to Modfest]," Wilson says of her work in joining the various artistic pursuits.

And with the College's on-going celebration of its sesquicentennial, this year's Modfest is still reaching new territory. On Friday, Jan. 22 and Saturday, Jan. 23, Richard Wilson's opera "Aethelred the Unready" was performed in the Skinner Hall of Music. The show, a witty story of a Anglo-Saxon king down on his luck, went up to a packed house each night.

The show included a 14-piece orchestra conducted by Professor Wilson and featured performances by all five of the voice professors in the Music Department. Adjunct Artist and Professor of Music Robert Osborne played the part of Aethelred in the first staged version of Professor Wilson's opera. The score has been re-worked several times, being performed as a concert in 2001 with six players and later with a full orchestra, while the libretto was written in the 1990s.

The genesis of the project, however, reaches back even farther. "I first learned about Aethelred from a political science course in 1961...then I forgot about him for about 30 years," explains Professor Wilson. The woeful king did not reappear in Wilson's mind until the pre-Joe Torre years of the New York Yankees, a string of slumping seasons for the baseball team that conjured ideas of another empire battling hard times.

The project, like Modfest itself, has morphed and grown over the years and the premiere of the fully staged version is a fitting cornerstone to the festival in such an important year for the College. "I've loved working with the cast, set design, lighting, costume, directing, every aspect," says Wilson about the collaborative work that a fully staged opera entails. The professor has had compositions featured in Modfests of previous years, but is excited to have his first opera staged on such a momentous occasion. The opera was also performed in New York City

on Tuesday, Jan. 25 in the Symphony Space.

The opera is not the only performance that features works by the Music Department. On Friday, Jan. 28, the virtuosic Cygnus Ensemble will perform works by Vassar composers including Professor Wilson and Dean of the Faculty John Chenette. Adene Wilson notes that this performance is "a showcase of the Music Department from over 70 years of composers at Vassar."

Chenette has also been working hard to plan the event which he hosts, the Art, Dance, Music, and Words presentation, on Wednesday, Feb. 2 at 3:30 p.m. in the Villard Room. Adene Wilson points to this event as her favorite. "It's the kids performing for each other," she said excitedly. "In all of these disciplines they are so busy practicing—in Skinner, or the dance hall or the studio—that they don't get to see each other so much." Works by visual artists will be displayed around the room, and the event will feature performances of chamber music by students, dancing by the Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre, and readings of poetry by students in the Verse Writing class. Chenette has hosted the event for the last three years and Adene Wilson lauds his work, saying that "he does a wonderful job."

Art, Dance, Music, and Words is not the only collaborative event between music and literature. The W.K. Rose Fellowship performance, which happened on Wednesday, Jan. 26 in the Villard Room, featured the work of composer Jane Strong O'Leary '68, one of the foremost contemporary Irish composers, and the reading of works done by two alumnae/i writers who have won the prize. The fellowship, awarded to a Vassar graduate who works in the creative arts, was established in 1970.

Adene Wilson speaks of the event animatedly, noting that she has worked for almost a year

to plan this event, reaching out to a diverse range of Vassar alumnae/i artists in an attempt to get them to return to campus on such a year as historic as the sesquicentennial.

The language departments, which Adene Wilson has worked with closely since she began her work on campus, has prepared several performances of their own, including a reworking of the fairy tale "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." The work features languages fellows of the various departments speaking the text in each of their native languages while students of the respective departments simultaneously translate the performance into English. The event is fittingly entitled *The Tower of Babel* and fits perfectly in the tenor of the festival, fusing different modes of expression into one collaborative performance.

Modfest will also include the opening of a modern photography exhibition in the Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center entitled *150 Years Later: New Photography* by Tina Barney, Tim Davis and Katherine Newbegin. The exhibition will showcase each photographer's perspective on Vassar life. The Emily Hargroves Fisher '57 and Richard B. Fisher Curator of the exhibition, Mary-Kay Lombino explained, "Vassar has sort of a tradition of innovation and new inquiry into things, so I thought bringing contemporary artists here would follow in that tradition."

The hope of the Wilsons is that students will take advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the various arts on campus with the community at large. "By mid-February and March it's overload, but just now you can do it, you aren't heavy into it," says Adene Wilson. It's hard to think of a better way to return to campus, support the arts or celebrate the College's sesquicentennial. A full list of events can be found on the College's info site: info.vassar.edu.

Teen Visions showcases high school art

Shruti Manian
REPORTER

More than 100 drawings, paintings, sculptures and photographs adorned the walls of the Palmer Gallery as young artists stood by beaming. The melodious notes of the Stringendo Orchestra wafted through the crowded gallery into the College Center as high school students from around the Hudson Valley played their instruments in perfect sync. Proud parents in the audience looked on and applauded as the performance reached its arresting finale.

Such was the scene at Vassar's annual Teen Visions, an exhibition of artwork by high school students who participate in the Art Institute of Mill Street Loft. The exhibition and accompanying reception are both part of Modfest, Vassar's celebration of modern art from the 20th and 21st centuries.

In addition to its visual arts program, Mill Street also has a Girls Empowerment Program for teenage girls between the ages of 11 and 18 living in the Poughkeepsie and Beacon area. Members of PASSWORD (Program for Adolescent Student Women Of Real Direction) and Project AWARE (Adolescent Women Are Realizing Empowerment) read poetry at the reception, giving audiences a special look into their life experiences, hopes and dreams for the future. The mission of the Girls Empowerment Program is to teach vital life skills and to help young women grow and mature as strong, independent individuals.

Of the Mill Street Loft, Director Todd Poteet said, "There are no pre-requisites to joining our classes. Our belief is that if you have a desire to learn, we can teach you." All instructors are professional, working artists that provide students with a nurturing environment, "The advantage of having professional artists is that they incorporate real life experiences when they teach. Also we aim to teach students that they can make a career through the arts, and we teach them this through example," said Poteet.

Jonah Rosenberg is one of the many high school students exhibiting work at Teen Visions. His photos showcased in the exhibition are themed "High School students in their rooms." Rosenberg began his work with photography in his freshman year of high school then further enhanced his skills at Mill Street. "I found that I enjoyed photography a lot, it was very intuitive for me and even defines me to a great extent now,"



Madelaine Zappala/The Miscellany News

Teen Visions, an annual exhibition of artwork by high school students who participate in the Art Institute of Mill Street Loft, will be on display in the Palmer Gallery from Jan. 20 through Feb. 3.

said Rosenberg. "At Mill Street, I have been pushed to perform at the best of my potential, to levels that I could not have managed on my own."

During the gallery reception, Poteet gestured specifically towards the various self-portraits, that he believes reflect the sort of expression Teen Visions is all about. From simple portraits depicting basic facial features to edgy ones that give a remarkable insight into the artist's own brand of expression, the pieces demonstrate the flair that these students have for their art.

Mill Street also enables its students to gain admittance to some of the most prestigious art schools and programs in the country. "With Mill Street, you're not just joining an art class, you're unlocking this huge resource. I've had so many chances to meet with admission reps from colleges and even scholarship opportunities," said Rosenberg. Also important is the success that spills over from the arts into other facets of students' everyday life. "Art is an activity that involves higher level thinking. In fact we actually even see our students' GPAs climb after they've been working with Mill Street," said Poteet. By teaching the basic rules of art and encouraging students to push boundaries, Mill Street aims to ensure that students

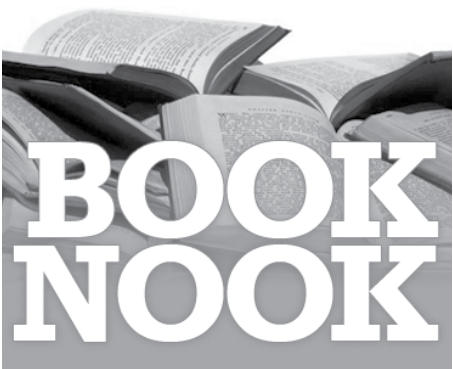
are given a creative environment with the freedom to explore their talents.

