



THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

What's more fun than a pile of cardboard boxes in the woods? Nothing, apparently, to 200 children and parents who visited the Lenoir Nature Preserve on October 20. SLC's Child Development Institute (CDI) had created a Community Adventure Play Experience in the 39-acre Westchester County park, featuring three vanloads of cardboard boxes, string, bubble wrap, fabric, and other "found materials," which children used to construct everything from cars to robots. CDI has hosted several of these improvised play spaces in the Yonkers area over the past five years to encourage children to play outside in a self-directed environment. Now if you'll excuse us, our rocketship needs more glitter.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

An atheist, a Jew, and a Muslim walk into the basement of Bates. Sounds like a joke, but it's probably just an event at the Spiritual Space, SLC's ecumenical room for reflection and worship, where manager Chloe Clasper-Torch '13 organizes a panoply of activities to encourage spiritual exploration and interfaith dialogue.

Clasper-Torch, a member of the United Church of Christ, grew up in a Quaker school and started learning about the practice of silence and meditation when she was just four years old. But for her, the Spiritual Space is as much about education as it is a place to find stillness. Fall events included a celebration of the Autumnal Equinox and talks by shaman and spiritual scholar Paul Diamond, who discussed "Shamanic Journeying" and "Mongolian Ancestor Spirit Possession."

Shamanic journeying may sound a little wacky, but there's real value in learning about "any religious or cultural practice that is different or new to us," Clasper-Torch says. "By gaining a broad understanding of faith practices around the world, we will be better for it." So bring on the Mongolian spirit possession, and let's cast out some stereotypes.

STORMS AND DORMS

As Hurricane Sandy approached the East Coast on Sunday, October 28, Sarah Lawrence issued a "shelter in place" warning. Students on campus were asked to stay in their rooms from Sunday evening to Tuesday. After the storm passed, the campus suffered power outages and minor damage from downed trees, and classes were cancelled for the week. How was a bored college student to survive all this?

First, find food. During the storm, this was easier than usual, since AVI workers, who provide the College's food services, braved the foul weather to hand-deliver 600 meals three times a day.



Second, stay entertained. Industrious RAs looted the office of Student Affairs for all craft materials to keep students occupied sans electricity, and the Sarah Lawrence Activities Council organized impromptu events, including an open mic in the Black Squirrel.

Third, try to learn something. Though the College was closed, local faculty members and Dean of the College Jerri Dodds held a teach-in of sorts on Thursday and Friday, welcoming all students to drool-worthy classes including Bill Shullenberger's "The Inferno: Sodomy, Obscenity, Theft" and Dodds' own "Goya and Picasso Paint Politics."

No one was hurt (from the storm, not the classes), and President Lawrence commended the staff for how well they "weathered this extraordinary event." By the Monday after the storm, exciting excuses for homework procrastination were gone, and the campus was back to normal.

Oh, What A Relief It Is

On November 11, students and staff delivered six vanloads of donations, including water, food, and cleaning supplies, to a relief center in Long Island. The following weekend, a group coordinated by soccer coach Hassan Turner trekked to Staten Island to volunteer at a donation and relief site, and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee sponsored the first 50 student participants in New York USA Track and Field's run/walk fundraiser on Randall's Island, called "Strides for Sandy 5K."

Students and faculty dropped off mounds of donations in XXXXX Hall.



Love In Shakespeare

If you're an aspiring writer who's feeling bad about your collection of rejection letters, stop reading now. Alex Schnee '13 published her first novel, *Shakespeare's Lady*, last year. And she's still in college. Her work of historical fiction tells the tale of Emilia Bassano, whom some believe was the "Dark Lady" in many of Shakespeare's sonnets. "I write every day," Schnee says, "and for me, it's really fun. It doesn't feel like work." Hmm, that must be nice. We'd go cry now, except that Schnee, a native of Montana rarely found without a cup of coffee in her hand, was one of the sweetest, most humble people we've ever interviewed. You can follow Schnee's progress on her two current book projects at alexinksit.com.



WONK THIS WAY

Leslie Knope would be jealous: over October Study Days, 14 students traveled to Washington, DC, to get an insider's view on careers in the capital and bond with SLC alumni who work in and around the government. The aspiring lobbyists, politicians, and do-gooders enjoyed a welcome reception at an alumna's home; tours of the Capitol and the National Institute of Health; and a panel where alumni spoke about their careers at

the US Departments of Justice and Energy, Planned Parenthood, and the Smithsonian. Some students bunked with local alumni, too, where we assume they stayed up late gossiping about faculty members, pillow-fighting, and reenacting *Midnight Breakfast*. The offices of Career Counseling and Alumni Relations, which sponsored the event, have neither confirmed nor denied these allegations.

SUMMER CAMP

Hey! Instead of feeling bad about that half-finished novel lounging in the proverbial closet, why not get your act together at SLC's Summer Seminar for Writers June 23-28? Poet Thomas Lux, novelist David Hollander MFA '97, essayist Lawrence Weschler, and other talented workshop leaders will help you achieve all your wordsmithing hopes and dreams. Don't worry, you don't actually have to have a manuscript; just a desire to create new work, take some risks, and reflect on your creations. The best



part? Mention our lovely magazine and your application fee will disappear—but only if you apply before May 1. Jump on it, and bring those pens! (Or MacBooks, we get it.) For information or an application, visit slc.edu/summer.

NERD ALERT

If you want to throw a party or have a séance in room 103 of the science building on Tuesdays between 12:30 and 1:45—well, tough luck. This slot is reserved for science students and teachers to geek out together at the Science Seminar Series, which has been running weekly for the past 15 years. The free pizza is part of the appeal, but the main attraction is a research

presentation—often by students, but also from faculty members, alumni, and outside guests—with a title like "Targeting Drugs to Tumors without using Monoclonal Antibodies." Brainiac alumni who are interested in participating should contact the organizer, mathematics faculty member Dan King, at dking@sarahlawrence.edu.

Walk Hard

Remember trudging to Slonim House or the Campbell Sports Center in the mud? Cue drum-roll, please: sidewalks have finally been installed along Kimball Avenue. You can now stroll from Glen Washington Road to Midland Avenue in the rain without having to choose between falling into a ditch or getting hit by a car. Just another reason to return to campus for reunion ...



ILLUSTRATIONS BY VAUGHN FENDER

