

## Williams responds to racism

By **LAUREN FIORELLI**  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

At 12:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, a student at Williams College reported an act of hate speech and vandalism to the Williams Campus Safety and Security (CSS). The following day, the President of the College, Adam Falk, sent out a detailed e-mail notification to the Williams campus community. In contrast, recent events on the Hill have prompted some students to question the effectiveness of administrative responses to sexual assault on campus.

The e-mail, addressed to the Williams community, said that a student reported finding the phrase, “All n\*\*\*\*\*s must die,” written on a wall in one of the dorms on campus. “We are horrified by this act and regret needing to repeat such language in a college communication,” the e-mail read.

The notification reported that CSS had launched an investigation into the hate crime. It also reported the campus response, noting that student discussions were held on Sunday, Nov. 13, to discuss possible responses the College could make. CSS and the Dean’s Office spoke with all of the students living in the dorm and those who had swiped into the building that night.

Signed by President Falk, as well as Williams’ Dean of the College Sarah Bolton, Vice President of Campus Life Steve Klass and Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity Mike Reed, the e-mail was forwarded to all Williams alumni with regrets and reassurance that hate has no place on the Williams campus.

Recently, students and faculty on the Hill have been engaged in discussion concerning sexual assault and the upholding of community values at the College. In response, Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs James Terhune held a community forum on Tuesday, Nov. 15 for an open discussion regarding the College’s policies and the support available for victims.

Both at the forum and on the Community Digest of Civil Discourse, some students from the College praised Williams’

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## REMEMBERING DERRIK FLAHIVE ‘13



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*Derrik Flahive '13 plays guitar with Chinese children during a JanPlan 2011 trip to China. Flahive lost his life on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011 while studying abroad in Chile. Family, friends and community members share their reflections and memories of Flahive on pages 6-9, “In Memoriam.”*

## Student exhibit explores stereotypes

### Class organizes photo display on gender roles

By **CATE DONOVAN**  
NEWS STAFF

The Diamond Building atrium was packed for the premiere of Trading Places, a photography exhibit exploring gender stereotypes that was on display from Nov. 14-16. The students in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies class, Girls Making Change: Girlhood, Activism and Popular Culture—taught by Professor and Director of Education Mark Tappan—created the exhibit in order to encourage discussion on gender and power at the College.

“Our class started talking about the round tables at Dana,” Kate Laxson ’13, a student in Tappan’s class, said. Recently, the tables at Dana Dining Hall were rearranged. The tables where some male athletes typically sat were removed from their original

locations near the ice cream counter, where students have to bend over in order to scoop their dessert.

“One of the biggest issues that the teams had was that no one talked to them [to tell] them that [the tables] were going to be taken away,” Laxson said. According to Laxson, “many guys were naïve to the fact that some girls think about [being watched] that every time they get a dessert or ice cream.”

After realizing the need for a healthy discourse on gender, Tappan’s class brainstormed several ideas to initiate conversations, eventually deciding to adopt an exercise from a different class—Boys to Men—which Tappan also teaches. According to a statement hung in the exhibit written by the class, “Professor Tappan asks students to imagine the day in the life of another gender. We decided to make this activity our own.”

Class members stationed themselves in Pulver Pavilion for a series of afternoons during which they spoke to many students about “how their life

would be different if they were another gender.” They photographed each student holding a sign with his or her statement about gender written on it. They ended up with a collection of almost 200 photographs.

The class found that the answers varied. “Some students wrote about what they would actually do, some spoke about the pressures of the dominant culture and some engaged self-consciously with stereotypes about men and women,” the statement read.

The answers ranged from light-hearted responses about posing for Facebook pictures to more serious answers about safety or the gender wage gap. According to the class statement, “The opinions don’t necessarily represent our views or even the views of the students holding them, but as a collection they begin to reveal how Colby students perceive gender.”

Within the responses, there were several common themes. For example, according to the statement, the class found that “students identified bathrooms,

dining halls and the gym as sites where gender became highly charged.” Additionally, “many people wrote about how their sex lives would change, or how they would modify their appearance to fit the norms of contemporary society.”