The Palmer Gallery provides aspiring student artists with a space that closely simulates an actual exhibition environment. "This is the most professional exhibiting opportunity that these students will have because the Palmer Gallery has such broad community outreach," said Vassar's Director of Campus Activities and member of the Board of Directors of Mill Street Loft Teresa Quinn. Poteet added, "We have been exhibiting at Palmer for the last nine years and the venue really does validate the students' artwork."

With over 50 students displaying their work, Teen Visions promises to give an extraordinary insight into the artistic interests and capabilities of high school students around the Hudson Valley. The exhibition highlights the significance of art within the community as well as the community's prominent impact on the art being created.

"Often in today's world, we see art being marginalized. When there is a budget cut, the first thing that a lot of schools do is curb their art programs. At Mill Street, through exhibitions like Teen Visions, we aim to prioritize art," ended Poteet.

Teen Visions is displayed at Palmer Gallery from Jan. 20 until Feb. 3.



Richard Yates impresses with simple prose



Richard Yates
Tao Lin
[Melville House]



Mikko Harvey
GUEST COLUMNIST

Novelist Tao Lin has developed a rather peculiar reputation for himself. For one, he advocates shoplifting from large corporations, as is evidenced by the title of his breakthrough work, *Shoplifting from American Apparel*. For another, he recently gave a public reading while under the influence of psilocybin mushrooms, and he is currently working on a pretty self-explanatory project titled "MDMA Films."

Lin's writing style is equally unique. His prose often includes transcripts of Gmail chats and text message conversations: he's known for his distinctive minimalism, which, in his latest novel, *Richard Yates*, is taken to an extreme. The novel, which is largely autobiographical, centers on the relationship between a 22-year-old man and a 16-year-old woman. The woman, Dakota Fanning, is a high-school student in suburban New Jersey. She is imaginative and kind, but also emotionally troubled; she struggles with an eating disorder, depression and even suicidal thoughts. The male character, Haley Joel Osment, is a writer from Manhattan, and he too is flawed. He's socially uncomfortable and at times borderline emotionally abusive with Dakota. Their relationship begins online, but then quickly continues as the two meet in person. Together, they people-watch, shoplift, make silly art work, have sex and talk, all while avoiding Fanning's worried mother.

The novel is emotionally and intellectually restrained. There is no abstract reflection, only the cold, concrete description of the story. Intense moments and boring ones are described in the same, detached tone. The narrator is seemingly indifferent to the content of his narration.

Richard Yates is made up almost entirely of two elements. One, dialogue between the two main characters. And two, description of the physical actions that the two main characters take. It's devoid of any commentary, response, or speculation.

This narrative technique may seem shallow, but it is oddly effective in *Richard Yates*. It works for a couple of reasons. For one, the two main characters are well developed. They are honest, nuanced and flawed in a way that renders them quite convincing. Perhaps this is because Lin took the characters directly out of his own life, so he had two very genuine personalities to work with.

But more importantly, Lin's style is effective because he is very good at hinting at meaning. Throughout the novel Lin chooses dialogue and details that are penetrating on a sort of gut level; there were instances in the story where I found myself genuinely sad, or felt a rush of warmth hit my face, or felt my heart beating faster—yet I often wasn't quite sure why I felt that way, and had to take a moment to think about it. Due to his minimalist style, Lin doesn't provide any explicit emotional or intellectual judgments about the story, but he does provide us with the tools necessary to make these judgments for ourselves. Ultimately, as readers of *Richard Yates* we make our own meaning, and in doing so we

See TAO LIN on page 15

Jazz night new and improved for spring

Rachael Borné
ARTS EDITOR

Tuesdays have long been host to the high energy, movin' and groovin' vibes of Jazz Night, but the ugly truth is plain and simple—most students have got to hit the books hard early in the week.

After the fall semester, Jazz Night President Toby Sola '13 realized Tuesdays were not always conducive to the wild dance parties he strives to deliver. Thus, Sola made an executive decision to switch things up for the spring and transplant the event to Thursday, the virtual start of the weekend. "We're dropping Tuesday," said Sola, adding, "It's pretty obvious that Thursday night is prime real-estate for live music and fun times on campus."

With weekend freedom clear on the horizon, Thursday nights should bring just the type of crowd Sola wants. "It's a great night because people are ready to party and their energy is perfect. They will stay until the very end, and they'll be able to chill with the band afterwards," Sola said.

Though No-ViCE has traditionally filled the Thursday night slot, Sola recognizes the similarities between Jazz Night and No-ViCE and hopes the organizations will be able to coordinate and share that coveted 'prime real-estate.' "We both have very similar budgets and we both bring live music to campus for people to enjoy," said Sola.

Sola also plans to change the frequency of shows. In the past, Jazz Night has brought

outside bands almost every week. No doubt a ton of great acts have graced the stage of the Mug; however, Sola feels that booking fewer bands will make each show much better. "There will be more time to do publicity, more time to build hype, and people will be more eager. It'll concentrate the fun, and shows will be ever more magical, danceable and memorable," he said.

To reach this conclusion, Sola employed an almost economic framework: "The supply of shows was huge and attendance got kind of low towards the ends of the semester. Having fewer shows this semester will be great because when supply goes down, the price goes up, even if the demand stays the same," he explained.

In addition to the planning and sweet anticipation made possible by hosting fewer shows, Sola also promises some of the best entertainers yet. This past Tuesday marked the last old-school Jazz Night, during which Organ Yank, a genre-defying band from Oberlin College, hit the stage with their jazz-inspired tunes.

The first new and improved Jazz Night will go down tonight from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. in the Mug. Dopapod will christen the scene with their funk, trance, rock and dubstep musical fusion. On Feb. 17, the Chicago Afrobeat Project will come to Vassar. The group combines funk, rock, jazz, Afro-Cuban and high life into one high-energy act nominated as the Best African Artist in the Chicago Music Awards of 2004 and 2006.

Aside from the outside bands, Sola also hopes to give some on-campus bands opportunities to play. These shows, however, will be held on Tuesday nights, simply because students are more willing to abandon work in support of their friends. "It's easier to get a crowd on a Tuesday with a student band because there's more incentive," Sola said.

Perhaps the most exciting part on the Jazz Night makeover is the big Jazzfest Sola has in the works for late spring. "We're doing a big festival, tentatively April 9. That'll be music all day and outdoor fun times up in the South Commons. I'm hoping to feature some art installations, food from local vendors, activities like three-legged races and sack races, and drum circles in between acts," he explained. Sola wants to bring Rubblebucket as the festival headliner. Last year, Rubblebucket charmed the Jazz Night crowd by parading theatrically through the audience.

Jazz Night held festivals in 2005 and 2006, and Sola wants to revive the idea this year. "I decided to go big or go home; do something crazy. I know kids will love it," he said.

Most Vassar students adhere strongly to the age-old expression, "work hard and play hard." Moving Jazz Nights to Thursday will allow everyone to take care of academics without worrying about missing out, while also getting totally pumped about the near-weekend shows. Sola expects the revamped Jazz Night to be better than ever, with a greater turn out, higher energy and as always, 100 percent dance-ability.

Author Tao Lin emotionally unattached

TAO LIN continued from page 14
experience it in a unique and intimate way.

For instance, the novel ends with the following lines: “Haley Joel Osment looked in her direction without focusing on her face. He touched her shoulder a little and left the car. He jumped over a puddle and went in the restaurant.”

Out of context, this ending is just three simple declarative sentences. There is no pretty dénouement, and the narrator does not dwell on the moment. These sentences seem as if they could just as easily be found in the middle of the story. Indeed, the ending seems to mean so little that by transcribing it here I haven’t actually given away anything. However, in context, these three sentences contain a world of meaning about the couple’s relationship and future. As tepid as these sentences appear to be, they are in fact quite moving and strong.

