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Stentor

2-25-2010

Lake Forest College Stentor, February 25, 2010

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Recommended Citation

"Lake Forest College Stentor, February 25, 2010" (2010). *Stentor*. Vol. 125, No. 13.
<http://publications.lakeforest.edu/stentor/86>

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The Stentor

VOL 126, № 13

Publishing since 1887

February 25, 2010

Women's rights highlited in new and old events

MARGARET COHN
NEWS EDITOR
news@lakeforest.edu

At 6 pm on Monday, February 22, girls were lined up by Boomer's Cafe in the Mohr Student Center. It was Love Your Body Day and girls were lining up to create t-shirts that would promote a

positive body image. Students for Women's Awareness Network, or more commonly known as SWAN, is an awareness group on campus that was created in 2005 "with the goal of providing Lake Forest College students access to informative programs, speakers, and activities related to a variety of women's issues,"

according to the school's website.

Love Your Body Day t-shirt making is an annual event on campus, but this year junior Emily Snowberg, President of SWAN, was especially proud of the turnout. SWAN expects that thirty to forty people showed up to make t-shirts or support the cause. By the end of the

night there was only three or four t-shirts left and one tube of puff paint.

"This year we seem to have a great turnout. I'm happy if one person shows up, but this is amazing," she commented.

By writing encouraging messages

See body on page three

News

Body



Photo Courtesy of Margaret Cohn

Students pick out shirts and paint to decorate with.

on the t-shirts, girls are promoting the idea of a positive body image, which is so important for healthy lifestyles. It is when girls become upset with

their appearance and when media messages get into girl's minds that they begin taking unhealthy measures to create the body image they think is beautiful.



Photo on left courtesy of Blake Brownstein

Another model in the Parisian Fashion Experience.

"You can't lose weight overnight and you can't change your body like that," PR Representative Mary Ashley Federer said. "We [girls] can't become part of the cycle [of eating disorders]."

Even though National Love Your Body Day is actually in the fall, this year, SWAN decided to hold its events during National Eating Disorder Week to tie the two important issues together.

Tuesday night in the Mohr Student Center another event dealing with loving one's body took place. The fashion show, titled A Parisian Fashion Experience brought together three student organizations: SWAN, the French Club, and the Art Club. The fashion show was a fundraiser for a Lebanese Women's Shelter. The shelter provides for physically and emotionally abused women, and it is the first of its kind in Lebanon.

The show included body painting, Love Your Body Day t-shirts, and various campus organizations doing their best interpretations of different fashion houses. This event, like the t-shirt decorating drew a large crowd, making the first year of the fashion show a great success.

SWAN is holding other events that have to do with Love Your Body Day, so look for those events. One of the events,



Photo Courtesy of Blake Brownstein

One of the models of the Parisian Experience

The Women's Conference will be on March 21 and will feature speakers on women's rights, issues and health, which is this year's theme. SWAN was recently approved to hold a screening of the controversial play, The

Vagina Monologues, which will take place at the end of April. One of their other annual events, The Safe Sex Toy Party, takes place in the fall and always attracts a crowd so large that students line the stairs leading down to the Student Center.

News Briefs:

Relay for Life Fundraiser at the Lantern

Bring your friends for a great dinner out and support RELAY FOR LIFE!!

Lake Forest College Relay for Life will be having a proceeds night at The Lantern on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25th from 6pm-12am.

Relay for Life will receive 10% of all sales during this time!!

Students under 21 will be asked to leave at 10pm due to The Lantern's policy.

Come support Relay For Life and have a great time!!

Upcoming Events

2/25- Yoga Group in Buchanan Hall from 6-7:15 pm

2/25- Tri Delta's Karaoke for a Cure from 7-10 pm in the Mohr Student Center

2/26- Zumba from 4:30-5:30 pm in Buchanan Hall

2/27- Graduate School Practice Tests - LSAT from 10 am-1 pm in Young Hall room 126

2/27- Graduate School Practice Test - MCAT from 10:15 am- 1 pm in Young Hall room 117

2/27- Graduate School Practice Test - GRE from 10 am- 1 pm in Young Hall room 111

2/27- Purim ACP - The "Jewish" Halloween from 10 pm-2 am in the Mohr Student Center

3/2- Life Science Seminar Series-'How Neurons Change During Learning in Young and Aging Brains' at 4:30 pm in the Donnelly and Lee Library Reference Area

3/3- SOAP meeting from 12-1 pm in the Pierson Rooms

3/3- St. Jude Month/ Sincerely Yours from 1-5 pm in the upper balconies of the Mohr Student Center

3/4- Yoga Group in Buchanan Hall from 6-7:15 pm

The Lake Forest College
STENTOR
Magna est veritas & prevalebit.
CONTACT INFORMATION
(847) 735-5215

