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Stentor

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Lake Forest College Stentor, April 7, 2011

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# The Stentor

VOL 126, № 21

April 7, 2011

*Publishing since 1887*

*This week, The Stentor  
reviews The Three Sisters,  
as performed on campus.*

## News

# Administration clears up incorrect beliefs at the rumor forum

**LILLIAN DYPOLD**  
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On Thursday, March 31, 2011, at 7 pm students, Student Government Senators, Dean Flot, Dean McCracken, and President Schutt gathered for the Student Government-sponsored Rumor Forum. The event, designed to address student concerns and rumors floating about campus, was held in the Mohr Student Center. This article, pulling from notes compiled by Student Government Secretary Iwaylo Valchev '14 (all unattributed quotations are from those notes) and from the Student Government Twitter Feed, will recap the main points for those unable to attend. The forum functioned in a question-answer format. The first questioner wondered if there might be improvements or renovations planned for the Theater and Music Departments. Many students involved in these programs see this as a pressing need. Theater students pointed to Hixon's leaking roof and the aging equipment: intercoms without microphones, a green room without a functioning monitor, and the recent discovery of four blown speakers. Music students noted that the choirs are growing too large for their current rehearsal spaces. However, there are currently no plans on the table, as there are more pressing needs—presumably, the Cafeteria renovation and the creation of a new residence hall to accommodate the growing student body. Theater Department Chair Richard Pettengill indicated that the college is looking into creative and new uses of existing spaces, such as the possibility of using Gorton Center for future productions.

Later, President Schutt turned the tables on the students, asking what minor renovations the college might be able to look into. Some of the suggestions were: more showers, kitchens, information about recycling, and water fountains. Additionally, the South Campus residence halls are in dire need of new carpeting. Not surprisingly, lack of parking was also thrown out as a problem. In response, it was said that students can anticipate a few more parking lots to create more parking on campus, and that carpets could be a viable improvement. Making the recycling process more clear is also high on the list of priorities for the Sustainability Committee. In a separate question, a student pointed to the continuing problem of centipedes in Lois. This problem should be submitted to FacMan through your RAs and the exterminator can come to campus more frequently. Another student wondered why financial aid decisions for study abroad programs had not yet been released. This is due to the large sums of money being given out and the growth in

the number of applicants. Students also wondered why transfer of financial aid is guaranteed to ACM programs but not to others. This is because "ACM programs are designed for small schools, and usually encompass the goals of a liberal arts college."

The cafeteria expansion plans, like financial aid decisions, have not yet been released. This is because

the plans are not finalized. There has been a rumor that ARAMARK gave the College a four million dollar loan to finance the expansion in return for a fifteen year contract. President Schutt



Photo courtesy of student government Twitter  
*The administration listen to students concerns.*

confirmed this, however, it's important to remember that "the contract also allows the College to pay back the loan to ARAMARK and dismiss the contract," if needed.

On another note, a student pointed out that the Lake Forest College retention rate is 85%, and asked if there are plans to address this rate. First, it was

resources, such as the Writing Center, may help to increase this retention rate. However, students voiced concerns about the availability of tutors. Prof. Dawn Abt-Perkins was

contacted after the Rumor Forum and laid out what the Writing Center is doing and will be doing to address this issue. "This semester, we have only had one week when we have been booked out for a week in advance. The rest of the semester, we have had appointments available throughout the day and evening. But, admittedly,

the fall of 2011. Finally, the Writing Fellow program and the new alumni volunteer tutoring program (set to debut in the fall) give students the opportunity to get help from recent alumni and attend workshops given by the Writing Fellow, as well. Responding to the comment that the Writing Center might not be working for all students, Abt-Perkins said, "To clarify, all of our data (and we collect quite a bit of it) points to great satisfaction of our standing appointment clients... The question is: Are we serving the students well who are NOT in the program? We want to be sure that we are flexible and offering lots of options."

Sustainability seemed to be an issue on the mind of many. Students first asked if the new dorm could be environmentally friendly. Later, students inquired into plans to the make the campus, as a whole, more sustainable. Both of these concerns will be looked into; however, student interest seems to be low, and, as a result, progress in sustainability on campus, has been slow. There is already a Sustainability Committee on campus, with both student and faculty as members.

The final concerns addressed were noise levels and study spaces in the library. The library will be looking into creating more study spaces. Additionally, students should remember that academic buildings could also be used as study spaces, as most of these buildings stay open until 10:00 pm.

As always, Student Government Senators have office hours outside the cafeteria on a regular basis, and they are eager to hear student concerns and to help students find the right people to talk to.

“*This semester, we have only had one week when we have been booked out for a week in advance. The rest of the semester, we have had appointments available throughout the day and evening. But, admittedly, last fall, we were booked out a week in advance too often throughout the semester. We were not prepared for the demand* - Professor Dawn Abt-Perkins

the number of applicants. Students also wondered why transfer of financial aid is guaranteed to ACM programs but not to others. This is because "ACM programs are designed for small schools, and usually encompass the goals of a liberal arts college."