And that’s how the entire novel is. If you turn to a random page without reading what precedes it, the contents of that page may seem shallow, and the writing may even seem bad. This is because the novel isn’t a collection of thoughts or morals; Lin isn’t trying to impress you with his literary prowess or insight.

Despite his questionable media persona, Lin has produced in *Richard Yates* a genuine, old-fashioned love story—he’s just done it in a new way. I urge you not to dismiss the novel because of its author’s reputation or because of its unusual style. If you read the story faithfully, you can get a whole lot out of it.

Of course, it’s not for everyone. Since *Richard Yates* is about two young people living and communicating in a very modern way, I would say that the novel is more tailored to late teens and twenty somethings, and I would guess that older readers would find less to sympathize with. Also, some readers are bound to be put off by the detached cynicism with which Lin’s characters view their culture. This detachment is severe enough that it has led critics to question whether or not the novel is actually in any way constructive or redemptive, as literature supposedly should be.

Still, I found *Richard Yates* to be worthwhile. It is an engaging and at times even hypnotizing novel. And it does read quickly—partly because the prose is straightforward, and partly because the novel is only 200 pages—but in that short amount of time Lin does manage to move the reader in a very original way. 4 Stars!

Artist of the Week

Bassist Becker brings talent to many acts

Emma Daniels
REPORTER

Evan Becker ’13 started to play the upright bass in third grade after seeing a bass player perform at an elementary school showcase. “When the bass player went on stage,” he said, “I was like, ‘That guy looks so cool.’”

Becker has now been playing for about nine years. In high school, he was in the school jazz band and orchestra. His senior year, the jazz band—The Wellesley High School 200 Jazz Band—was one of 15 finalists at the Essentially Ellington competition, a national high school jazz band competition focused on Duke Ellington’s compositions. The group, as a finalist, performed at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Becker said, “I love being a bass player. It allows you to play all the time; everyone needs a bass player.”

Accordingly, before coming to Vassar, Becker not only pursued music within his high school, but also played in his area with jazz, bluegrass and folk groups, and was in a band called the Fuzzy Folk Collective. (If anyone’s interested in checking them out, their album—*Clap Clap Clap*—is for sale on iTunes.)

At Vassar, Becker is one of the campus’s few upright bass players. He continues to take every opportunity to play just as other musicians jump on any opportunity to play with him. He said, “When I came to campus, I was unsure whether I’d find people to play with, but all my hopes and dreams have come true.”

Becker is in two student-formed bands: a reggae band called Eddy and the Asteroids and a Latin funk and R&B cover band called Sol. He also plays a lot of jazz for the Music Department—he is a member of both the big jazz band and one of the jazz combos.

Though skilled in several genres, Becker noted that jazz is his favorite form of music. “While I enjoy the fact that the bass is present and necessary in so many different styles because it allows me to make music with so many people and in so many ways, I would have to admit that jazz is the best. Music is a conversation with the other players in a band and jazz is the purest form of this,” he said.

Becker’s passion for jazz is so great that he recently created yet another opportunity for himself and others to play jazz music. Last semester Becker, along with Luke Leavitt ’12, a piano player, and Ben Roberts ’13, a drummer, pursued an independent study in the Music



Laura Smith/The Miscellany News

Evan Becker ’13, pictured above, plays bass in the Music Department’s big jazz band and one of the jazz combos. He is also a member of two student-formed bands: Eddy and the Asteroids and Sol.

Department. They all obtained a half credit for studying how to be in a jazz trio. Becker said about the experience: “I played some of the best music I’ve ever played in my life. We played a lot of jazz but also a lot of other funky stuff.” The group is currently in the process of trying to get their independent study approved again for this semester.

Vassar has given Becker many opportunities not only to play the bass, but also to improve as a musician. “Over the course of last semester in particular, because I was playing so much, especially with [Roberts] and [Leavitt], I have been able to notice myself grow as a bass player. In the trio setting I can learn to listen better to all the nuances of other players and this allows me to play in and with the group at all times as opposed to playing alongside them,” he commented.

Of Becker and their music experience together, Roberts said, “His sense of time, his unique yet primal voice, and his ability to listen and flow have been clear from the moment we first played. His presence as a band member

and collaborator is one of modest and subtle energy that keeps us grounded as individuals and musicians. I hope to play the blues with Evan till we are old and gray and have arthritis.”

Although much of his time at Vassar is seemingly spent playing music, Becker is actually not a music major, but instead has declared as a Greek and Roman studies major. Most of his aspirations when it comes to his music, therefore, are limited to what he can accomplish during his time at Vassar. He’s more than ready to make his time here count.

He mentioned in particular that he not only hopes to play a lot of music during his time at Vassar, but he also wishes that there would be more opportunities on campus for student musicians to showcase their talent. “Everyone loves live music,” he said, “and there are so many wonderful musicians on campus, but not enough opportunities to showcase those musicians, which is a shame. There’s music to be played and hopefully every semester I’m here there will be more music to be heard.”

New photography offers outside perspectives on Vassar

LOEB continued from page 1
midst. “I thought it would be nice to celebrate the 150 years of our history by looking at today and making a sort of comparison of past and present,” she explained. The total open-endedness of Lombino’s assignment made way for three entirely different perspectives on Vassar’s environment, people and culture. Not only are the photos highly varied in their content, but they also totally deviate from traditional photographs of the campus. No archetypal images of Vassar’s majestic historic architecture nor photos showcasing our trimmed and tailored arboretum will grace the walls of this exhibition.

Instead, the photographs document hidden places almost unrecognizable as Vassar and aspects of campus life often taken for granted, and also capture the nuances of our school’s unique and eclectic culture in an intimate and refreshing way.

Davis, the Visiting Assistant Professor of Photography at Bard College, chose move-out day as the subject of his photographs. Because Vassar is commonly perceived as a pristine and well-kept collegiate institution by outsiders, Davis took this opportunity to contest the public eye by taking images of the campus in a state of disarray.

Of his work, Davis said, “I often find myself only able to make art when I work against the purposes or design or essence of a place,” add-

ing, “That’s how I find something to say, and I’ve always noticed that move-out day is a day of derangement on any college campus.” The juxtaposition of Vassar’s idyllic landscape and ornate structures with overturned furniture, messy piles of mismatched belongings and random giveaways is what really complicates Davis’ snapshots.

He sees the medium of photography as a powerful social tool, one capable of altering judgments and challenging assumptions. “Photography is there to add complexity to the way we understand the world.” Through his work in this exhibition, Davis questions popular notions of life at what he refers to as “the Platonic ideal of east coast private college campuses.”

Newbegin’s photographs explore areas of the campus most students have never seen and likely never knew existed. Newbegin has distant ties to the school, as both her older brothers attended Vassar in the late 80s and early 90s. Any reminiscent view of the campus was quickly cast aside, however, as she instantly became interested in tracking down what she refers to as “hidden spaces.”

“It took several visits to Vassar before I was able to finally get under the skin and discover the stranger spaces with the history that I was looking for,” she explained. An individual who quite literally unlocked the opportunity for Newbegin’s uninhibited exploration was

Mike Bernard, Vassar’s generous “key master,” the holder of every key to every room in every building. This unlimited access gave Newbegin a special look into the unfrequented and seemingly abandoned areas of the school.

“I think at some ineffable level, the hidden areas interested me because I wanted to unearth parts of Vassar that are not known to the students who live there everyday, but mostly I was curious to see what I could find,” she said. Similar to Davis’ interest in the dialogue between the arranged and deranged, Newbegin found herself attracted to the split between empty spaces and those hustling with life.

She explained, “As the project evolved, I realized I was more and more compelled by the dichotomy of the energetic world of the students on the surface, and what existed below that, the silent world of the basements and attics.”

The works of Barney deal more closely with the human element of the College. Guided by a Vassar student, Barney ventured into dorm rooms, classrooms, art studios and the athletic facilities to get a closer look at the settings and characters at play. Though her photographs directly confront the lives of students behind closed doors in the seemingly private realm, they showcase a general contentment and camaraderie more than they uncover or disclose. “The dorm photos that I did, which I love, are very sweet and I didn’t feel as though I was

intruding on anybody’s privacy or revealing anything private at all,” she said.

