



WANTED: wealthier students

Strategy to attract wealthier students yields mixed results

by David Archer

Two years ago the Board of Trustees asked Jim Sumner, dean of admissions and financial aid, to compose incoming classes that would be less reliant on financial aid, by design altering the socio-economic diversity of the college and relieving pressure on the operating budget. But as the last two incoming classes demonstrate, predicting the economic composition of a class is an inexact science at an institution committed to need-blind admissions.

For the class that entered in the fall of 2002—the class of '06—the admissions department successfully reduced reliance on financial aid. The class's discount rate, that is the amount of tuition paid minus financial aid, dropped to 46 percent compared to 51 percent and 49 percent in the two preceding classes.

For the class of 2007, however, the admissions department failed to achieve its goal of reduced reliance, said Sumner. The class's discount rate is 53 percent despite a high number of applications from "prosperous families." Sumner said the "middle of the pack prosperous" students decided not to enroll and instead likely went to their local state university or another school of lesser academic caliber.

In the resolution passed in April of 2001, the board of trustees did not specify a target discount rate for the student body, but Sumner estimated "that they would want it around 40-45 percent," down from the current average of 49 percent.

Members of the board say the resolution was passed out of a concern for economic diversity and financial prudence, considering financial aid consumes roughly one quarter of the school's budget.

"We're concerned with economic diversity. Our pool of applicants has increasingly reflected people of less affluent backgrounds."

—Russell Allen '68,
trustee

The school's dedication to need-blind admissions translates to a more socio-economically diverse student body than many of our peer institutions and some members of the board feel that the community could benefit by enrolling more students from wealthy backgrounds.

"We're concerned with economic diversity," trustee Russell Allen '68 said. "Our pool of applicants has increasingly reflected people of less affluent backgrounds."

The resolution allows the office of admissions to be flexible in how it achieves the goal. It simply asks admissions to "recruit more low-need and no-need students" and to "place greater emphasis on merit based financial aid." However, the resolution also reaffirmed the college's commitment to need-blind admissions, meaning the office of admissions must attract more wealthy prospective students to the applicant pool to increase the probability that those students will be admitted and enrolled.

The office of admissions has taken a two-pronged approach to recruit wealthier students. First, they send tailored letters to all high schoolers in their sophomore or junior year who fall within a certain range of scores on the PSAT and PACT. If the student does not respond and lives in a high-income zip code then the college sends another invitation to apply. The college does not extend a second invitation to unresponsive students who live in poorer zip codes.

The second tactic is to send more representatives from the college to high schools attended by students from wealthy families. Sumner said the goal of the admissions department is to convey to prospective students that whatever they pay, whether it's \$2,500 or \$25,000, the education will be worth it.

If it comes to the last two spots and it's between the rich mediocre student and the poor excellent student they will always choose the better student, said Sumner.



Eric Poor applies primer to the windows in President Osgood's new dining room.

photo by John Bowers

Residence renovations

by Trevor Harran

Over the next few months, President Osgood's college-owned residence will be getting a facelift in the form of a larger dining room. "[We've] lived with it for five years and we just couldn't accommodate big dinners," said Osgood.

The budget for the addition comes out of the Building Maintenance and Equipment Fund, which is used to renovate and restore many buildings on campus. Another project covered by the fund was the renovation of Carnegie this summer. Approval for the projects comes directly from the president and Facilities Management.

Osgood's residence, at 1600 Park St., was built in 1960. As a result of some design changes made at the last minute, the house was provided with a very small dining room. When the President's house was renovated in 1998, it was made much more energy efficient and electrical wiring was eliminated completely in the old dining room. The dining room, which according to Osgood was originally a porch, will be replaced by a large, one-room annex put on the back of the house.

Osgood said that the porch will be strictly for "public use," and mostly is being built to accommodate the approximately 30 large dinner parties that are given at the president's house every year. The addition will be ready in time for mid-year graduation, on Dec. 10.

The renovation will also make the dining room more accessible to the elderly and handicapped by putting it all on one level.

The addition is part of long-term renovations planned for the college, including moving catering out of Grinnell House into the new campus center.

The new dining room will cost around \$200,000 and to cut costs there was no bathroom or plumbing included in the plans.

When asked about the renovation in the light of the elimination of several off-campus houses, whose maintenance comes from the same fund, Osgood said that the houses were closed down because of the east campus dorms. He cited the supposedly high student approval for building the new dorms and the fact that "we only need so many beds." The decision had "nothing to do with money," Osgood said.