The cafeteria expansion plans, like financial aid decisions, have not yet been released. This is because

pointed out that the retention rate averages between 82% and 83%, which is actually higher than most schools. Next, more detail was given about why students actually leave. At Lake Forest, most students choose to leave or are asked to leave because of low GPA's. Still, new social programs and changes to New Student Orientation are in the works.

Academic support

last fall, we were booked out a week in advance too often throughout the semester. We were not prepared for the demand." In response, they have added walk-in hours from 5-7pm every evening the Center is open. These walk-in hours, intended to help students in College Writing, will continue in the fall for students in FIYS courses. Additionally, new tutors are being trained for

## Upcoming Events

- 4/7 11:00am  
Biology students visit Body Worlds Chicago 2011
- 4/7 2:30pm NCCP Volunteer Opportunity
- 4/7 3:00pm  
e.Team Open Mic Night
- 4/7 6:00pm YOGA Group
- 4/7 7:00pm Koyaanisqatsi Film on environmental and cultural ethics
- 4/7 7:00pm McClure Art Show & Mural Design
- 4/7 7:00pm  
Student Senate
- 4/8 4:30pm ZUMBA!
- 4/8 7:00pm McEaster Egg Hunt
- 4/9 9:00am  
McClumage Sale
- 4/9 11:00am  
Southalooza 2011!
- 4/9 5:00pm 6th Annual Aramark Appreciation Dinner
- 4/9 7:00pm The Vagina Monologues
- 4/9 9:00pm Palm Readings
- 4/10 2:00pm Lake County Dialogues in Democracy Program
- 4/10 3:00pm The Vagina Monologues
- 4/10 7:00pm Delta Gamma weekly meeting
- 4/10 7:30pm Senior Music Recital
- 4/10 8:00pm Cleveland Young Hall meeting!
- 4/11 12:00pm Hillel meeting
- 4/11 2:00pmmLiveWhale office hours
- 4/11 4:15pm LEAP meeting
- 4/11 4:30pm MSA meeting
- 4/11 5:30pm SAACS meeting
- 4/11 6:00pm Model UN meeting
- 4/12 12:00pm NoonTunes with Fast & Cheap
- 4/12 2:00pmActive Minds meeting
- 4/12 12:15pm  
Mindfulness Meditation
- 4/12 4:00pm Ry's Run

## News

# The Forgotten Majority Business Conference

**LEXIE ZAAS**  
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On Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, Lake Forest College hosted The Forgotten Majority Business Conference. It was located in Calvin Durand Hall (the wood lounge) and was a two hour long conference. "This event provided students with insight into actions they can take to better understand poverty. Microloans are providing the poor with business opportunities that also help to improve food, water, health care and education in their communities," Economics Professor Les Dlabay stated. There were about seventy students that attended the conference and eight organizations were represented. The names of the organizations are: Bright Hope, Opportunity International, Young Ambassadors for Opportunity (YAO), Opportunity International, Oasis International, Sampada Trust

Microfinance Bank (India), Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, Accion-Chicago and Women's Finance House Botswana.

chat with two different organization representatives. The Keynote Speaker was Mark Lutz, the Senior Vice President of

of the people in the world live on \$2 or less a day, People not living in those conditions sometimes tend to forget about them. The

poverty through microloans and micro enterprise development in Africa, Asia and Latin America. There are also groups that let people donate things such as chickens and cows to villages; an example of this type of organization is Kiva. While Kiva is not offering loans, they are still working to better the lives or people in these poor countries by giving resources as opposed to funds. The representative from Woman's Finance House Botswana (Emilie Vrbancic) and from the BRAC Grameen Bank (Rahsaan Islam) are both Lake Forest College alumni.

-Bright Hope (Courtney O'Connell)(www.brighthouse.org)

-BRAC (www.brac.net) Grameen Bank (Rahsaan Islam) (www.grameen-info.org)

-Opportunity International (Mark Lutz, Senior Vice President) (www.opportunity.org)

-Oasis International (www.oasisint.net)

-Young Ambassadors for Opportunity (Sonya Perez-Lauterbach) (www.opportunity.org/young-ambassadors-for-opportunity)]

- Women's Finance House Botswana (Emilie Vrbancic) (wfh@botsnet.bw)

-Sampada Trust Microfinance Bank (Lauren Dillon (India) (www.sampada.org)

Interested in contacting or finding out how to get involved with any of these organizations? Learn more by visiting their websites, found below:

-ACCION (Trina Ntamere) (www.accion.org)(www.accionchicago.org)



Photo courtesy of Les Dlabay

Five of the organization representatives conversing during the panel discussion.

Exhibits from Accion, Bright Hope, and Opportunity International were also part of the experience. There were two small group sessions that allowed students to

Opportunity International. The topic of his speech was "Unpoverty: Rich Lessons from the Working Poor." This is a book that he wrote.