The exhibit opened immediately following feminist activist Jaclyn Friedman’s lecture, “What You Really Really Want: How to Pursue a Safe, Satisfying Sexuality at Colby and Beyond,” on Nov. 14. “We got great responses,” Laxson said. “We had people coming and looking at the pictures, laughing one minute and getting serious the next as the topics became more serious.”

Because the project was not an official class assignment, the organization of the exhibit was done outside of class. Though the preparation and presentation was time-consuming, “the responses we got were worth it,” Laxson said. “We hoped that it would allow the topic of gender to be introduced to our discourse on campus without anyone feeling attacked, and that’s exactly what it did.”

## Speakers address issue of homeless ME youth

By **ALLISON EHRENREICH**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Realities of Youth Homelessness in Maine, a panel held on Thursday, Nov. 17, began with the anonymous story from a student of the College: “I couch surfed for a couple of years before I officially became an unaccompanied, throwaway teen; that is, a homeless youth.”

Dana Roberts ’12, director of the Colby Volunteer Center (CVC), read the student’s story to open the evening’s conversation featuring Tony Veit, youth outreach officer in Maine, Bodhi Simpson, teen parent program director and clinician and Betty Palmer, executive director of the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter (MMHS). The evening marked a halfway point in the CVC’s month-long efforts to contribute \$10,000 to the \$2.75 million capital campaign, “Breaking Ground, Rebuilding Lives, which is dedicated to building a new MMHS. Roberts, who facilitated the panel, said that the CVC hopes “to raise awareness on campus,” and invest the College in the issue of homelessness.

Though Viet, Simpson and Palmer spoke about their tireless work and shared success stories of homeless youth finding respite, the overwhelming theme of the night was that there is not enough governmental or structural support for the homeless in the United States and especially for the youth.

The panelists spoke honestly about the stark reality that many teenagers face with limited resources and no place to sleep. Many teens turn to couch-surfing, or moving around from place to place, depending on where there are places to sleep.

Simpson spoke about her experience with teens, often pregnant or parenting, wandering in off the street, looking for a place to stay. “A lot of them are looking for a place to live,” she said, “and I don’t have a place to send them, so I often have to send them back onto the street.”

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## Campus enjoys Spontaneous Fun Day

By **RUMBIDZAI GONDO**  
NEWS STAFF

The College had its first Spontaneous Fun Day on Nov. 18, during which the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a range of activities in Pulver Pavilion from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“This was an opportunity for students to step back and appreciate Colby and possibly recharge their batteries,” SGA Publicity Chair Raymond Rieling ’12 said.

The idea to give back to the students through an array of entertaining activities was on the SGA agenda since the beginning of the semester. The team that championed this particular event included Junior Class Presidents Erika Hinman ’13 and Keith Love ’13 as well as Sophomore Class Presidents Wayne Kim ’14 and Cole Yaverbaum ’14. As people walked through

Pulver, a variety of activities greeted them, including free t-shirts, cotton candy, gelato and doughnuts from David Jacobs, affectionately known as the “Bobs” [Roberts Dining Hall’s Doughnut Man,” were handed out to passersby.

“We just looked at the activities that had been great hits in the past—[such as] cotton candy at the Winter Carnival last year—and everyone loves Bobs’ Doughnut Man,” Yaverbaum said. “[The] campus really needed this. It was a mental health day.”

Yaverbaum noted that she looked through similar insti-

tutions’ websites for ideas of events that the College could emulate. She found an interesting practice at Williams College:

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Raymond Rieling ’12  
SGA Publicity Chair

eral discourse on campus and homesickness, the event came just in time. According to Hin-

man, it “was such a perfect coincidence, considering that [Spontaneous Fun Day] had been on the drawing board for about two months. This was exactly what we hoped for.”

A post entitled “So much fun,” by Mandy Ferguson ’12 on the Community Digest of Civil Discourse on Nov. 18 echoed Hinman’s statements. Ferguson wrote that Spontaneous Fun Day was “the perfect display of energy, spontaneity and fun. After a week or two of feeling disheartened by the events occurring on campus, days like today remind me why I chose to come to this school. I think that others will agree with me when I say that this event came at the perfect moment during an extremely difficult time in our community. Thanks for revitalizing my love for Colby.”

The Spontaneous Fun Day was a prototype of what SGA hopes will become a College tradition.

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