Barney did, however, consider the high level of properness, saying, “I was thinking that maybe I could come there at two or three in the morning on a Saturday night and see an entirely different scene, but I’m not a voyeuristic type of photographer. That’s just not something that interests me.” This observation serves as a testament to the entire exhibition’s nature—when given such freedom, photographers are able to see very different versions of the same place.

There was one consistent feeling Barney mentioned throughout all of her trips to Vassar, though, and that was the camaraderie and agreement: “I was pleasantly pleased by the harmony; everyone seemed incredibly happy that I met,” she said, adding, “And I do think there is a very intimate kind of close feeling among the students. I felt as if I really understood the group that I was photographing.”

Perhaps the best part of such an assorted group of photographs is the fact that there is something for everyone. Students will likely respond to the works with an inside-joke like chuckle, whereas parents, professors and visitors, as Lombino put it, “might be surprised when they see the things they don’t know happen on campus, but are definitely aspects of the lifestyle here.”

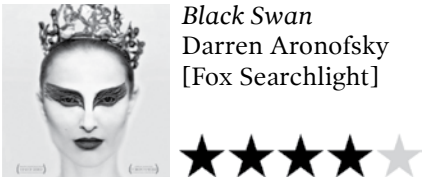
On view from Jan. 28 to Mar. 27.

THE BIG SCREEN

by Erik Lorenzsonn



Portman a paranoid wonder in *Black Swan*



Black Swan
Darren Aronofsky
[Fox Searchlight]



The most rewarding scene in Darren Aronofsky’s *Black Swan* comes when Nina (Natalie Portman), a prima-donna-in-training with a New York City ballet company, wakes up one morning in her Manhattan apartment. The young dancer sleepily contemplates her room, reaches her hand underneath the covers and begins to masturbate.

The scene is not rewarding for any trashy reason, as steamy as it is to see Portman jilling off. It is rewarding because this girl needs masturbation *so badly*. Nina is possibly the most high-strung and obsessive-compulsive character to ever grace the silver screen. She literally tears herself apart over her ballet career, scratching at her skin in anguish over every botched fouetté. Half of her waking life is spent in paranoia, while the other half is dedicated to a masochistic pursuit of absolute perfection. She is so tense and asocial that she isolates herself from her fellow ballerinas. When she finally takes a moment for some much needed self-pleasure, it’s all you can do not to stand up and applaud.

Nina is all kinds of crazy, and *Black Swan* artfully drags you down into the crazy, too. Aronofsky’s harrowing psychological thriller journeys through the tortured psyche of an artist, making you question what is really real and what is just in Nina’s warped perception of reality. The film is as disturbing as they come, but in a most exhilarating way. *Black Swan* is easily one of the best films of 2010.

It must be said that in all fairness to Nina, headlining Tchaikovsky’s “Swan Lake” at the Lincoln Center would do a number on anyone’s nerves. The poor girl is cast as the lead by her virtuoso director, who finds her a perfect fit for Princess Odette, the White Swan; her grace and control lend themselves beautifully to the role. The problem is that she must also play Odile, the

Black Swan, who is wild, seductive and malevolent. These qualities are everything Nina is not.

She struggles to master the Black Swan, but her inability to lose control and dive into the role leads to frustration. Also stressing her out is a talented new dancer shipped from the west coast named Lily (Mila Kunis), whom Nina instantly pegs as a rival. Lily is casual, confident, friendly and highly sexual, the foil to Nina’s psychotic insecurity.

The irony is that Nina’s enemy is also the closest thing she has to a friend, as Lily is the only dancer amicable enough to approach the standoffish starlet. There is also irony in that the chick who played Jackie from *That 70s Show* is totally rocking an Oscar-caliber supporting performance. Who would have guessed?

Another cause for concern in Nina’s life is her director, the eccentric Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel). The visionary plans to reinvent the famous Tchaikovsky ballet with a fresh interpretation, and pushes Nina hard to open up and embrace the Black Swan. The director also has a reputation for seducing his protégés; he certainly seems to have been involved with Beth (Winona Ryder), a disgruntled has-been who headlined shows in the company’s past. At times it certainly seems like Nina is next in line for Thomas’s affections. Maybe he has the hots for his prime dancer, or maybe he just wants to find a way to introduce eroticism to the asexual Nina (he’s the one who proposes the idea of masturbation in the first place). Either way, Thomas is an intimidating figure of fascination and attraction for Nina, whose approval she longs to attain.

There’s no respite from work at home sweet home: The apartment is dominated by her overly-attentive mother and roommate Erica (Barbara Hershey). The smothering figure was a former dancer herself before she became pregnant with Nina; now she almost lives vicariously through her daughter’s life on the stage. It’s hard to tell what is worse: the pressures of starring in a ballet or the fanatical parent who won’t give you a moment’s peace.

The trifecta of Thomas, Lily and Erica form a source of stress and paranoia for Nina to the



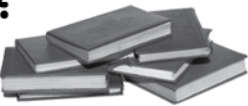
Courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures

Natalie Portman, above, has received an Oscar nomination for her role in *Black Swan*.

point where she goes absolutely cuckoo, and the Black Swan that she longs to embody soon becomes a dark specter that haunts her everyday life. It must be said, Nina’s crazy makes for a thrilling ride. Aronofsky’s deft directorial hand has crafted a brilliant mise en scène that envelopes the vulnerable Nina in the dark world of the Black Swan, from the costume to the lighting. The only thing more impressive than Aronofsky’s touch is Portman’s performance. She brings an intense believability to Nina, and rocks the ballet choreography that she diligently learned in order to take on the role.

Black Swan nabbed five Oscar nominations on Tuesday, perhaps fewer than it deserves. Expect it to represent come Oscar Night on Feb. 27, and think hard about putting your money on Aronofsky and Portman for Best Director and Best Actress, respectively. You heard it from the Big Screen first!

excuse me,
what are you
reading
please?



Andy Axel '11

“*Among the Thugs* by Bill Bugord. It’s about British soccer hooligans.”

“*The Sound & the Fury* by William Faulkner.”



Melanie Risch '13



“*Catch-22* by Joseph Heller. It’s got a really biting wit to it.”

Lindsey Liese '11

“*The Order of Things* by Michel Foucault.”



Helen Hofling '12



“We’re reading *Sirens of Titan* by Kurt Vonnegut.”

Tim Vigers '13 & Rosie Achorn-Rubenstein '13

“I mostly read *The Weekly Squat*.”