GENERAL INQUIRIES	stentor@lfc.edu
SUBSCRIPTIONS/ ADVERTISING	advertising@lfc.edu

STAFF

ANNE COOPER - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF - EDITOR@LFC.EDU
NATE BUTALA - MANAGING EDITOR - MANAGER@LFC.EDU
MARGARET COHN - NEWS EDITOR - NEWS@LFC.EDU
SONIA AXELROD - COPY EDITOR - COPY@LFC.EDU

KAVITA SESHAN - PHOTO EDITOR - PHOTOS@LFC.EDU
ZAKEA BOEGER - FEATURES EDITOR- FEATURES@LFC.EDU
IRENE RUIZ DACAL - FEATURES EDITOR - FEATURES@LFC.EDU
ANDREW VAN HERIK - OPINIONS EDITOR - OPINIONS@LFC.EDU

EDU
NICK CANTOR - SPORTS EDITOR - SPORTS@LFC.EDU
TAMIMA HASHIM - BUSINESS EDITOR- BUSINESS@LFC.EDU
HEATHER BROWN - ADVISOR

News

Cabin Fever Jazz returns to Gorton



Photo Courtesy of jazztrad.blogspot.com

Red Rose Ragtime Band getting ready for a performance.

**COURTNEY
HAMILL**
CONTRIBUTER
hamilcc@lakeforest.edu

This Valentine's Day marked the start of the 22nd season of the

Cabin Fever Jazz concert series at local Gorton Community Center. The series kicked off with the Red Rose Ragtime Jazz band, whose members have been performing together throughout the United States and Europe, for over 20 years. In a style infused

with incredible energy and a clear passion for jazz, the Red Rose Ragtime band put on a performance that showcased not only their amazing talent, but the loyal following of Jazz fans that flock to Gorton each year for this much-loved series.

Whether a loyal fan

of jazz music or someone with a general interest in various musical genres, you will find that the *Cabin Fever Jazz* series has something unique and worthwhile to offer. As students of Lake Forest College, we are constantly on the lookout for new and economical ways

to spend our free time. With transportation and budgets to contend with, the *Cabin Fever Jazz* series at Gorton is a hidden gem worth discovering. A mere 5-10 minute walk, depending on your speed, and a student ticket price of only \$10 (adults are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door) the *Cabin Fever Jazz* series is a must during the winter season.

In addition to the reasonable price tag and idyllic location, the series also showcases different sub-genres of jazz to fit everyone's taste, with everything from traditional, to Afro-Cuban styles. There are three remaining concerts of the season, meaning it's not too late to check out really great music and acquaint yourself the Gorton Community Center and their wonderful programs.

3 remaining concerts of the series:

Friday, February 26: 8-10pm

The Ryan Cohan Septet

Currently serving as Jazz Ambassador for the U.S. State Department, world-renowned musician Ryan Cohan returns to Gorton to showcase his latest

composition, influenced by his recent tour of Africa.

Sunday, March 14: 4-6pm

Dee Alexander Quartet

A celebrated female vocalist from Chicago, Dee Alexander returns to Gorton to perform her songs which present both her talent, and range.

Sunday, March 21: 4-6pm

Chévere

Ending the 22nd season, Chicago's popular Latin/Jazz/Fusion/Blues Band, Chévere performs original compositions with high-energy and a distinct sound.

*For full performance descriptions, tickets or information: www.gortoncenter.org (847) 234-6060



Campus Watch



Case Number: 1000075
Date & Time Reported: 2/20/2010
9:39:40 PM
Location: GREGORY HALL
Offense: CONDUCT / RULE VIOLATION
Incident: CHARCOAL GRILL ON BALCONY
Disposition: CLEARED W/SVC RENDERED

Case Number: 1000077
Date & Time Reported: 2/21/2010
12:54:24 AM
Location: GREGORY HALL
Offense: DAMAGE TO PROPERTY - CRIMINAL/VANDALISM
Incident: BROKEN WINDOW REPORTED
Disposition: CLEARED W/NOTIFICATION

Case Number: 1000081
Date & Time Reported: 2/23/2010
7:09:51 AM
Location: SOUTH CAMPUS
Offense: BURGLARY
Disposition: CLOSED PENDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Features

Tea with the Undertaker: Emerging writer visits Lake Forest College

MADEEHA KHAN
STAFF WRITER
khanmw@lakeforest.edu

IRENE RUIZ DACAL
FEATURES CO-EDITOR
ruizdie@lakeforest.edu



Sitting across from Gretchen Henderson in the Library as she sips “Wild Berry” tea, we’re struck by her warmth and gentle exuberance. Winner of the 2010 Madeline P. Plonsker Emerging Writers Prize, Henderson begins by asking us each what we plan to do after Lake Forest College. She explains that this is the best part of the Residency: being able to have coffee and dinner with students, to be able to get a sense of the College, to be subtly and genuinely influenced by

the voices and the music of these young minds.