What is the forgotten majority? More than half

organizations represented at the conference are just a few of the many groups making a difference to address the concerns of hunger, unsafe water, health care, education, and extreme

## Improv at Student Symposium : one of the new editions to the event

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Student Symposium 2011 was filled with many riveting presentations, from thesis readings to traditional PowerPoint presentations, but one truly unique presentation could be found in the Sky Box at 10:00 AM or at 10:45 AM: The Explodeo Rodeo Improv Comedy Performance. The brainchild of eight students enrolled in Richard Pettengill's "Improvization Techniques" course, the Explodeo Rodeo was, in the words of participant Tanner Senter '12, a thirty minute "unrehearsed, unscripted, and unrated" comedy show.

The show began with a single word, given by an audience member: coconuts. This then inspired a series of skits featuring a seven year old

girl and her pants-less party, a man and his addiction to killing prostitutes, a couple of coconut bras and grass-skirt clad party goers, and a whole troupe of Viagra addicted men, women and teens. These skits transpired one after another, adding on to what had already been established, creating something new, or providing background to the previous skit.

Like any unrehearsed comedy show, actors occasionally grasped for something to say, but more often than not, the actors seemed to feed off of one another, never missing a beat. In one memorable moment, Mariana Greene, embodying the wife of a Viagra addict, turned to her husband, played by Kevin Flynn '14, saying, "I thought you said you were going to stop buying

Viagra," to which, the pipe-smoking husband quickly snapped, "I thought you were going to stop nagging."

Stephen Bromfield '14 provided some background for how this group came to be. "Keenan Buchanan, Kevin Flynn, Ryan Goodwin and I found each other last semester with the hopes of creating an improv troupe on campus. We then decided to take the long-form improv class and find other improvisers on campus."

As for the future? "We now have a pretty good sized improv group but ultimately we will be designing and hosting a series of improv workshops next semester to look for more talent and create a stronger troupe. We will then put on shows, events and maybe, this has not yet been discussed, perform a Harold or other improv performance after shows in Hixon as late

night improv."

If you missed the two performances given on Tuesday morning, be sure to watch for upcoming opportunities to catch the troupe again. After all, as Mr. Senter said, "There's nothing better than raw, unrehearsed, uncut... IMPROV." The group hopes to become an active part of the campus performing community. They can be seen following Playwrights in Progress, April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm in Hixon Hall.

Students participating in the Explodeo Rodeo included Hannah Breen '13, Stephen Bromfield '14, Keenan Buchanan '14, Kevin Flynn '14, Ryan Goodwin '14, Mariana Green, Syed Hasnain '13, and Tanner Senter '12.

The Lake Forest College  
**STENTOR**  
*Magna est veritas & prevalebit.*  
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## Features

# Theater Review, Part 1

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE CAST OF THREE SISTERS

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*Although the curtain has fallen on this year's Lake Forest production of Anton Chekhov's Three Sisters, the play provided much food for thought both for those who saw it and those who made the production possible. I met with the three leads and director of Three Sisters before Spring Break, a time when director Richard (Rick) Corley and actresses Joanna Becker '13 (Irina), Victoria Johnson '12 (Masha), and Maya Imhoff '12 (Olga) were in the midst of rehearsals, working on how they would communicate this classic play to this audience. The four of them sat down with the Stentor to discuss what brought them to the play, what the audience can take away from it, and why it was worth seeing and reading.*

**On what led them to this play:**

**Johnson:** I first heard about this production when I was abroad in Paris, France last year; I got the email that they [the Theater Department staff] were holding auditions and I said to myself: "What could I do about that? So I emailed

**Becker:** I was really inspired by *The Seagull* [the Goodman Theater production directed by Robert Falls]. I just found it to be one of the most amazing plays I've ever read. So it started for me the same with *Three Sisters*. I'm starting to get into it a lot; I'm starting to find connections to my character and my own life, my personal life, and how those can be combined. I can't remember when I exactly heard about *Three Sisters*, but I knew I wanted to audition for it and I did.

**Corley:** I met Richard last year and we discussed what I would be interested in doing...thought this would be a good fit for the students, would be a real challenge, thought it would fit nicely through the course of the year with what was going on.

**On who the actresses originally wanted to play:**

**Johnson:** It was kind of a funny experience because I was really upset at first. I was very worried that I would not be able to participate in this production and I would not take no for an answer and Richard was very supportive in my sending in an audition.

I originally auditioned

my host family's apartment in my bedroom- oddest background there could have been- and tried my best to find a spot that was as neutral as possible. I remember being very conscious of how loudly I had to speak to be recorded on video but not wanting anyone in French to open the door and ask me what I was doing. It was a very awkward and mildly embarrassing situation.

But I originally auditioned for Natasha and Rick asked me to do a video callback as Masha and, if I remember correctly, it was "a girl with this much moxie must be taken seriously". And I remember also that the day I got a call back was also my birthday, which was also very exciting, so I had to go through the whole process again of praying and hoping that my French mother wouldn't come into my room running her French mouth and ruin the entire thing for me, but I here I am.