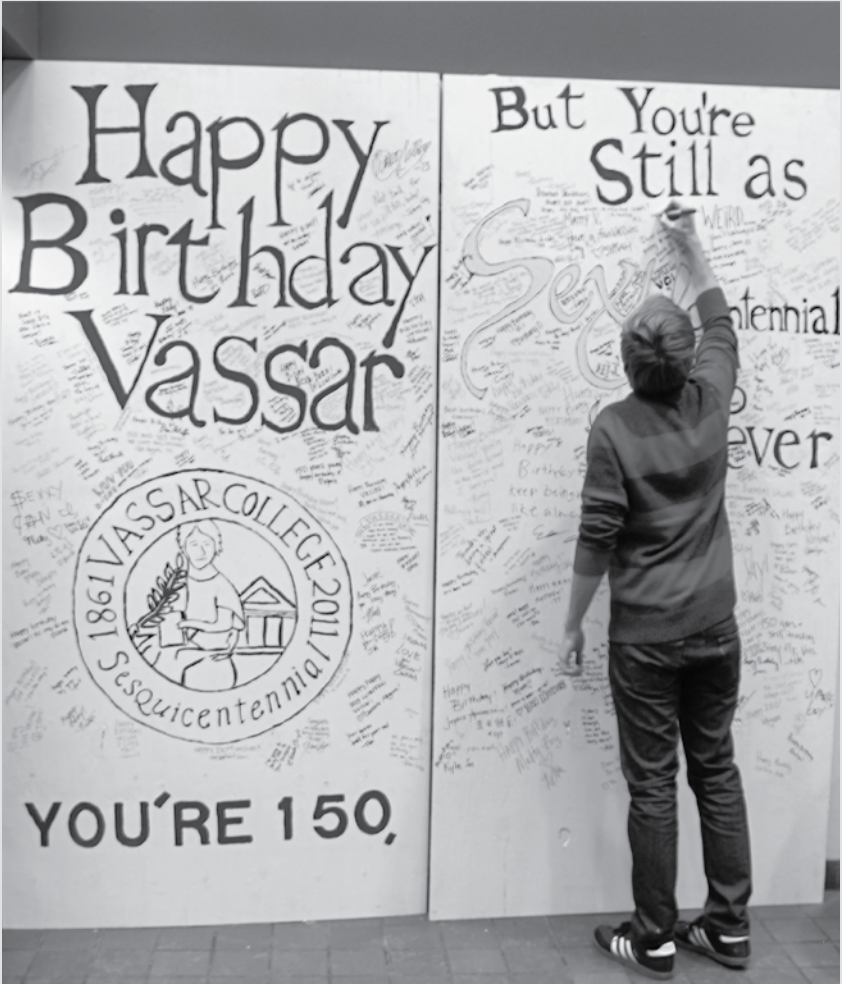
William Wheeler '14

—Rachael Borné
Arts Editor

Campus Canvas

A weekly space highlighting the creative pursuits of student-artists

submit to misc@vassar.edu



The Vassar Student Association (VSA) has decided to kick off sesquicentennial celebrations by recruiting Vassar College Entertainment (ViCE) to throw the biggest, baddest party this institution has ever seen! The cheekily titled “Sexycennial” Birthday Bash, inspired by one of Vassar’s most well-known alumnae, the so-legendary-she-hardly-requires-formal-naming Meryl Streep, will ring in the big 150 with a BANG! No party is complete without publicity, and VSA Vice President of Operations Ruby Cramer ’12 and Miscelany News Features Editor and ViCE Publicity co-Chair Mitchell Gilburne ’12—along with the intrepid assistance of Main House President Boyd Gardner ’12 and Louise Dufresne ’13—do not disappoint with the larger-than-life Birthday Card that has invaded the Retreat and College Center this past week. The card boasts an impressive rendering of Vassar’s official font along with an awe-strikingly faithful representation of the sesquicentennial crest. Merging class with sass, it assures our old girl that everything gets better with age, reading, “You’re 150...but you’re still as SEXYcentennial as ever”. And, if the card itself wasn’t enough to pump up the Sesqui-spirit, the heartfelt, clever, indelible sentiments signed by students ensure that this will truly be a year to remember.

Volleyball embarks on season of renewed confidence

Corey Cohn
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In a season marked by change, the members of Vassar's men's volleyball team are looking for some consistency.

The core of the team is essentially intact, with six of seven starters returning for the 2010-2011 season. (Three-time All-American Phil Tully '10 graduated last year.) But although very little else has remained the same, the Brewers are ready to take on new challenges.

One change in particular should not require too much adjustment. Jonathan Penn, formerly the team's assistant coach, will be serving as acting head coach this season. (Lauren Goss-Gonclaves, Vassar graduate, former player under Coach Penn and assistant coach of the women's volleyball team, will be taking over assistant coaching duties for the men's squad.)

Players are excited for Coach Penn's increased involvement this season. Christian La Du '13, in an e-mailed statement, wrote that "Coach Penn is phenomenal. His passion for the players and the sport, [his] full knowledge of the game and his teacher's mentality are so much more impactful in the head coach position this year." Clifford Quinn '12 added in an e-mailed statement that under Coach Penn, "We really focus our attention on ourselves and the way we play rather than what the other team is doing."

The other major difference this season is not limited strictly to Vassar—it affects all NCAA volleyball. The divisions within the North East Collegiate Volleyball Association (NECVA) have been altered and rearranged this season, a change that Quinn reports is being made to prepare for the official NCAA Division III Men's Volleyball Championship, which will debut in the spring of



Courtesy of Sports Information

Vassar's men's volleyball team is coping with a number of changes this season. Notably, former assistant coach Jonathan Penn will now be serving as acting head coach. He will lead the team through the newly formed United Volleyball Conference.

2012. (Previously, Division III men's volleyball had not been sanctioned as a championship sport by the NCAA.) The United Volleyball Conference (UVC) has been formed and consists of 12 teams, including Vassar.

Both Quinn and La Du acknowledge that this new arrangement makes for a more difficult schedule this season. Quinn says that the UVC is "even tougher than [the Metro Division]," in which Vassar previously competed. He makes a strong point. Of the 16 seeds in the 2010 NECVA Championship Tournament, six of the teams—No. 3 Vassar College, No. 8 Medaille College, No. 9 SUNY New Paltz, No. 10 Stevens Institute of Technology, No. 14 D'Youville Col-

lege and No. 15 Nazareth College—all reside in the new UVC.

La Du adds that the Brewers' schedule outside of the Conference is a tall order as well. He is particularly referring to facing New York University (which will be part of the UVC starting in 2011-2012) in their gym on Feb. 1 and No. 1-ranked Springfield College on March 1. La Du savors the experience against these formidable foes, however. "As competitors," he says, "it's great to challenge ourselves against teams that are strong and competitive to see how we stack up."

Vassar was challenged last year but came out fairly successfully. The Brewers had an 18-9 overall record,

with a stellar 9-0 record within the division. They were, however, defeated in the first round of the playoffs, falling 3-1 to D'Youville. Quinn calls the season "bittersweet," adding, "We have a lot to be proud of, but there is a sense of underachievement."

In order to avoid that disappointment again this season, the team will have to make some key adjustments. Some of these involve areas of individual improvement. La Du, for instance, cites his position change last year from setter to libero/defensive specialist as something on which he will continue to focus. "I am constantly trying to work on my defensive footwork, anticipation and reactionary speed," he writes.

He also mentions that the team as a whole concentrated heavily on defense during the preseason, since block coverage was perceived to be one of their weaker skill sets last season.

The Brewers are also relatively young this year, featuring one freshman and five sophomores on a roster of nine. Still, with most of the team having experience playing collegiate volleyball, they will try to build on their previous success and acknowledge their past mistakes. La Du feels the sophomores learned a lot during their first season and that it makes this year that much more promising. "Having been through it once already," he writes, "coming back for our second season has made us much more confident and comfortable with our abilities and roles within the system."

Overall, though, the most important thing for the Brewers is to stay true to themselves. Quinn notes that the team has great potential, but consistency may be an issue. La Du agrees, and he also emphasizes that the team must keep its collective head up even when challenges arise. Particularly given the array of talent in the UVC, La Du remarks that "it is crucial for us to keep a positive, working attitude and never give up in a match."

If all goes according to plan, the Brewers should continue to be one of the more potent teams in Division III. As Quinn has observed over the past two seasons, the team plays "a unique brand of volleyball that, when executed properly, can bring us great success."

The Brewers got off to a bit of a slow start, losing two matches last weekend to Rivier College and Philadelphia Biblical University (while beating Ramapo College in three sets), before rebounding for a 3-0 victory over Bard on Tuesday.

Athletics and Fitness Center finds new crowds, new year

Nathan Tauger
GUEST REPORTER

Despite frigid temperatures and mounds of snow, Vassar students and administrators have maintained a surprisingly high attendance at the Athletics and Fitness Center. Whether it is for sports, dance, recreation or health, the Vassar community has found plenty of reasons to trek to the weight room regardless of the weather.

Kelly Harrington '14, a weight room receptionist, highlighted the surprising amount of turnouts. "I see a ton more people at the gym than last semester. It's kind of ridiculous. There are people waiting at machines for turns."