The Plonsker Residency allows Henderson a unique opportunity to complete and publish (with &Now, an imprint of Lake Forest College Press) her manuscript entitled *Galerie de Difformité*, a work that identifies less as a traditional book and more as a museum of thought, along the lines of “choose your own adventure.” For Henderson, “museumology [can be] a narrative strategy,” teeming with history and interpretation, even complicity. Although “[museums] have an entrance and an exit,” explains Henderson, the power between the two rests in the eyes and minds of each beholder. Every *Galerie* reader may discover different themes and masterpieces, or come to one of countless possible interpretations. *Galerie de Difformité* has no chapters, but “Exhibits” interspersed among images, letters (as in, epistles), essays on

deformity, poems, directives, and other curiosities leading readers down rarely trodden paths.

Henderson herself (at least, a fictionalized version) serves as Undertaker of the museum, stating on the accompanying *Galerie* website (a collaborative offshoot of the project and virtual gallery): “If the object of uniting a certain degree of Beauty with Deformity, through Utility, has been attained, the merit is the Artists. —If not, the Undertaker is willing to bear the blame.” By deforming traditional literary forms, Henderson seeks to draw attention to deformity and its negative contexts in contemporary society. However, in juxtaposing and metamorphosing different genres, she sees the *Galerie* as communicating the “regenerative power of what’s deformed” to “widen our sense of normalcy.” Henderson hopes that *Galerie de Difformité* will encourage people to think more generously and

generatively about forms, both books and bodies.

Parallel to the influence of the museum, Henderson’s training in vocal performance plays an important role in her storytelling. For Henderson, *Galerie de Difformité* is a natural evolution of the role that music has played in her life through the voice: breathing, listening, singing. “Every element of the body is needed to produce voice,” says the writer, and her *Galerie* is comprised of innumerable elements that attempt to produce a voice, or sometimes several. “It took me a long time to learn to listen, and I’ll be honing that art for the rest of my life.” In this way, the *Galerie* invites readers to listen as it becomes a chorus of voices.

Indeed, a few Lake Forest students have already begun to help shape her project. In our interview, Henderson extended a campus-wide invitation to the LFC community to contribute to her undertaking. The online

offshoot of her project (difformite.wordpress.com) encourages, nay beseeches, “Subscribers” to deform “Exhibits,” photograph and submit them for possible inclusion in the book, with certain publishing on the website. The realm of contribution has widened to include audio, as Henderson encourages readers to “deform the aural dimensions of Exhibits to see, namely hear, how they vary.”

The very nature of new media supports Henderson’s views on the future of how we process narratives, and art in general. As a living organism, the brain doesn’t operate on a single fixed plane for even a moment, yet we expect literature to remain unchanging. Henderson “adores the tactility” of books as much as the rest of us, but she applauds new media literature that offers and engages a more versatile approach to literacy. Regarding her literary plans for the future, Henderson

would like to return to a novel that was runner-up for the AWP (Associated Writing Programs) Award, finish a book-length critical performative essay on musical adaptations in literature, and explore more poetry, art and sound collaborations. This summer, she will be a Peter Taylor Fellow at the Kenyon Review Writers’ Workshop in Ohio at Kenyon College, where she is an Affiliated Scholar in English.

Gretchen Henderson will be present and active at the 2010 Lake Forest Literary Festival, reading alongside keynote speakers such as Vanessa Place and Shelley Jackson. Henderson greatly encourages all students and the larger community to participate in deformation and reformation through the virtual *Galerie de Difformité* (difformite.wordpress.com) and equally encourages students to take her up for tea and a pleasant chat.

Photo Courtesy of difformite.wordpress.com

Classifieds:

Aging engine looking for “spark” plug: Is it you?

Even lonlier Stentor continually seeks partners of all kinds. Dry spell nearing longest it’s ever been.

(Still) seeking all literate persons who don’t mind trying something new.



Photo courtesy of Gretchen Henderson.

Irene Ruiz Dacal’s exhibit as displayed on Henderson’s website.

Features

“The Book Stall” at Chestnut Court

ZAKEA BOEGER
FEATURES EDITOR
boegeza@lakeforest.edu

I've never ventured off into Winnetka before, and as I disembarked from the Metra I found myself in a sleepy little town. It was cold, rainy, and extremely foggy. Everything appeared to be closed. Even worse, The Book Stall was a significantly longer distance than Mapquest had prepared me to walk. Shivering, miserable and quite bitterly attempting to forge on, I began to regret my decision: was giving up a few hours of precious Sunday morning sleep worth this drudgery?