**Becker:** Well, for us Earthlings here in the U.S. at Lake Forest College, Meyer Auditorium. And we all got into the lobby and we're reading the scripts and we go in one-by-one and I decided to read for Natasha. Richard goes "Will you read for Irina?" so I go "Ok" and I do and got a callback for Irina and here I am.

**Imhoff:** Well, I'd never read the play before, but when I went in I thought I'd audition for Olga because she was the one I could relate to the most. I kind of thought her character fit me the best or vice versa. So I went in, I was very nervous- I always get very nervous at auditions- and I wasn't satisfied at all with my first performance; I

thought I didn't really take directions well. And then I was asked to read for Masha and I did and I got called back for Olga, which I did, and my callbacks I liked a lot better. I also prepared more- I think- I also read the scenes. So it was scary and it all worked out well.

**On the characters' arcs and how those arcs were being interpreted and presented:**

**Becker:** Being in the process of rehearsal, I feel like being a character with so much depth...and my character is the same age as me in the first act and I feel I can relate to her a lot, and Chekhov I think is amazing at writing the character's depths because within the lines you get so much information. It's kind of like, I don't know how he does it; it's like he writes the character's lifetime. It's hard to explain. I'm making it more confusing than I should be.

**Corley:** Well I would say that has to do with what the character wants, how the character achieves it or doesn't achieve it in the play, and how they end up. Where they start and where they end.

**Becker:** Let me start over. Well, in the first act, I start when I'm 20 years old. The second, third, and fourth acts are months, sometimes years, apart. Within those acts, there are different arcs of the character. I know Irina goes through a lot of changes in each act and it's a lot about trying to find out who she is. It's a hard question.

**Imhoff:** Olga is the eldest of the her two sisters and of course Andre her brother [played by Tyler Lebens, '13]. The way we were raised, or the way I

was raised, I think Olga has a very strong sense of duty, a very strong sense of responsibility. It's important to her the way she behaves and the way her family behaves and what is reflected of them. She kind of finds herself in situations where she has responsibility and takes responsibility for other people without actually wanting to do it, but because it's expected of her she does it anyway. So she always kind of puts herself back in favor of other people, in favor of those expectations of her. Of course she longs for a life that she doesn't get to live or that she's not living. She regrets not having married, for example, but it's beyond her control, I think, in another sense. Her longing for Moscow is not only the city and what she left behind...it's more the possibilities she thinks she can find in Moscow that she cannot have in her current situation. I think she's longing for love, in a lot of ways. She wants to get out of her situation, but she can't really because she doesn't want to let other people down who have put all their trust in her. She's always there for everybody else without really noticed and she doesn't demand it. She likes being the head of the household and having responsibility and giving responsibility- even though it gives her headaches- but she likes doing something for the children or her family...She wishes for it [marriage], but she can't make it happen by herself. That's what I mean by it's out of her control.

**Johnson:** Masha's an incredibly complex woman. She is married, which separates her from

her sisters. She was married when she was 18 years old and that has led her life in a direction that I don't feel she wanted it to go. She is an incredibly intellectual, intelligent woman, very emotional, very romantic, and at the time of her marriage it seemed to be the right thing to do, and as her marriage continued it kind of deteriorated into...You know, her husband [Kulygin, played by James Pauta '13] really loves her but there's very little reciprocation there and that causes Masha to "act out" and she falls in love with a visiting military man, a battery commander played by the strapping actor Stephen Bromfield '14 [who plays Vershinin]. And it's a really hard character for me to play, as Rick can attest to. I see myself in her, but the parts of myself that I see in her are parts that I stifle in me...[Rick has said] in our current time we live in an age of irony and deflection, and when you don't express your feelings you try to make them funny. I remember the first time I was reading for Masha I was trying to make her funny because I thought that's what I would do... She's very different from her sisters; she does her own thing. I'd say that Olga and Irina have many more touching scenes together in which they're expressing a kindred feeling and Masha gets caught up in her own life. While she loves her sisters, she does fall in love with someone else, which is very distracting at times. I think in the end she wants to be happy, but she doesn't quite know how.

*Stentor note: Look for Part 2 of this interview in next week's issue!*

*"I'm starting to find connections to my character and my own life, my personal life, and how those can be combined."*

Richard and I asked him how I could work around that transcontinental glitch that we were suffering and I sent in a video audition to Richard and to Rick.

for the role of Natasha. They had the sent the script out for actors to look over so they could come somewhat prepared for the audition. I remember in

## Features

# THREE SISTERS EXPLORES CHARACTER SUBTLETY AND INEVITABLE FRUSTRATION OF HUMANITY

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The Lake Forest College Theater Department's performance of Anton Chekhov's *Three Sisters* is a collection of skilled artists astutely demonstrating their skills. There are no easy plays. But, from a naïve outside perspective, *Sisters* appears a play that requires precision of tone and expression.