New administrative policy now gives official warrant to Harrington's observations. "We have a new task this semester: We walk around and count the number of people in each room. We were told the administration asked us to do this so they can monitor how much use the gym is actually getting used, whether it's worth the funding," Harrington said.

"There are a few times when the gym is dead," she elaborated. Andrew Jdaydani '14, a fellow weight room receptionist, remarked that during Saturday morning the gym is practically empty.

Why the sudden crowd is a matter for speculation. Jdaydani guessed that New Year's resolutions may have something to do with the increase, while Harrington speculated that the surge may be a result of students returning from abroad. Joe Karpman '13, who works at the front desk, said that he suspected the inconvenience of cold weather attracted runners to the indoor track and cardio machines of Walker Field House.

While they all have different guesses as to the new crowds, all three regularly use the gym for different purposes. Karpman consistently works out at the gym to maintain his fitness for

rugby, while Harrington, an active member of Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre, uses the elliptical machines for exercise and sometimes the Walker Multi-Purpose Room to dance. Jdaydani was in the middle of a recreational volleyball game during his interview.

Of course some use the weight room just to stay in shape. Laura "Lilu" Herrera Torres '14, humorously proclaimed her new acquaintance with the gym is "because the [All Campus Dining Center] made my jeans not fit." Shruti Manian '14 gave the following reason for making

the trek to Walker: "It was sort of a resolution to be fitter this semester. The freshman fifteen is not something I'm looking forward to, so I'm working to abate that." (Full Disclosure: Shruti Manian is a staff reporter for the *Miscellany*.)

Students are not the only ones utilizing the facilities. Dean of the College Christopher Roellke is using the gym too, to prepare for the upcoming student-faculty basketball game, dressed in an "Old School" jersey, he acknowledged the outfit, "they're in preparation for the student-faculty basketball game coming up on

February 10th. We've got everyone represented: faculty, buildings and grounds, administrators. We're practicing now. The students stay the same age, 18-22, but we keep getting older and more out of shape. But just like cramming for a test isn't a good idea, cramming for a basketball game isn't either. We'll be in trouble this year." Roellke's family also enjoys the space the Athletic and Fitness Center provides. "I bring my kids here regularly, they love using the swimming pool, the basketball courts; they're a little young for the weight room, but I use it."

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Athletes still productive over winter break despite allures of couch and television

Kristine Olson
REPORTER

Even when finals were looming and the weather outside became frightful over winter break (at least here on the east coast), Vassar's winter and spring season athletes kept training. The question is, how did they cope with a month-long intermission from training and competition? For men's and women's basketball, fencing, squash and swimming, competition for the winter season began on Nov. 6. Competition for men's volleyball began after break on Jan. 21, while the men's and women's track and field team, a spring sport that began training in December, will begin competition in March.

Now that student-athletes and coaches have returned to campus and competition has restarted, it's a question of whether winter break was a period of rest or of workouts.

For most of the teams, the expectation was to return early from winter break, fully prepared to compete. The men's volleyball team returned a week early for preseason training, which included two practices per day and weight-training sessions. Both men's and women's fencing teams returned a few days early before their competition on Jan. 15 at Cleveland State University.

Men's and women's basketball, on the other hand, had games up until Dec. 7 and 8, respectively, and returned to competition on Jan. 1 and 5.

Some teams including the fencing squads, men's basketball team and men's and women's swimming and diving took the opportunity to travel. The fencing squad made its way to Cleveland, while the other two teams visited Florida.

During their few weeks off, athletes were expected to train independently or with clubs back home. Fencing Head Coach Bruce Gillman shared that some of his athletes compete in United States Fencing Association competitions while they're at home. Others simply practice on their own a few days a week, and others do cardio to stay in shape. "It varies and nothing is required, only suggested," Gillman responded in an e-mail.

This is true for the other teams, as well. However, men's and women's cross country and track Head Coach James McCowan points out that if athletes want to reach their full potential and personal aspirations, consistency in (and quality of) training is required throughout the year—not just during the official season. "Being a successful collegiate athlete and really rising to your own individual highest level of ability is a complete lifestyle," said McCowan.

No matter the sport, though, break provides an opportunity both to relax and work out gradually without the constraints that academics provide. And for the track team, which partially comprises runners from the fall cross country season, winter break is an opportunity to gradually increase mileage and implement speed workouts and weight lifting. For sprinters and throwers, the expectation is to get in more intense workouts during break, prior to returning for team practices.

Men's volleyball Head Coach Jonathan Penn said he gives out training schedules based on a "mixture of factors and somewhat of a gut instinct thing." He elaborated in an e-mailed statement, "If they showed up for our fall non-traditional season in shape; if I know the upperclassmen have been organizing runs

and lifts; the class make-up and experience of the team; even if I want to find out how they will respond to not receiving a workout. All those are factors in the decision."

But even with a training schedule in hand, athletes are responsible for their personal fitness. Penn explains, "When you get down to it, no matter what I give them it is entirely up to them to be self-motivated enough to put in the work, so they have far more control over it than I do."

The results of staying in game form or becoming a holiday season couch potato show early on in team practices. "Those that do nothing over the break come back rusty and require some time to get back into form, but not much," says Gillman. The level of rustiness depends on the sport, and a combination of factors: fitness, endurance, technique, injuries and fatigue, among others.

For injured players, the month-long winter break provides time to recover; and for healthy, serious competitors, it is a time to continue working towards goals uninterrupted by weekly competitions. "It's a fantastic mental break," said Brittany Davis '11 who runs the steeplechase event for the track and field team. "Although, it's good to get back to the team," she added.

Even for seemingly "individual" sports such as track and field, squash, swimming and diving, and fencing, it takes a team to win. And it is generally easier to train with teammates who provide the greatest source of motivation, encouragement and amusement—especially when it's negative-something degrees with wind chill outside and the last thing you want to do is walk through snow to Walker Field House or Kenyon Hall for practice.

All-star games need to pique fans' interest

Andy Sussman
COLUMNIST

This Friday will be one of the very few times I will be interested in what the National Hockey League does. It is All-Star Weekend in the NHL, but it is not Eastern Conference vs. Western Conference, or even North America against the rest of the world. Rather, for the first time, the NHL will have two team captains each select players for the game. That's right, the All-Star Game is going to be a pickup game, like a Thanksgiving touch football game with your friends. I, for one, love this idea, and think that it should be applied to the other professional sports' All-Star games.

For example, the NFL Pro Bowl is this Sunday, and I could hardly care less. The players don't try and half of the players voted in, withdraw. However, if you had Peyton Manning and Tom Brady choosing teams—well, that would be worthwhile television. After all, wouldn't you want to see how the player chosen last reacts to his snub? Will the team captain choose his teammates early on, even if they are not the best players? Even more interestingly, what if one captain chooses the other captain's teammates in order to cause a rift between those players?

The NHL's newest tweak has made me consider other changes to each sport's All-Star weekend. First of all, there should be more of a focus on skill competitions than on the game itself. Fans get to see some of the best players nearly everyday during the season, but how often do they have the privilege of watching Dwight Howard dunk wearing a Superman costume? The game is largely irrelevant, so there should be more obstacle courses and dunk competitions in the NBA. To encourage players such as LeBron James and Dwyane Wade to enter, have the winner of any of the events win a substantial prize. It can be cash, a car or even an endorsement deal, because you know that some companies would be more than happy to associate themselves with a popular event and would be more than happy to increase the current prize. In addition, the assortment of events can raise more money for the league because they will be able to fill more seats in attendance and gain more sponsors who will want to prominently put themselves on display for an event.