And then, after however many odd minutes of walking, I realized that I was going in the entirely wrong direction. I backtracked. Winnetka: 1, Zakea: 0.

Finally coming to the large intersection that I was originally told to look for, Winnetka seemed to completely transform. I ran into people – actual people! And stores and coffee shops and all kinds of places. Within three or four minutes I found The Book Stall, conveniently located

directly next to a Caribou Coffee. With my previous adventure leaving me with skeptical expectancies as to the inner workings of Winnetka, I tried to get excited.

Rebounds seemingly the theme of my day, it's probably expected that I was very pleasantly surprised with The Book Stall. The definition of a cozy bookstore, there were at least 20 or so people, all of entirely mixed ages, who had come to see author Richard Peck. While waiting for Peck, I took a look around. The Book Stall offered all of the choices of a commercial bookstore, but appeared a bit more personalized. As you can see on their website (thebookstall.com), The Book Stall plays host to a countless number of events throughout the year. Their calendar appears to be frequently updated, with 14 events coming up in the next month and a half. Meals with inspirational women authors, talks with well-known (and not so well-known) authors are all planned, and seem to vary a great deal by subject. In the store, a complete collection of various autographed books is also available – a rarity at chain stores like Borders.

On a side note, if you ever stumble upon the chance, I also highly recommend sitting in on a Peck presentation. Having written (and still writing) numerous children's books, Peck still found a way to cater his talk to the adults in the audience, bringing with him the sense of humor that is often laced through his books. He gave advice to aspiring writers and made sure to hold at least a small conversation with anyone who fancied a chat or a simple “hello.”

As a little wrap-up, yes, this article is obviously just my opinion, and (perhaps just as obvious) a bit of a filler. That being said, I really do think The Book Stall is an unexpectedly awesome place. So if you're looking for a kickin' time in a bookish sort of way, I highly recommend taking the 20 or so minute train ride to Winnetka, and opening your mind to a little exploration.



Local patrons shop at The Book Stall.

Photo courtesy of Winnetkanow.com

Gentleperson's ★ Gourmand

This week, the Features section would like to offer an apology. With our weekly *Gentleperson's Gourmand* section, we aim to offer students an open forum for “dishing out” their feelings (whether positive or negative) about foods found on campus.

Keeping that in mind, we feel that an apology is in order for last week's *Gentleperson*. Last week seemed to be more of a personal critique than a critique of the actual food, and we do not want, in any form, *Gentleperson's Gourmand* to become a forum for attacks on various chefs. Perhaps you noticed our blunder, and perhaps you did not, but in any case, look forward to a return to food-focused writing in *Gentleperson's Gourmand*.

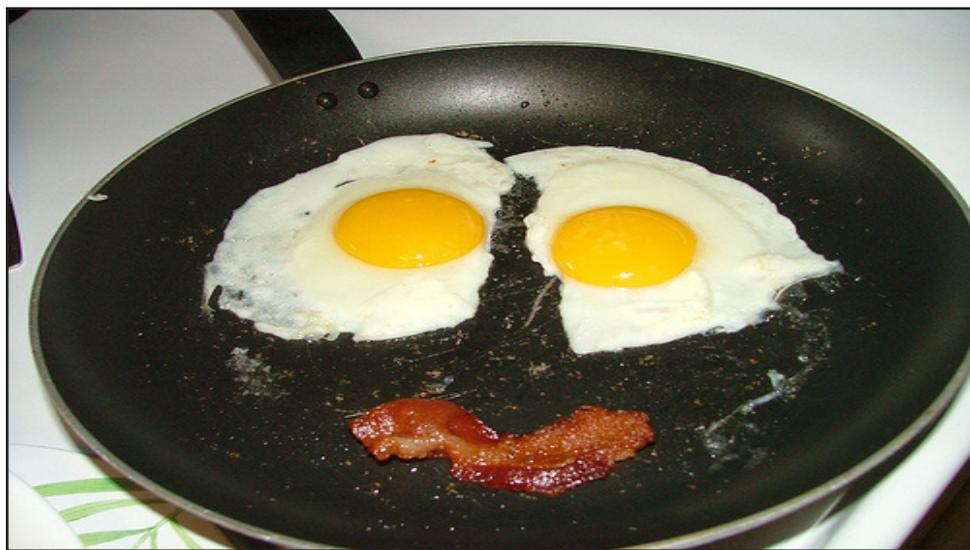


Photo courtesy of Bacontoday.com.

Happier times ahead in “Gentleperson's Gourmand.”