In the play, the eponymous Prozorov sisters, Olga (Maya Imhoff, '12), Masha (Victoria Johnson, '12), and Irina (Joanna Becker, '13), live in a province of Moscow after the death of their father. The play traces their lives through proceeding months and years, always yearning to do something more with their lives, but remaining stuck within this province and their affluent family home. Olga supports her sisters and puts on a face of calm in her life as a teacher

in the local school, but Imhoff shows the hardening of this once buoyant figure as the sisters face further travails.

Johnson's Masha, dressed always in dark colors, is the pragmatic sister, more often speaking of her own analyses of the goings on and reservedly reading while others discuss, at least at first. Becker's Irina, who we meet on her Saint's Day at the youthful age of 20, appears the naïve flower, but her idealism quickly melts away into harsh realism. The Baron Tuzenbach (Ben Lundquist, '11), aged doctor Chebutykin (Graham Ives, '11), Masha's ineffectual headmaster husband Kulygin (James Pauta, '13), romantic soldier Vershinin (Stephen Bromfield, '14), soldiers Rhode (Kevin Perez, '14), Solyony (James D. Shiple, '13), and Fedotik (Joao Pedro Gomes, '12), and unnamed soldier played by Auston Marineau '14

as well as servants Anfisa (Hannah Breen, '13) and maids (Mariana Green, '14, Nicole Vachter '13 and Jessica Steele, '13) fill out the cast of assorted Russian personalities.

The sisters do not come upon hard times without a supporting cast and a strong adversary. The sisters have a brother, Andrei (Tyler Lebens, '13), who has fallen in love with a lower class peasant girl, Natasha (Karen Larson, '11). Andrei is the consummate intellectual, absorbed in violin playing and the dream of becoming a professor in Moscow.

Most characters have a dream of Moscow. Each sister looks toward this mythical city for the hope of some greater future, an escape from this pastoral trap. But Natasha complicates matters. As a raucous first act melts away, we find our characters still nowhere closer to Moscow, but now Natasha and Andrei have a baby, and Natasha's



Photo courtesy of Bianca Greene.

*The characters of Chekhov's The Three Sisters discuss the complexities of life.*

true controlling nature is revealed. She maneuvers her new babe into her sister's room. What hope existed in Act One seems sapped away. A pall has fallen.

But why? The play challenges us to question this reason. Is Natasha to blame? Surely her existence alone cannot explain Andrei's gambling or Masha's affair with the dashing and eloquent Vershinin. It cannot explain Nikolai's rash duel with Solyony. No, these trials among many more arise out of dreams deferred by inaction, by the inability to escape the drudgery of this provincial life through words alone.

Action is a shocking predicament in this play. When Masha and Vershinin lust or Chebutykin slams a clock upon the floor, crying out at the nonexistence of life, we are shocked out of a malaise. Otherwise, I felt as though I was watching characters trapped within

their own thoughts and dreams, ever squandering their ability to do something more.

That's not a criticism. Subtlety of characterization and a building feeling of time lost and present squandered do not arise out of poor acting or set design. Larson's Natasha is manipulative and grating, but she is also active and enlivening for the audience, giving us a character that, rising out of peasant awkwardness, becomes a bull in the china shop of the three sisters. Johnson's slow progression toward infidelity for real love and Irina's slow realization that she desires love, not work ethic, but she may never find it, require profound acting merit to which these performers rise. The elegant set design, a turning stage at front that rotates a quarter turn for each act and each season, with a back stage that at one time is a rich dinner table and at another disappears entirely to create

a stark walkway around the rotating stage, now a quaint outdoor porch.

The design, craftsmanship, and staging emphasize the emotional cores of the acts while adding context to the action at hand, including couches on which to seduce or chatter and bed screens to hide behind.

This is a human play. And with that comes all the complications of humanity—failure, despair, vain hope, unrequited love, and chance disaster like fire. Chekhov's play, according to director Richard Corley's note, wanted to encourage us to grab hold of the present moment and live, even as his characters do not. I found it a frustrating play because of this humanity, this lack of deus ex machina savings and pathos-layered climaxes. It is subtle, artful, and thoughtful. The cast, crew, director, and our student translator, Nadia Vinogradova, should be proud.



Photo courtesy of Bianca Greene.

*Actors Tyler Lebens, '13 (Andrei) and Karen Larson, '11 (Natasha) embrace.*

## Opinions

# The morals that should guide our expectations of consistency and inconsistency for both our public figures and private lives

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How consistently consistent should we each be? I pondered this question after recently reading two newspaper articles for my argumentation class, examining the importance our society places on consistency. The articles were both found in *The New York Times* and written by Carol Yoon and Stanley Fish, respectively. The articles were vastly different in voice, seriousness, and intent, but they still both tackled a subject we talk about in the U.S. more than we are maybe even consciously aware.

But I decided to spend (perhaps waste) a column writing my own article on consistency because as I thought about consistency in words and actions, I saw the danger of placing consistency above all else in beliefs and practices... something I think we might do too much.