ODISI's first meeting

by Ben Weyl

Last Thursday about 15 people attended the first meeting of the new group Open Dialogue on Issues of Social Inequality (ODISI). There are many groups in Grinnell that focus on issues of social inequality, but this group is different from the others, according to group organizer Elena Goodrich '06. "It's unique in that it's a good starting place for people," she said. "You can be exposed to a lot of different issues without committing yourself to ten different groups."

An ODISI meeting begins with an individual or group presenting information on a certain topic. The meeting then opens up to dialogue and discussion on the topic. Goodrich also said that the participants would draw the topic at hand into past presentations in an effort to explore the connec-

tions between the different issues of social inequality. Future meetings will feature presentations by Grinnellians for Economic and Social Diversity, the Student Organization of Latinos and the Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites.

Goodrich describes ODISI as a halfway point between classes and activist groups. There is no homework, and unlike most other groups focused on issues of social inequality, ODISI does not seek to directly effect change. Rather, the group focuses on gaining knowledge and becoming prepared to take action. "It's different from other groups in that it's focused more on dialogue than trying to create change. It's more focused on developing yourself and working together to learn from each other," Goodrich said. "It's spreading knowledge."

ODISI, cont. on p. 4

Discussion leaders

- Nov. 20 — Omar Saunders, former prisoner who was wrongfully accused and served 14 years
- Dec. 4 — SOL (Student Organization for Latinos and Latinas)
- Dec. 11 — Frank Thomas, Vice-President for Diversity
- ODISI will not meet on Nov. 27 and Dec. 18



NEWS BRIEFS

Philosophy conference this weekend

On Saturday, Nov. 15, the Iowa Philosophical Society will meet at Grinnell College. In addition to presentations by scholars based in Iowa, the meeting will feature presentations by guest lecturer Robert Bernasconi, who studied at the University of Sussex in England and is now Lillian and Morrie Moss Professor of Philosophy at the University of Memphis.

According to an announcement distributed to Grinnell professors, Bernasconi is considered "one of the leading scholars of 19th and 20th century European philosophy working in the United States today. His research and teaching interests are in recent continental philosophy (especially Levinas, Sartre, Heidegger and Derrida), Hegel, race theory and social and political philosophy."

Today at 4:15 p.m., in Forum South Lounge, Bernasconi will present a paper entitled "Race and Facticity: On Sartre's and Fanon's Existential Conceptions of Race." He will discuss "the relationship between Sartre's existentialist philosophy and Frantz Fanon's working out of that Sartrian background to develop an existential conception of race," said Grinnell Philosophy professor Alan Schrift.

Africana Studies professor Katya Gibel Azoulay said that Bernasconi's work has helped legitimize critical focus on racial ideology within the discipline of philosophy. "He has significantly helped open up paths of inquiry that before were ignored," said Gibel Azoulay.

On Saturday, November 15 at 4:30 p.m. in Noyce 2022, Bernasconi will present "Sartre's Account of Freedom Revisited: The Passage from Being and Nothingness to Critique of Dialectical Reason." The presentation will focus on the way in which scholars often divide Sartre's work into existentialism and Marxism as two separate stages. "He will, I think, be suggesting that there is a continuity between Sartre's existentialism and Marxism and that's something that some people have denied," said Schrift.

The Iowa Philosophical Conference "gives the various philosophers of the state an opportunity to get together and it presents for the students an opportunity to see some of the range of faculty interest in various philosophical topics from throughout the state," Schrift

said. The Philosophical Society meets annually, and Grinnell hosts the conference approximately every three years. This year, professor Johanna Meehan, Philosophy, is president of the society.
—Dilara Yarbrough

Roots of Renewal concert

The Roots of Renewal project will be presenting a new choral piece at Grinnell High School on Sunday the 16th at 3 p.m. Members of Grinnell College Singers, along with members of the Community Choir, two choirs from the high school and the high school's orchestra, will premiere the six-part piece composed by Craig Thomas Naylor.

The piece had its genesis in the spring of 2002, when the exhibit committee applied to be part of the American Composer's Forum Continental Harmony project. The project connects composers with communities around the nation in order to help build civic pride and provide artistic challenges and venues for contemporary composers. The exhibit committee, after being chosen for the program, selected Naylor from a group of 22 composers to create a "multi-part choral work that could be sung by members of the community," said Lesley Wright, director of Faulconer Gallery.