Opinions

Article on airport security shows just how far we haven't come

SHAWNA HITE
EDITOR

hitesd@lakeforest.edu

The thought, "I might never fly again" flew through my head after reading an article entitled "The Things He Carried" from *The Atlantic*. Jeffery Goldberg wrote this article after smuggling illegal items and exhibiting suspicious behavior in several of our national airports. Goldberg did everything from carrying pocketknives and rope onto planes to cutting up counterfeit boarding passes in airport bathrooms—in plain sight (no pun intended).

Throughout these escapades, he wasn't detained from boarding once. Granted, he was at least selected for secondary screening two out of twelve times, and he did have a pair of nail clippers and a Fuji water bottle taken away from him. (This is better than nothing, of course, even if he had no trouble still getting on the

planes and doing so with dust masks, box cutters, and the pocketknives and rope that the security managed to overlook while taking away his nail clippers). Nor was any of his odd behavior in the restrooms reported to airport security.

But what is my point in complaining about the level of security in our airports? After all, most people have heard about the true lack of safety surrounding airplanes. But that is largely part of my concern. When I read the article, I wasn't surprised at what Goldberg had found (and the airport failed to find). He filled five and a half pages with examples of the illegal things he got away with and the apathy of the security toward them, but I hadn't thought the outcome would be any different.

Goldberg also spent another page describing a conversation between him and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which made me highly doubt the amount

of progress or true effort toward safer airports being completed. But these are sadly the same doubts that most people have.

Therefore, my issue isn't so much that airport security is being proved time and again to fail, but that we know airport security is so terrible, and yet nothing effective is being done about it. Goldberg successfully took illegal items into Washington Reagan National Airport, Los Angeles, New York, Miami, Chicago, and the Scranton International Airport. Of these six airports, let me remind you, he was selected for secondary screening only twice... and then allowed to pass through regardless. There are seven billion dollars going to the TSA and an average guy who is ripping up boarding passes in plain sight is going uninhibited onto the planes that millions ride.

Everyone in the U.S. knows how devastating poor airport security can be. 9/11 is an obvious example,

and so are the numerous airport shutdowns and scares which have been occurring lately. And though the TSA is receiving seven billion dollars a year, it still can't stop a man taking pocketknives aboard a plane.

To me, the seven billion dollars just seems representative of the inability of our government to spend our money wisely. It's not that the government shouldn't be investing money in the safety of our airlines; it's that they should be effectively investing that money. That the seven billion dollars let an amateur man break through airport security over a dozen times shows major inadequacy of those running the TSA.

Perhaps what Goldberg did isn't a big deal because he wasn't truly meaning any harm. But if a man purposefully experimenting with tactics to get caught can't be caught, how do we expect to catch those who truly mean destruction and

are trying not to get caught? The question isn't just why Goldberg didn't get caught; but more frighteningly, who else is slipping through our security on a day to day basis... and who will slip through in the future?

Furthermore, what truly troubled me after reading the article was that our government is spending billions of dollars on a program which has such large holes and, yet, it doesn't seem that those holes are trying to be filled with the resources available or that this bothers anyone around the airports or program. In order for something defective to improve, people have to care enough to fix it. And outside of listening to another five minute announcement on the news about another security breach, few do.

We don't want a repeat of the accidents that have happened in the past, such as 9/11. But with the current conditions in our airport security and people's apathy

toward it, how can we be at all convinced it won't?

The climax is at the end of the article when Goldberg enters security with a fake boarding pass and no ID and is still allowed to pass through by the supervisor.

Goldberg told what the supervisor said to him: "All right, you can go," he said, pointing me to the X-ray line. "But let this be a lesson for you."

Of course, the only lesson Goldberg learned was that he could get away with a lot in airport security. But this quote seems pretty representative of what our nation has learned about security in general. We've learned that we lack the proper items to do our job right, but we are not doing anything about the lesson we've painfully learned.

I encourage you to log onto theatlantic.com to read a copy of the article "The Things He Carried" for yourself.

Words from abroad: More observation and The Splinter

MARIO BALDASSARI
COLUMNIST

baldamj@lakeforest.edu

In last week's article, I outlined a number of similarities between Chicago and Sevilla. But, the article lacked one important similarity and the statement of an equally important difference.

First, the similarity I missed is that both cities have very distinctive speaking accents. Chicagoans have a Midwest-ish sort of Minnesota-y accent that is a mixture of the regional accents, while leaving out any Canadian or farm influence and hardening it up a little from city livin'.

S e v i l l a n o s

(pronounced seh-vee-yah-nos) have a very distinct version of the accent that is dictated by the region, Andalusia. They have the infamous Spanish lisp as is customary, but they add to it by dropping off the "s" at the end of words and skipping over the "d" that is second-to-last in the participle form of most verbs and any other word that ends in "-ado."

So both cities have regional-yet-specific accents. I asked a guy I met in the Canary Islands a few weeks ago in Spanish, with my very heavy Sevillano accent, if he spoke English, and he had no idea what I was saying.