I kept thinking about how difficult it is for anyone to hold up to the standard of consistency, and yet our own insistence that people (especially public figures) should never be found as being inconsistent in pretty much any aspect of their lives. And this seems dangerous to me. After all, by requiring people to be one hundred percent consistent, we hold them to a standard to which they can't, nor really should meet.

Saying what is true in one case must be true in all similar cases, (which is what being consistent in your arguments, words,

and actions means) is a fallacy which I think can lead to obvious dangers in over generalizing. There are many cases which are similar, but no two cases are exactly the same in any one person's life, be they famous or not. Therefore, the argument I'm going to make in my column is that consistency must be kept in balance with a consideration for each situation's unique characteristics.

Before I go any further, I want to make clear that I believe taking into account the individuality that every person or situation has, does not imply that consistency is, itself, bad. Instead, it implies that consistency is not the only important thing to consider when analyzing what people say and do, be they a politician, news-caster, or a friend.

I do believe consistency is an important thing to have. Most people, including myself, define their closest friends as being loyal and dependable-- both traits of consistency-- and we do look at politicians' histories before elections to see how they have repeatedly voted and, thereby, judge them. We define certain politician's as being "flip floppers" when they don't consistently vote. (I myself don't

want to vote for someone who has no clear-cut view on policies.) We use consistency as a way to judge people's future actions by their past.

Consistency is, therefore, very important; someone who is consistent can be trusted to act in a certain way. This, of course, is preferable to a person who constantly changes plans he has set, or switches sides in arguments. I would, therefore, never declare consistency as being a bad trait to possess or something our politicians in Washington

ing thing. But then she came to realize that it was hard to really differentiate why eating meat--a living thing-- was really so different from eating a plant--another living thing. Even to most people who do eat meat, the difference between a plant and an animal is obvious.

But how do we define that difference? Yoon stated that plants live, protect themselves, and fight for survival when threatened. This is what animals do as well. How could anyone then declare that animals

sistency game which people play daily without even realizing it. We ask others to be consistent, but we can only ask them to go so far in being consistent. No, I don't want my friend dropping plans at the last minute, and no, I don't want to elect a politician voting on both sides of an issue. But I should not hold others to a level of consistency which I know I can't and really don't hold myself. I know there have been times when I had no choice but to cancel plans I've made, and I know I have declared

different sides right in very similar arguments on personal or distant levels. Does this make me terribly inconsistent then? Perhaps. But if the inconsistency occurred for the right reasons,

this inconsistency might not be so bad.

In Fish's article, "So's Your Old Man" he pointed out the inability of consistency to show what is right or wrong. Fish recounted Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour's refusal to denounce a license plate honoring the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) founder, Nathan Bedford Forrest. Another reporter, Leonard Pitts, had previously declared that if Barbour wouldn't denounce the KKK he should then, likewise, refuse to denounce terrorists

or basically anyone else in existence. Pitts had declared that the Governor Barbour's refusal to denounce the KKK founder implied that he should then refuse to denounce such infamous people as Osama bin Laden and the Columbine Killers.

Pitt's argument claimed that Barbour's decision to allow the license plates was wrong because Barbour wouldn't act the same way in other similar situations. But Fish responded to Pitts by saying that Pitts was missing the real issue surrounding the license plates by demanding Barbour to act toward the KKK just as he would toward other terrorists groups. Fisher declared that Pitts made his argument one of consistency in treatment, when it really should have just been an argument based on the values of being decently human.

This was the point that really got me thinking, because the point of how far we should take consistency is really that simple; consistency should not be taken to the point of replacing values in determining what is right and wrong. The KKK is a hate group which has taken innocent lives. The KKK is bad. Period.

That statement is simple, but the argument really should be as simple as that. The KKK is a group which simply should not be honored in our nation at all. It is a violent group that deserves nothing but shame. (I use the present tense here because the KKK is still in existence today).

Therefore, Pitt's argument should not have

“*This, then, is the problem with holding consistency as our standard for what makes an argument, person, or act wrong or right. Consistency really can't decide what is wrong or right for us. What is good and bad is debatable in some cases, but consistency will never give the answer to a moral dilemma or argument.*”

shouldn't have.

But while consistency is important to have, it can become dangerous when it is the only thing we use to weigh what another person says or does. Weighing consistency alone is risky because it requires a person to be something he is humanly incapable of being. Yoon demonstrated this succinctly in her article called "No Face, but Plants Like Life Too". In the article, Yoon became a vegetarian for a couple years because of the guilt she felt when eating a liv-

are not acceptable to eat, but plants are? Without being at least a little inconsistent this differentiation can't be made. The cases are similar and the question is the same in both situations, but it is obvious they cannot be treated the same way. That, therefore, leaves Yoon, or anyone else, with the fact that they must be inconsistent in their reasoning when it comes to food or they can't even eat vegetables... and they have to eat something to survive.

This is the sort of con-

## Opinions

### Morality Cont. from pg 8

asked Governor Barbour to do what was fair in terms of consistency. Instead, his argument should have asked the governor to do what was right. Pitts should have told the Governor to denounce a group which demonstrates the worst in humankind.