The choral work, entitled "Roots of Renewal," consists of three choral and three solo movements. The flavor of the music, Wright said, "is contemporary, but not experimental. It's accessible to everyone." Naylor took the lyrics selected for these movements from poems by Iowa writers, three of whom are local Grinnellians.

For those who do not attend the Roots of Renewal Gala Concert, cds of the performance can be ordered and will be available by December. However, Wright said, "The performance itself will be exciting because it is very rare to be at the world-premiere of a piece of music, and you don't often get to hear 500 people singing all at once."
—Emilia Garvey

SGA President Liz Allan held an open meeting Tuesday night to discuss changing the structure of Joint Board. "The meetings could be overall shorter, and still more productive," said the SGA president. The group discussed constitutional, bylaw and agenda reforms, to be voted on at a future date ... On Oct. 22, the U.S. Department of State issued a travel warning for Americans living or traveling in Nepal, citing a recent increase in Maoist rebel violence and reports of threats against Americans. As a result, the college announced on Tuesday that it will be suspending the Grinnell Corps Nepal program until further notice. Current fellows have been sent home ... The *Des Moines Register* reported Wednesday that winds clocked at up to 60 MPH caused power outages in 80 locations across Iowa. The same low pressure system also caused wind advisories in both Iowa and Minnesota, and left five inches of snow in some parts of northern Minnesota ... Although Presidential hopeful Howard Dean will not be in Grinnell this weekend, Dean supporter Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D — N.Y.) will be at the Saint's Rest today at 5 p.m. to discuss political policy ... On Tuesday Nov. 2, Grinnell's mayor, Gordon Canfield, was re-elected to another two-year term with 148 out of 153 votes. Three council members were also re-elected for another four-year term. Voter turnout for the election was two percent.

GMS KIDSART PARTICIPANT

JESSE CUSHMAN PRESENTS THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

7 / friday

8 / saturday

<p>9 / sunday</p> <p>CULTURAL FILM. <i>Cet Amour-la</i>, ARH 302, 2 p.m. CONCERT. Grinnell Collegium Musicum, Sebring-Lewis, 2 p.m. STUDENT ACTIVITY. Knit and Crochet Class, North Lounge, 3 p.m. CONCERT. Roots of Renewal Gala Concert, Grinnell High School, 3 p.m. PRESENTATION. John Kerry, South Lounge, 4:15 p.m.</p>	<p>10 / monday</p> <p>MEETING. Great Valley California Fellows Program resume collection, CDO, 8 a.m. MEETING. Teach for America, Goodnow 109, 8:30 a.m. WORKSHOP. Choosing a Major Workshop II, North Lounge, 7 p.m. LECTURE. "Exporting Problems or Developing Solutions?," Rosenfield Program: Amy Fraenkel '85 and Mark Gottschalk '84, South Lounge, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>11 / tuesday</p> <p>SEMINAR. Physics Dept., Noyce 1023, 12 p.m. PRESENTATION. New York Career Institutes, ARH 102, 4:15 p.m.</p>	<p>12 / wednesday</p> <p>INFO SESSION. Summer Internships, ARH 102, 12 p.m. PRESENTATION. Fischlowitz Presentation, South Lounge, 4:15 p.m. RECITAL. An American Sampler, Faculty Recital, Sebring-Lewis, 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13 / thursday</p> <p>CONVOCATION. "Who Me? Religious Vocation and God's Sense of Humor," David Ruhe '71, Herrick, 11 a.m. OPEN DISCUSSION. Lilly Program convocation speaker David Ruhe '71, Forum Coffeehouse, 4:15 p.m. STUDENT ACTIVITY. Hunger Banquet, North Lounge, 4:30 p.m. PERFORMANCE. <i>Far Away</i>, Flanagan Studio Theatre, 8 p.m. CONCERT. Harp Concert, South Lounge, 8 p.m.</p>	<p>14 / friday</p> <p>PERFORMANCE. Music 110, 200 Student Recital, Herrick, 4:15 p.m. OPEN DISCUSSION. James Kissane, Profesor Emeritus, Mears Living Room, 4:15 p.m. STUDENT ACTIVITY. Israeli Dancing, South Lounge, 4:15 p.m. SWIMMING AND DRIVING VS. LORAS COLLEGE. 6 p.m. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT. 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. STUDENT ACTIVITY. Peer Connection Activity, South Lounge, 6:45 p.m. CONCERT. Grinnell Chamber Ensemble, Sebring-Lewis, 7:30 p.m. PERFORMANCE. <i>Far Away</i>, Flanagan Studio Theatre, 8 p.m. ORCHESTRA PARTY. Harris, 10 p.m.</p>	<p>15 / saturday</p> <p>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT. 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. CONCERT. YGB Gospel Choir, Sebring-Lewis, 4 p.m. CONCERT. Fresh Flutes Ensemble, Sebring-Lewis, 7:30 p.m. PERFORMANCE. <i>Far Away</i>, Flanagan Studio Theatre, 8 p.m. STUDENT ACTIVITY. Dance, Dance Revolution, North Lounge, 10 p.m.</p>
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Coastal Waters and the Environment