The difference I missed is the totally non-proportional variation in the

number of asses grabbed. Ass-grabbing is a big deal in Sevilla, and it's something that I believe has been lost in Chicago. Now, I am referring to random grabs, yes, but also to loving grabs shared between couples on crowded city streets. Just this morning, they were showing on a tabloid show how an actor was getting a good grab in on his girlfriend as they went shopping.

I'm kidding, of course, about thinking that we should up the grabbing in Chicago. I will, however, unabashedly use the joke as a completely jagged and hacky transition into the other thing I'd like to talk about this week. *The Stentor* staff has kindly agreed to work with me on a project that will hopefully

lead to the expansion of the Opinions section and possibly an entirely new section of the newspaper.

(Side note: Why does mentioning that a literary transition is terrible actually make it feel less terrible as you read through it?)

Lake Forest College currently lacks any major artistic outlet for students with humor in their backgrounds. Things like the Opinions section or *Tusitala* include humor, sure; but they aren't focused on humor. The working title for this section is *The Splinter*. Think of a mixture of *The Onion*, *MAD Magazine*, and a Dave Barry article.

The Splinter will begin as a small section of the Opinions section of *The*

Stentor, and it will by no means take over the section or cause it to hurt in any way. Because of its location, it will (at least for now) function within the current structure of *The Stentor*, so all submissions should be sent to Opinions editors Andrew Van Herik and Shawna Hite at opinions@lakeforest.edu.

In the distant future, I envision *The Splinter* having staff meetings a few days a week to bounce around ideas and to brainstorm, and having a staff of writers and artists that produce material as well as review submitted material. The entirety of its construction and functionality will be up for discussion in the coming months as the base of regular

submitters (hopefully) grows.

We are willing to look at any and all submissions to include in this new section, which will appear as soon as we have enough material.

If you're interested, join the Facebook group, which is called *The Lake Forest Lampoon*. If you have some stuff already that you'd like to send in, go for it. We'll include anything from a poem to a story to irreverent commentary to cartoons. I know that plenty of you are funny, and I'd love to see it.

Opinions

Oscar reviews part III: Realities of war and aliens

ANDREW VAN HERIK
EDITOR
vanheah@lakeforest.edu

A shot is fired in the desert, the bullet unseen before it makes solid contact in the small of a man's back. He's dead. Some plastic bags lie conspicuously in the middle of a deserted road and, when removed, reveal an improvised explosive device, an I.E.D. that, we soon find, is connected to a whole hidden circle of brethren, which point inward at our main protagonist, Sergeant First Class William James (Jeremy Renner). He sighs, kneels, and slowly disarms them all. He keeps a component, and, that night, in another world, adds it to his collection under his bed.

The Hurt Locker is not a film about the political implications of occupying a sovereign nation. It does not give some broad perspective on the evolution of strategy or the progress of the war. This is a film about specific people in a specific place at a specific time. It may be microcosmic, but it may just as well be wholly particular. The film places us in and near Baghdad, Iraq in 2004, following an Explosive Ordinance Disposal squad, a part of the Bravo Company of the U.S. Army. Three men: James, Sergeant JT Sanborn (Anthony Mackie), and Specialist Owen Elridge (Brian Geraghty)—for two hours, we know only these men, and those with which they interact.

This is the *Saving Private Ryan* of our modern age. That film showed us the violence of every bullet, the dire scramble of every movement, the filmic reality of World War II. Much has changed in the last sixty years, and much has not. Now, the enemy has no insignias, no standard issue MP40s. Our trio must disarm a car bomb near a tall parking complex. James

deals with the bomb, while Sanborn and Elridge watch the roofs, the minarets, everywhere. Elridge sees a local with a video camera, and suddenly “going up on youtube” sounds like a death sentence.

War has changed. Maybe the cameraman local just wants to document the drama; maybe he wants to see expected carnage. Insurgents, terrorists, extremists, freedom fighters, murderers, devils—call them what you will, but the few antagonists we do see in the film are but faces in a crowd or far-off marksmen, hidden and indistinguishable. Our three soldiers, as they approach a target as one machine, can be just as cold. Both types of men could be anyone, one in the uniform of the Army, the other of a civilian.

But war is also still human. The passions of fear, angst, anger, relief, despair—we see all types in the film. We meet Beckham, a young Iraqi selling DVDs near the Army base. He's a great goalie. James, in a moment of sheer desperation, goes off into the night and enters the house of a professor and his wife, the latter of which throws pans in his face. Disarming bombs seems pretty impersonal compared to infantry combat; that is, until ten explosives are strapped forcibly to a pleading father of four, his hands reaching for the grace of God.