This, then, is the problem with holding consistency as our standard for what makes an argument, person, or act wrong or right. Consistency really can't decide what is wrong or right for us. What is good and bad is debatable in some cases, but consistency will never give the answer to a moral dilemma or argument. There are values which we hold that should be the factors influencing how we decide what is right or wrong--not consistency.

We should aim to be consistent. But this consistency can only take us so far. At some point in each of our lives we will have to decide that doing what is right might just require us to be a little inconsistent when compared to how we have acted in the past-- maybe it will require something like stating a malicious group shouldn't be honored, even though we believe other groups should be.

In the end, we all should strive to be consistent and to seek out consistent people to have in our lives. But we can't declare that everyone must always be consistent, for it is both impossible, and in many cases, also simply wrong. Therefore, consistency is important, but we can't let consistency take away the importance of real morals and values in our lives.

### Figuring out the graduate school application process

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With six official rejections and probably two more coming, I've had to move on from my dream of heading straight to graduate school in psychology and, instead, start thinking about other options for next year. This new direction

has led me to a number of realizations in the last week. One of the most intense realizations is that as I go through my thesis defense and my finals, I now have to be refining my resume and thinking about applying for jobs too. All together now... "Hooray!!!"

This is reminiscent of the graduate school application process I just very recently experienced. For those of you who haven't yet had the pleasure, this graduate application process includes taking the GRE (while you're in school during your senior year), developing a personal statement, putting together a totally different type of resume, and all other general manners of preparation of documents for which I was in no way prepared. Each step of the application process

felt like a completely new thing to me, and I had no idea what to do... until I was told how to do it.

Now, I have the same basic graduate application experience planned for the next six weeks or so, but this time for job applications. To make things infinitely more awkward, my lease ends about halfway through July. I would like to work near Chicago un-

til then, but my roommate is moving to Texas. So I'll also need to find other roommates and would love to be in a different location.

But I believe that it would all go more smoothly if the school's application deadlines were later and their start dates were later as well. It could all shift around to accommodate the fact that students could use a little extra time to score better on the GRE,

or even just write a better personal statement.

The lack of any kind of shift is causing (and sometimes forcing) more and more students to take a "gap year" between college and grad

school. You can argue whether this is a good thing or not. But my point here is that we have to wait a whole year just because the process didn't work out during our senior year of undergraduate study.

It's like when your car is making a crazy noise and though you don't know why or how to fix it, you're pretty sure that it's in bad shape. I'm not educated on all the inner workings of the process, and I might just be mad because I got rejected, but it seems broken to me.

Like Dr. Richardson says to new students and their parents every year at orientation, "We've become full-time students!" I understand that it isn't impossible to do both and

### President's Corner

#### LFC students and the E-mail Breakdown of 2011

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Change is difficult. Some people are able to adapt to change without any problems and simply go on with their lives as if nothing had ever been changed from how it was before. I, however, am not one of those people. I normally hate big changes.

“The Student Government approval processes for organizations received a complete overhaul.”

But this semester, I think I have come to see the good that change can bring about as well.

This year, the Student Government approval processes for clubs and organizations received a complete overhaul. Under the very capable hands of Treasurer Ben Jaehning and Clubs and Organizations Committee Chair, Sophie Yeres, the forms went online and could be submitted with only a minimal paper trail—nice!

If you are the leader of an organization here on campus, I hope that you found the process to be easier than it was last year (if you submitted paperwork last year). The programming and activities that are brought to campus by each organization every year are simply amazing. As a fellow student, I

would like to thank all of the organizations on campus for providing the programs that make Lake Forest College a great place to go to school.

As we continue to change and make processes easier, we are open to your suggestions. Please feel free to send us an email, write us a letter, text, call, tap out a message in Morse code, send a carrier pigeon, or otherwise communicate

with us to let us know what can be improved to help make your clubs and organizations better. We really are here to make sure that you have the help and information that you need!

Make sure to take advantage of all of the great programming that is happening on campus this weekend! Don't miss Tri Delta's "Spotlight", Southapalooza, the Vagina Monologues, and more! Have a great weekend, Foresters!



## Sports

# Tennis team looks to rebound in upcoming matches after tough loss to Grinnell College

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The 9-0 shutout victory over the less than mediocre Illinois College served as only a temporary moment of satisfaction in what turned out to be a disappointing, yet motivational weekend for the Forester Men's Tennis squad, in which they lost to Grinnell College 7-2. All season long the Men's Tennis team had been preparing for their annual showdown with longtime conference rivals, a team they had yet to beat in over seven years.