Symposium focuses on environmental concerns

by Trymore Magomana

While previous Rosenfield Symposia have habitually focused on social issues, this year's symposium was suffused with science issues. "The six lectures made it clear that the rules of conservation biology are very different in the sea versus on the land," said David Campbell, professor of biology and Chair of the Environmental Studies Concentration.

Last week, the Rosenfield Program, in conjunction with the Henry R. Luce Program in Nations and the Global Environment, brought together distinguished academics to discuss issues pertaining to marine environment in a symposium entitled "Coastal Waters and the Environment."

Kathleen M. Sullivan Sealey, associate professor of biology at the University of Miami, was the second speaker of the symposium. Her discussion centered on the topic "Coastal Ecology of the Bahamas: Balancing the Environment and the Economy."

"I thought this presentation was especially interesting because it addressed an issue very com-

mon to environmentalists today: balancing the economic and human activities with the environment," said Michelle Giles '07. Sealey spoke of difficulties encountered in trying to save different marine species, especially those that migrate from place to place in different seasons. Migration is one of the issues that is more problematic with aquatic animal species than it is with land animals.

"Kathleen Sealey pointed out that most species [types of animals/plants] in the temperate and tropical seas, including both the vertebrates and invertebrates, spend weeks, even months as

plankton larvae, traveling in some instances—like the West Indian spiny lobster—hundreds of miles on ocean currents," Campbell said. "These stocks belong to no one nation and their conservation

must be an international effort"

"The strategy in balancing coastal ecosystems is space allocation and coastal set backs," said Sealey as she concluded her presentation. "These setbacks can be important even for maximizing the envi-

ronmental services from the coastal ecosystems and at the same time protecting the fisheries that have recreational and commercial value."

Many people who managed to attend all the symposia and who spoke with the *S&B* enjoyed "Biology and Conservation of Sea Turtles: Struggling for Survival in a Human

Dominated World" presented by Jeffrey A. Seminoff, an Ecologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, Calif. The discussion on this topic attempted to show the problems faced

by all turtle species across the world. Although focused on a popular issue, Seminoff's presentation highlighted more problems than it offered solutions.

"Some problems, such as the conservation of the North Pacific leatherback turtle seem intractable, as was made clear by Seminoff," Campbell said. "We may be witnessing the extinction of that population." In graphic detail, Seminoff showed the life cycle of the turtles and revealed that the main threat to all turtle species was indiscriminate fishing practices, mainly by shrimp trawlers, who are fishermen who dredge the bottom of the sea where the shrimp dwell. He offered one solution to save most turtles from extinction: the use of Turtle Exclusion Devices (TEDs) by shrimp trawlers. He illustrated the prevention from extinction of Kemp's Ridley turtle by the use of TEDs in the Gulf of Mexico.

Although Semonoff's presentation seemed to be popular among most attendees, not everyone chose his talk as the most interesting and informa-

"The six lectures made it clear that the rules of conservation biology in the sea versus on land."

—David Campbell, *Biology and Environmental Studies*

Symposium, cont. from p. 4



Group provides starting point

ODISI, cont. from p. 1

Some see the group as a logical extension of academic classes. "I feel like in class we talk about the problems and we don't get a chance to figure out what we can do about it," said Nicole Bungert '06, who attended the first meeting. "[ODISI] is a

"It's unique in that it's a good starting place for people. You can be exposed to a lot of different issues ..."

—Elena Goodrich '06

Some find the group appealing because it provides an introduction to many other groups. Dilara Yarbrough '06 attended the first meeting "because I thought it would be a good opportunity to learn more about different groups on campus and the connections between them and also a good way to learn more about activism in Grinnell."