These are the horrors of modern war, both physical and psychological. *The Hurt Locker* is an important film because it does not have any pretense of importance. It is a human story involving events that may have happened, that may happen today, but, regardless, could happen. It brings out of the viewer his or her perspective as much as it imparts its own. I see it, and I bemoan the weaknesses

of man. Another may see it and see the necessity of this conflict.

It is terrifying, it is human, it is war.

When a shack full of alien larvae die, engulfed in well-aimed flames, does any human shed a tear? Certainly not Wikus van de Merwe (Sharlto Copley), the protagonist of *District 9*, who chuckles at the camera and compares the sound to the frying of popcorn shrimp. His views will evolve, but, at the beginning, he is no different, and even worse, than many in this alternate reality.

In the film, this reality is as much a character as any actor. Through documentary and news footage in the introduction, we are told that an alien mothership appeared in the sky above Johannesburg, South Africa in 1982. Inside were over a million aliens, but they were neither high-minded beings nor murderous monsters. They were malnourished refugees looking for a new home; in other words, they were a responsibility and a nuisance. In response, shacks were set up for the aliens, and they became a burden of the state.

Now, in 2010, the shacks are slums, controlled by the politicking forces of Multinational United (MNU), Nigerian weapons/contraband dealers, and the aliens themselves. The film wears its social messaging on its sleeve. Comparisons to inhumane treatment of migrant workers in the U.S., to racism and classism in Apartheid-controlled South Africa and elsewhere, and to nationalist tendencies across the globe are well trod and unhidden.

Yet poignancy remains as long as these struggles continue unabated. Here, the excesses of human abuse of these creatures are massive, from the degradation

of the species with the epithet “prawn” (the aliens are bipedal, but have a crustacean-like appearance), to casual killing and invasive experiments of innocent individuals. We wonder at the cruelty, but it does not surprise us.

What is surprising is the narrative of the film, its content and how it is told. For the first, as mentioned, we follow the tale of Wikus, who begins wholly bumbling and unlikable, but, after he becomes a fugitive himself, begins to change. His transition is not quick, nor easy, and it takes almost the entire film before he acts without selfish intent, a refreshing pace. Together with Christopher Johnson (an alien given serious character and personality) and Johnson's son, Wikus disrupts the abuse of MNU, though his is a harrowing tale indeed. There is real pain, suffering, and disgust. Nothing is easy or clean.

To the second, the film relies on the conceit of a film crew, or security tapes, or news cameras, though it does have cinematic cameras at times. Still, one never feels separate from the environment or experience. Blood splatters on the lens, professors discuss the events with a crew, and it all feels too close to home.

Neill Blomkamp's first major film is a success for all this intrinsic quality and substance. It's different, viable, and thematically unified. As an alien is used for target practice or evicted for the sake of efficiency, we cannot help but wonder why, if we so hate this treatment of an extraterrestrial being, do we allow it to occur daily to members of our own species. But, we also care for the alien as a part of the fiction, and that is true success.

Olympic figure skating, bringing families together in fandom

KATIE McLAIN
COLUMNIST

mclaike@lakeforest.edu

Last week, NBC aired the men's Olympic figure skating programs, and on Tuesday and Thursday night, I sat down at my computer for a Facebook meeting with my sister. We have a mutual love of men's figure skating, and we talked online for a total of six hours, analyzing each second of the competition, including the commercials.

My parents' reaction to this?

“We're so glad you two don't hate each other any more.”

My sister and I still have our moments of mutual dislike, but men's figure skating has become a common bond between the two of us, a bond that

“*When Lysacek won gold, my sister called me so that we could shriek together over the phone.*”

has the power to neutralize animosity, at least for a few hours. And the funny thing is that neither of us is especially concerned with the sport itself. Sure, we love seeing a perfect quadruple toe loop, but we couldn't distinguish between a triple lutz and a triple axel if our lives depended on it.

We've been watching men's figure skating together ever since we first saw Evan Lysacek compete in the 2006 Olympics, and since then, our shared fascination has only increased. We revel in the sport's absurd drama and mudslinging, taking personal offense to any negative comments directed towards Lysacek. We keep each other up-to-

date on skating news and remind each other of when the next competition will broadcast. And with an event as tumultuous as the Olympics, how could we pass it up?

Thankfully, drama was not in short supply, and my sister and I were there for every minute of it. We laughed when American skater, Johnny Weir, was only able to skate his way to fifth place. We booed when reigning Olympic champion, Evgeni Plushenko, took the ice. We cheered when Lysacek skated perfectly in both of his programs. And when Lysacek won gold, my sister called me so that we could shriek together over the phone.