While prior matches against other teams may have consumed the focus of the Foresters at the time, there always existed the knowledge that as each day passed, their long anticipated showdown with the Pioneers grew nearer. Head Coach Jason Box, in his first year with the school, stuck to his belief that no one match in the middle of a team's season will make or break them. In the week leading up to the trip to Iowa, no additional drills were instilled in practice, no extra fitness exercises, and more than anything no overhyping the team they were about to face. "This is just another step in our journey" Box told the team at the conclusion of their final practice before heading out to Iowa. Box acknowledged that he knew this match held particular weight and significance for those who had been on the team previous seasons, but wanted them to know that the outcome of Saturday's match would neither end nor guarantee the team's overall goal of winning the Midwest Conference. As part of an overall attempt to develop a greater sense of team unity, regardless of who their upcoming opponents may be, Box had Assistant Coach Anastasia Rudkovskaya ('06) compile a set on laminated index cards with a set of goals that team had come up with during a private meeting earlier in the season, as a reminder of what they are trying to

accomplish on an overall scale.

The team knew that the match was going to be a tough one to come out of victoriously, due in part to the fact that it was to be played on the road, over five hours from Lake Forest, and was scheduled for the early morning at 9:30 after a late night's worth of travel, but were unprepared for the inevitable consequences all

Perez and those in attendance at Grinnell, who now must accept the fact that they will be seeing him for the following three seasons.

For Senior Jon Flaksman, his final regular season meeting with Grinnell would prove to be a memorable one. Flaksman, along with four seasons worth of college tennis, was able to put his

the best of his ability. With a week or resting his ankle, along with some sessions with the trainers, and a temporary brace, Muth was able to take the court on Saturday, but still showed signs of pain as he played. He favored his non-injured leg as much as possible during his two matches, but against a team as talented as Grinnell, it would eventually be too much for him to handle. Despite a valiant effort, Muth was defeated 8-3 in his doubles match with Adams, and 6-2, 6-0 in his singles match.

For the Foresters, the Grinnell Tennis team has been largely identified by their top singles player and longtime nemesis, Ecuadorian native Juan Carlos Perez Borja, now in his senior year. Referred to by his teammates as "Wonka," Perez has given the Lake Forest more than their fair share of beat downs over the last four years, making those on and supporters of the Foresters somewhat relieved that they won't be seeing him in the future. For freshman Ryan Kreis however, who had yet to face Perez, or even hear of him for that matter, his match against him was just another one of many. Kreis' cool, calm, collectedness on the court along mixed with his fiery, competitive aggressiveness gave him a first set victory, 6-3. Whether it was the notion of playing a freshman or the long running success he had had against Lake Forest in years past, Perez knew he had to change his game if he was to avoid a major upset. He received some help, when Kreiss was forced to switch racquets after breaking the strings on one of his during a point in the second set. While he maintained his competitiveness during each point, the frustration and difficulty of having to switch racquets in the middle of a match in which consistency was one of its key ingredients, allowed Perez to work his way back into the match along with the support of his home crowd. Kreis dropped the following two sets 6-2, 6-2, but left a lasting impression on both

that "the overall team score is really what matters most." Flaksman felt as though the 7-2 score was not all that indicative of both the Forester's performance and their potential for future success down the road. "With Elliot (Muth) playing injured, we didn't have our lineup playing at full strength," he noted. "John Adams had an uncharacteristic loss at second singles and Chris Paterakos and Ryan (Kreis) each had close matches at number five and one singles," he went on to say, adding "I feel things could turn out differently should the we get the chance to face Grinnell again during the Conference Tournament in Madison, Wisconsin."

The second part of the day's double header had the Foresters up against the "Blue Boys" of Illinois College. The drastic drop in competition gave the Foresters the opportunity to work on particular aspects of their game and take some of their frustration out against a team they were virtually guaranteed to beat from the start. Lake Forest won all nine of their matches in a timely, orderly fashion, and was able on some level to feel good about getting back into the win column in the standings. However, the feature match of the day, one that had lay in anticipation since the beginning of the year, left the Foresters feeling disappointed, yet motivated at the same time to seek another opportunity to take down their longstanding rivals. For the time being, the tennis team will turn its focus to the remaining matches of their season over a large portion of the month of April, featuring numerous key Conference matches against teams like Monmouth College and Knox. If the Foresters can readjust their focus and win those matches, then there is a likely chance they will get another crack once again at Grinnell.



Photo Courtesy of Karen Hermann, GoForesters.com

Jon Flaksman was victorious in both of his matches against Grinnell College.

“  
*I feel things could turn out differently should we get the chance to play Grinnell during the Conference Tournament.*

- Jon Flaksman

sports teams are forced to deal with throughout their seasons: injuries. Elliot Muth, the team's number two singles and number one doubles player alongside Johnny Adams, suffered a sprained ankle earlier in the week that left him as a question mark for the starting lineup. Coach Box made the decision late in the week, after Muth took the week off from practice, to start him at third singles, and play through the pain to

experience to use particularly in his singles match against Grinnell sophomore Colin Johnson, who he defeated decisively, 6-3, 6-0. His success on the day extended to his doubles match as well alongside freshman and top singles player Ryan Kreis, who took down Grinnell's second doubles team 8-4. "It was a satisfying day for me on an individual level," Flaksman commented, but added