Major League Baseball has the most longstanding tradition when it comes to its All-Star Game, and I do consider it to be the competition taken most seriously among both players and the public. This is not to say that the Midsummer Classic should not be altered, however. First of all, the All-Star Game should not determine which league has home field advantage in the World Series. This is a game intended for the fans, an exhibition game. A manager now has the unenviable decision of which players he should play, and he even has an opportunity to subvert his own league's chances if his actual team is not in the playoff hunt. Although admittedly this situation is unlikely to occur, the fact that it could in theory is outrageous enough. Players will either take it seriously or they won't, and Commissioner Bud Selig should not be able to force the issue by making the outcome affect future terms.

In addition, there should be more events leading up to the actual All-Star Game. Yes, the Home Run Derby is a nice event, but the steroid controversy has taken some of the fun out of it. However, I would love to see skill competitions involving fielding and base running. For instance, MLB could have a contest to see which player can run around the bases most quickly. Wouldn't you wonder if Jacoby Ellsbury could outrun Ichiro Suzuki on the base paths? And there is certainly no reason that baseball could not have a target contest, where outfielders have to field and then throw a baseball at an exact location. For the past several decades, each league has taken for granted that fans will be interested in the All-Star Game. Hopefully, the NHL will lead the way towards unseen innovations in every sport.



Dorell Wright taking off in California

Nik Trkulja
COLUMNIST

Dorell Wright is far from an NBA superstar. Now in his sixth year in the league, Wright hasn't had the stellar career most expected of him. Yet this year somehow seems different. The 6'9" starting small forward for the Golden State Warriors has suddenly become somewhat of a force to be reckoned with.

Amidst the fallout of LeBron James' now infamous "decision," many chose to ignore what happened to players already on the Miami Heat's roster. Of the 16 players contracted to the team in 2009-10, only five remained to welcome LeBron James and Chris Bosh. Amongst those shown the door was Wright.

Free agency is a normal part of any NBA player's career. No matter how bright your star shines, at some point in your career you will be let go by your team. Only the very best get the privilege of choosing to stay. Wright certainly wasn't one of the best. Nevertheless, there were things going for him.

He had been drafted by the Heat in 2004 and had had his rookie contract extended, no small feat for a player who at the time averaged just 19.6 minutes and 6.0 points per game. Miami was clearly signaling that they wanted to invest in Wright, and he was ready to invest in the team and the city. However, injuries followed and he had a slow run of form in 2008-09, though he still managed to claw back and have a solid season in 2009-10. He seemed sure to get a spot on this year's team. Miami was looking to bring in LeBron James and Chris Bosh, they needed a relatively cheap perimeter shooter and their stars were even willing to take pay-cuts to make it happen. Wright seemed like the ideal fit. Already a long-term member of the Mi-

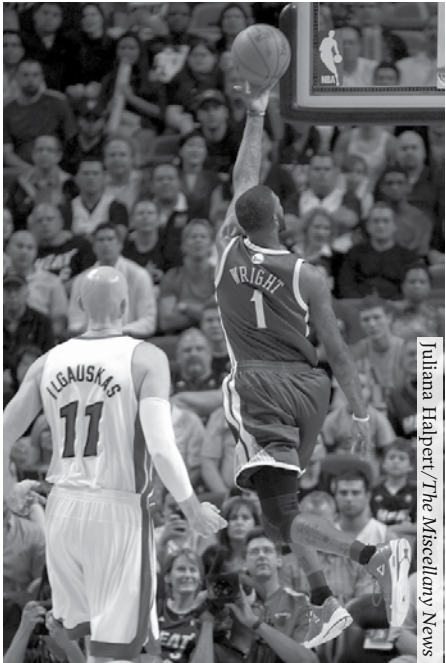
ami team, having won a championship with them in 2006, Wright would be integral in building cohesion in a completely new team. He even gave his son the middle name Dwyane in honor of his Heat teammate, the godfather to his son, Dwyane Wade. There was a connection to the team and the city, but Miami apparently didn't see it.

Wright was let go into free agency and landed a world away with the Golden State Warriors, in Oakland California. The experience, though, left some scars. That's especially true when it became apparent that Wade had personally lobbied Miami to bring in Mike Miller, Wright's replacement, and had even taken a pay cut to keep Udonis Haslem, another of Wright's teammates with the Heat.

It was a devastating turn of events for an up-and-coming player, but it was one he seems to have taken in stride. Half a season later, Wright has emerged as a real contender for the league's Most Improved Player award. His production is up over 100 percent in every single category compared with last year. Averaging 16.5 points, 5.8 rebounds and 2.5 three-pointers per game, Wright is now a real starter in the league. But all this pales in comparison to his reaction towards Miami.

In the two games the Heat and Warriors have played against each other this season, Wright stood out not only because he was the best player on the court, but also because he simply refused to so much as talk to the Heat players. Visibly swearing after made baskets by the Heat and playing with a distinct fire, Wright even scored 30 points in his only game in Miami.

In the aftermath of the "decision" most of the Miami Heat's existing roster was pushed away into relative obscurity. Even those that remained seemed as if they were non-enti-



After being let go by the Miami Heat, Dorell Wright is now turning heads as a starting small forward for Oakland's Golden State Warriors.

ties, scrubbed to the side to make way for his majesty King James and that other guy Bosh. Players like Wright serve to remind us that this obscurity was wrongly imposed and not merited. Shunned by Miami, Wright has blossomed into a serious threat and a player who keeps getting better with every game. His improvement is not just indicative of his misuse in Miami, but it also serves as a warning to all other general managers in the league to not simply take for granted the players at the end of the bench—they are, after all, some of the best in the world.

Teams spend winter break traveling, training, playing

Andy Marmer
SPORTS EDITOR

While Vassar students flocked to their hometowns for a month-long break from their studies, a small but sizable contingent returned early to continue their seasons on the court and in the pool. This group is, of course, Vassar's winter athletes, who donned the burgundy and gray throughout break. Let's take a look at how each of Vassar's teams spent their time away from the classroom.

Women's Basketball: The women's basketball team has won seven of their past eight games, racing out to a 10-6 record. The Brewers had not reached double-digit wins since the 2000-2001 season, Vassar's first season in the Liberty League. The break began very well for the Brewers, as they rolled to a 68-27 win over visiting Bard College, led by Hannah Sentfleber '14. In just 26 minutes of play, Sentfleber nearly outscored the Raptors' roster, notching 24 points while also tallying 11 rebounds. Junior Brittany Parks, who is currently 12th in Division III in scoring with 20.8 points per game, also had a strong outing, scoring 17 points with six rebounds and five assists.

Three days later, Vassar traveled to Elmira College for a final tune-up prior to the rigors of Liberty League play. This time Parks dominated the game, scoring 23 points—16 in the second half—and leading the Brewers to a 69-63 victory. Freshman Cydni Matsuoka chipped in with 14 points and seven assists for the win.

The first of the Brewers' Liberty League weekends proved to be challenging not only because of the competition, but perhaps also more so because of the emotional rigors the games presented. In the opening contest of the weekend, the Brewers held a 57-47 lead with just 53 seconds left, only to see Clarkson University score the next seven points. Still, the Vassar lead proved insurmountable, and the Brewers opened Liberty League play with a win.

The next day, the Brewers found themselves on the other end of a comeback attempt, trailing St. Lawrence University for nearly the entirety of the contest. However, Alexandra Higgins '13 hit a three-pointer with just 21 seconds remaining to even the score at 58. On the defensive end, Sentfleber stole the ball, and a Vassar timeout gave the Brewers a chance to win. Vassar's lone senior Carolyn Crampton knocked down a foul line jump shot with two seconds remaining to put Vassar up two. Crampton's shot triggered celebration from the Vassar bench, resulting in a player entering the court with 0.3 seconds to play, an automatic technical foul. St. Lawrence's Iris Santoni hit the ensuing free throws to send the game to an extra session.

The overtime was dominated by Parks, who



Katie De Hairs/The Miscellany News

Vassar's men's basketball team earned their first conference victory since the 2008-2009 season over winter break in a 50-49 game against Clarkson University on Jan. 14. Their current record stands at 3-13.

scored a career-high 32 points in the game, with six coming in the five-minute period. Still, when the five minutes were up, each side had scored eight points, sending the game into a second overtime, tied 68-68. With just 41 seconds remaining in the second overtime, Crampton hit just her second shot of the game, a three-pointer to give Vassar a 76-73 lead, which they would hold onto for a 77-74 victory and a 2-0 start in Liberty League play.