Both of us have tried to explain the excitement of figure skating with our

friends, but no one seems to share our irrational joy. And to be perfectly honest, we don't totally understand it either. Maybe our bond's uniqueness gives it staying power, or maybe we've somehow realized that without something to agree on, we'd have strangled each other years ago. Or maybe we just like giggling over men in sparkly costumes. But regardless of the reasons, my sister and I are thankful for the civility that figure skating has brought to our relationship because we know that when spring rolls around and all the skates are tied up and put away, all bets are off.

Sports

Women's Hockey *Sets the bar*

NICK CANTOR
SPORTS EDITOR
cantons@lakeforest.edu

History was made last Friday February 19th as the women's hockey team skated off the ice, champions of The National Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) for the first time in their program's history.

A 3-1 triumph over Concordia University clinched the title, highlighting a season full of success that returned the team back to seventh place in the USCHO poll. On Saturday, the final regular season home game for Seniors Courtney Bean, Carolyn Theiss, and Jamie Sauer, the Foresters posted a 5-4 victory over Concordia University Wisconsin.

The day also marked the presentation of the first ever Ryann "Ry" McCarthy Award, named

in honor of McCarthy, the women's hockey player who passed away last year, with the recipient going to two-year captain Jamie Sauer. Sauer, honorable mention for the 2009 All-NCHA selection, was presented the award by McCarthy's family in between the first and second periods.

With their record now standing at 16-2-4 (10-1-4 in NCHA play), the Foresters are now gearing up for their biggest test yet: the Conference Tournament.

Although the season has been an unforgettable one thus far, Head Coach Carisa Zaban knows that it is important for the team to remain focused and motivated for the upcoming tournament this weekend: "With

the playoffs, it's any team's game. Everyone's record goes back to 0-0. It doesn't matter what you've done before or who you've beaten."

The Forester's first contest will come this weekend with back-to-back games in the NCHA O'Brien Cup Quarter Finals where they will face off against Finlandia University, a team they have already beaten twice this year.

They will face them Saturday night at 7 p.m and then again Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Despite topping Finlandia twice at home this season 4-0 and 5-1 during the weekend of November 21-22, Coach Zaban stressed the importance of not taking this weekend's matchup lightly: "We need to come

out hard this weekend against Finlandia and remember what has made us successful up to this point and not change the way we have been playing. We have to get the job done and come at them hard and show them why we finished #1 (in the Midwest Conference)."

Should the Foresters come out on top, they will advance to the Semi-finals against a team to be determined. In a season full of success and recognition, the Foresters have no plans to see it come to an end this weekend. It has been a memorable season up to this point, perhaps yet another motivation to keep it alive for just a little longer.

Future looks bright for Swim Team

GREGORY MCADAMS
SPORTS EDITOR
mcadagr@lakeforest.edu

On every locker on the men's swim team there was a picture of the Grinnell Pioneers winning the Midwest Conference tournament. This picture set the tone and attitude for the team this season for them to have the phenomenal season that they had this year.

The Lake Forest College Men and Women's swim team had an unbelievable season.

They improved leaps and bounds from where they were last year. This year they finished 2nd in the Midwest Conference and had Beck Shaak and Alex Marks named Midwest Conference swimmers of the year, a huge accomplishment for both of those individuals. Also, it was a special year for the team because head coach Vadim Tashlitsky was named coach of the year for both the men and women's teams in the Midwest Conference.

After such great success at the Midwest Conference Tournament in Lawrence, the men and women's swim teams have established themselves as one of the top contenders in the conference for next season. With a relatively young class Lake Forest will have the opportunity to challenge the Grinnell Pioneers for the number one spot in the conference. Grinnell has dominated the conference in men and women's swimming, but

the Foresters are starting to put pressure on them to maintain that distinction.

Notable Foresters last weekend were Freshmen Michael Tunzi and Diego Ledesma who placed among the leaders in the men's 100-freestyle.

Alex Marks claimed a conference record in the 200 meter breast stroke. Sophomore Ellen Stoehr recorded a victory in the 200-butterfly with a time of 2:11.09, ranking her second in team history. Freshman Chris Wiatr was the runner-up in the men's 1650-freestyle with a time of 16:56.26 and classmate J.J. Conoscenti finished third in 17:08.95. Junior Mike Mackin posted his third runner-up performance of the weekend in the men's 200-backstroke.

Sophomore Jade Perkins took second place in the diving competition. Her teammates Samantha Gardener and Chandler Foster were also in the top five slots of the conference. These performances are some of the best ever recorded for the Lake Forest College men and women's swim team.

This has been an unforgettable year for the Lake Forest College men and women's swim team. They accomplished tasks and goals that made them worth remembering. Although they did not beat Grinnell College, they are on the path to being the next great conference championship team.

Photos Courtesy of Mike Wajerski



left: The Women's Hockey Team poses for the camera after the NCHA title win.