Goodrich also said that ODISI provides a good starting point for activism. "It could be a jump off point to other groups, where you're exposed to something that you want to make a further commitment to," Goodrich said.

One way ODISI hopes to develop the connections between different activist groups is through a publication. "Hopefully it can be a way for different people on campus to voice their opinions on issues that affect them and also a way for campus groups to read about each other's activities and know what's going on," Yarbrough said. "It could be news articles, a calendar, short fiction or poetry ... things that are in other publications in Grinnell but with a more specific focus on issues of social inequality."

ODISI meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. in Loose Lounge.

Experimental technology

New center will provide a space for collaboration and special projects

by Mamata Pokharel

The beginning of next semester will see the opening of a new experimental technology center at 1127 Park St., the former home of the Office of Communication and Events.

According to a memo sent to faculty from Bill Francis, director of ITS, and Helen Scott, associate dean, the center will be a place "where faculty, students, [Curricular Technology Specialists], ITS and librarians can collaborate in a space with leading edge software and hardware and explore the technologies that will support the 21st century curriculum." The center will also serve as an experiment that will inform the future creation of a technology resource center where advanced academic applications of technology will be developed and then moved to classrooms, studios, laboratories and individual computers.

"There is going to be a lot of technology being integrated with information."

—Gail Bonath,
associate librarian

The building will have a helpdesk, a gallery where projects already developed will be displayed, a project room for the teams to work together and an area with five workstations. Advanced technology such as digital editing stations will be available for the development of high-end websites, video productions and digital imaging together with databases for information.

"There is going to be a lot of technology being integrated with information," said Gail Bonath, associate librarian. "We (the library) will be working as the content providers for the projects." She thinks this help will mostly be on an appointment basis but adds that the center is experimental and so the support system will be evolving according to what works and what does not.

Asked how the need for such a center was realized, Francis said, "We noticed that we have differ-

ent general purpose and specific department labs but felt that we did not have a central space that is open to all faculty and can be used for instruction and classes."

The center staff will provide assistance to students who are working on specific academic projects or students who need knowledge of specific course-related applications. The center is an "evolution of our needs of support," said Scott. "We are not ready to do a big thing yet but we are ready to take an experimental step in order to see if it will serve us well and to facilitate collaborative work as much as possible."

Planning for this experimental center has been going on since summer when the Office of Communication and Events moved out, creating the available space. The cost of setting up the center is expected to be well into tens of thousands of dollars and will come from the college budget. Further information on technology plans for the future can be obtained at the ITS website on: <http://www.grinnell.edu/its/future/>

Dangers on coastal waters

Symposium, cont. from p. 3

"The Demise of Caribbean Coral Reefs: Teasing out Local, Regional and Global Impacts" given by William Precht, Manager/Project specialist of the Ecological Services Program, swayed Campbell. "For me, the most intriguing talk was Precht's on the decline of West Indian coral reefs and their replacement by algal reefs," he said. Precht gave a detailed analysis of how diseases, especially the white band disease and pollution, have combined forces to decimate the total biomass of coral reefs, replacing them with the now pervasive algal reefs.

The complex relationship between coral reefs and the effect that a disease, such as the white band disease, can have was an intriguing concept," Giles said. Precht explained how "the genetic similarity—

coral mostly reproduce asexually—of any coral reef species makes them vulnerable," because one disease can wipe them out. He also pointed out that an enormous problem facing marine environmentalists is coral bleaching: the change from green to white by coral due to stress induced by factors like unusually high water temperatures linked to global warming. Prolonged coral bleaching will ultimately culminate in the death of the coral.

Even though the dates, times and venues of the symposia were widely publicized, few students turned up.

"The presentations were all very engaging and made use of slides and images," said Montgomery J. Roper, Anthropology and Chair of the Global Development Studies Concentration. "I was some-

what disappointed by the turnout by the student body for these important issues. ... I learned a lot about the current hot topics in coastal waters and the science that goes into researching them. I think the symposia as a whole did a good job of covering problems and potential solutions."

Giles agreed that the symposia were useful and informative. "I loved the symposia and am grateful that I had the opportunity to hear from so many distinguished speakers," said Giles. "I truly feel that I learned a great deal about coastal waters over those three days and am ... thankful to the speakers who gave up their time to speak at Grinnell College."