Just three days later on Jan. 18, Vassar achieved the first 3-0 Liberty League start in program history with a 71-60 victory over Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), behind 23 points and 11 rebounds from Sentfleber. A 66-57 loss days later to William Smith College did nothing to quell the Brewers' morale, as they rebounded with a 76-60 win over Hamilton College last Saturday, behind a career day from Matsuoka. The sharp-shooting freshman scored 33 points—a career high—on 12-15 shooting, including 6-8 from behind the arc. Matsuoka also recorded five assists without notching a turnover. Her backcourt mate Parks also had a superb game, scoring 23 points and a career-high 10 assists.

Vassar defeated Mt. St. Vincent 71-60 in their final non-conference game of the year on Monday. In the contest, Parks became just the eighth Vassar women's basketball player to reach the 1,000-point plateau, scoring 19 in the contest. She now sits in seventh place on the Vassar all-time scoring list. Sentfleber also came up huge for the Brewers, scoring 17

points, while securing 15 rebounds. Matsuoka, played all 40 minutes for the Brewers and scored 16 points, with six rebounds, four assists, three steals and just one turnover.

Men's Basketball:

The men's basketball squad entered winter break with a 1-8 record, with the team's sole victory coming against Bard College. It was a rough start of the break for the Brewers, as they dropped a pair of contests in the East Coast Athletic Conference Holiday Festival in Kissimmee, Fla. to Colby College and Baldwin-Wallace College. Vassar also dropped a decision to Ramapo College before returning home to welcome the nearby Culinary Institute of America (CIA) to the Athletic and Fitness Center. Vassar notched its second win of the season, 88-42, as five players scored in double figures, led by Evan Carberry '14 with 19 points. The contest against the CIA marked Vassar's final non-conference test before the challenging Liberty League schedule.

The Brewers earned their first conference victory since the 2008-2009 season on Jan. 14, defeating Clarkson University 50-49 as time expired on a runner by Nick Justiz '12. The Brewers ended the game on an 11-2 run to earn the victory, holding Clarkson to just 27 percent shooting for the game.

The next day, Vassar looked to continue its momentum against St. Lawrence. Despite jumping out to a 23-16 lead, Vassar was unable to hang on, dropping a 71-56 decision. Three more losses have dropped Vassar to 3-13, with

a 1-4 record in Liberty League play.

Men's and Women's Fencing: Each fencing squad competed just once over break, as both teams swept the Cleveland Invitational, earning decisive victories over Cleveland State University, University of Detroit Mercy, Wayne State University, Case Western Reserve University and the University of Michigan.

On the Saturday after classes resumed, both squads journeyed to Brown University for their first conference meet. The men's side earned victories over Brandeis University (17-10), Boston College (15-12), Tufts University (22-5) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (20-7). The lone loss by the men's side came at the hands of host Brown (16-11).

The women's team also had a successful day in Providence, R.I., maintaining a 5-1 record for the day with victories over Brown (by a score of 14-13), Brandeis (15-12), Boston College (14-13), Smith College (19-8) and Tufts (17-10). The lone Vassar defeat was by just one bout to MIT (14-13).

The women's team now holds an impressive 24-5 record for the season, with the men's squad not far behind at 18-8. On Monday, both squads will travel to Yale University before continuing conference play at Wellesley College on Feb. 6.

Men's and Women's Squash: The men's and women's squash teams did not compete over break; however, on the Saturday following break, both squads competed against Colby College. The men's squad failed to take a single match, while the women's team dropped a tight contest, 5-4, including a pair of five-set losses.

Men's Swimming and Diving: The men's swimming and diving squad traveled with their female counterparts to Florida for training before returning to the North for the Kumpf Invitational, hosted by RPI. The Brewers finished seventh out of eight teams in the meet.

Just two days later, Vassar sent its seniors off with a dual meet against Trinity College. Partially due to fatigue, the Brewers found themselves on the losing side, dropping the meet, 147-107.

Women's Swimming and Diving: In addition to their training trip to Florida, the women's team also hosted Trinity, dropping a tight contest 152-141. Entering the final event of the meet, the 200 freestyle relay, the two squads were neck and neck; however, a Trinity victory earned them the meet, as they edged past Vassar by just seconds.

This past weekend, the team traveled to Wellesley, attempting to unseat the host and 12-time defending champion of the Seven Sisters Championship. While Vassar came up short, their 805 points were enough to earn a second-place finish.

Sports Calendar: 1/27 - 2/2 by Andy Marmer, Sports Editor

THURSDAY, 1/27

Men's Volleyball vs. Hunter College: 7:00 p.m.—Kenyon Hall
The two schools have not met since 2007, a 3-0 Vassar win; however, both qualified for the North East Collegiate Volleyball Association Tournament last year. Vassar posted an 18-9 record, earning the no. 3 seed, while Hunter went 24-11 last year, en route to a no. 13 seed.

FRIDAY, 1/28

Women's Basketball at Skidmore College: 6:00 p.m.
Off to their strongest start in a decade, the women's basketball team travels to Skidmore College, a team they lost to twice last year, by a total of 10 points. In their first contest last year, Vassar dropped a four-point decision in overtime, 59-55, despite 18 points from Brittany Parks '12. The Thoroughbreds are 3-2, one game behind the Brewers in the Liberty League standings.

Men's Basketball at Skidmore College: 8:00 p.m.
Trying to end a four-game losing streak, the men's basketball team travels to Skidmore, a team that beat them twice last year and currently sits tied for second in the Liberty League with a 3-2 record.

SATURDAY, 1/29

Men's and Women's Squash vs. Columbia University, North-

eastern University and Bard College: 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.—Kenyon Hall
Throughout the day the men's squash team will host Columbia, Northeastern and Bard. Of those teams, the Vassar men have only played Bard already this season, defeating the visiting Raptors 8-1 on November 13. Columbia will return to Poughkeepsie on Feb. 12 for the Vassar Team Challenge.

Women's Squash vs. Columbia University and Northeastern University: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—Kenyon Hall
On Saturday the women's squash team will host Columbia and Northeastern. Last year, Columbia traveled to the Vassar team challenge, although the two teams did not face. In 2009, Vassar ousted Columbia in the team challenge 5-4.

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving: 1:00 p.m. at New York University (NYU)
Last year on senior day, the men's team was overcome by the Violets, 140-101. The woman's team was also overcome on senior day last year, 177-65. The NYU meet marks the Brewers' final dual meet of the season.

Men's Volleyball vs. University of New Haven: 1:00 p.m. in Boston at Emmanuel College: 3:00 p.m.
Vassar will travel to Boston for a dual meet with the University

of New Haven and Emmanuel College. The Brewers last faced New Haven in 2006, dropping the match 3-0. Emmanuel represents the fifth team in Vassar's six games that qualified for the NECVA tournament last season.

Women's Basketball at Union College: 2:00 p.m.
With first place in the Liberty League likely on the line, Vassar and Union will play in Schenectady for the first of two meetings this season. Both teams currently hold 4-1 conference records, tops in the league. Last season the Brewers took both contests between the schools, winning at home 59-46 and on the road 65-46.

Men's Basketball at Union College: 4:00 p.m.
Vassar will look for another conference win visiting Union College, who currently sits in last place in the Liberty League at 1-5. Last season in the second meeting between the schools, Vassar held a 50-49 lead with under five minutes to play, before Union came back, prevailing 67-57.

MONDAY, 1/31

Men's and Women's Fencing at Yale University: 7:00 p.m.
In a makeup of a previously postponed match, the men's and women's fencing team will travel to Yale, who narrowly defeated the men's team 15-12 last year. The women's team fared no better, losing 17-10 last season.