the GENEVA CABINET



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The student newspaper of Geneva College since 1878

IMAGE BY ROB JINKS / THE GENEVA CABINET

GENEVA NEEDS REFORMED SCIENCE CORE

DAVID DANIELS / CAMPUS EDITOR

Geneva's science core is a crapshoot.

Don't get it twisted: this isn't another self-proclaimed, enlightened mind on a soapbox preaching the liquidation of the fraction of Geneva's core that my major doesn't need. This is a soon-to-be alumni admitting he's on pace to approach every science-related conversation that he enters post-graduation by shutting up, smiling and nodding because his incompetence makes him unworthy of participation.

Except for conversations about the weather. I do weather.

I'm not OK with this. Not only does the current layout of the science core fail to best prepare students for life after graduation, but it's an insult to the sciences.

Students must fulfill 8-to-12 credit hours of natural science for President Ken Smith to hand them a bachelor's degree. While the majority of their route through the Biblical studies and humanities core has already been mapped out, they're offered 16 science puzzle pieces—10 three-credit, non-laboratory courses and six four-credit labs—to try to make fit in their schedule.

Translation: after SCS 110 (Introduction to Natural Science), which science courses you complete is irrelevant to Geneva.

I'm all for freedom. Freedom is the bomb dot com.

But not all science courses are created equal. Some are vital to understanding how to live out our Christian faith in a world where science has been hijacked by secularists. Others just reteach us what we've learned in high school.

And I'm not knocking SCS 110. Some of the course is review, but its strength—a broad, generalized curriculum—is an ideal building block for what should be the remainder of Geneva's natural science core.

Here are two science courses that students need: "Why to Not Completely Suck up the Environment Even Though God Gave Us Dominion 101" and "Scientific Evidence behind the Bible So You Surrender Your Life to More Than Blind Faith like a Buddhist Does 102."

Those are universally valuable courses. And Geneva already has those in classes up its sleeve. They're just under the far-less-flashy names "Environmental Ethics" and "ID & Evolution," ID standing for intelligent design.

The following are excerpts of each course's syllabus about their goals.

Environmental Ethics: students will "understand and apply a Christian view of nature, including stewardship of our environment" and "exhibit competent knowledge of ethical theories."

ID & Evolution: "A dispassionate, objective look at both sides of this important contemporary issue is expected to give students a fresh insight into the practice and philosophy of science and how scientists, philosophers, and others think about origins."

Souls were at stake as atheist Bill Nye and creationist David Ham debated the origins of the human race on Tuesday night. Nye's argument won over who knows how many impressionable viewers. How Geneva doesn't require ID & Evolution given its eternal weight is beyond me.

These are courses that would provide me with the credibility to open my mouth should a science-related conversation spark (outside of weather). Tragically, Environmental Ethics isn't offered under the core and ID & Evolution isn't offered every semester because its taught by a part-time professor.

Geneva needs a more compelling, intentional, relevant and coherent science core.

Of course, perhaps this could also be said about other curriculum at Geneva as well.

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the GENEVA CABINET

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THE CYNIC'S CORNER

ELAINE GRIFFIN / FEATURED COLUMNIST

"Finish your dinner, there are starving kids in Africa."

This was the catchphrase of most well-fed American moms throughout my childhood. While my own mom was too cool to force-feed her children, I met enough other parents who chided me with this mantra if I inconceivably didn't want to finish their homemade clam chowder.

This might be the first logical fallacy children are taught: "Be grateful and eat up, 'cause they sure can't!"

Makes sense…?

It's the perfect comfy, cozy response to poverty: the important thing is that we need to be grateful for what we have … not helpful to those in need.

And it's not like the problem stops at childhood. We don't actually attach "because there's starving kids in Africa" as a motivation for everything we do. But between a toxic mix of entitlement and materialism, all in the name of celebrating and enjoying the wealth of the west, we might as well just start being honest about it.

"Finish your beer, there are sober kids in India."

"Drive your Mercedes, there are kids walking everywhere in Tasmania."

"Play your video games, there are bored children in Chinese sweat shops."

Gratefulness is great. But it's often just a way of turning self-indulgence into a virtue.

Just think about it: if you didn't spend so much money on groceries, drinks, cars and entertainment, you would have a lot of money left over. Money that you could send to that Child Fund guy and feed an entire village for two months. Just by not being such an American all the time.

But every day, none of us does that. And people starve while we finish our peas. And terrible clam chowder.

Am I saying that we should all sell our worldly possessions, eat only what we need to survive, never see a movie in theaters again and refuse modern medicine because people less fortunate than us don't have access to it?

No.

If you take that extreme to its end, you have no choice but to forgo your education, eat only what you can find in your environment and expose yourself to parasites on a daily basis because truly only that can make you experience what less-fortunate people are going through.

Instead, you should go on living your life exactly as you do—minus the feel-good catchphrases that make you feel informed when you're really just spouting nonsense. You don't have to be sacrificial, altruistic, feeling or any of the things I also am not.

Just be consistent. If you aren't planning on boxing up any and all rejected meals and shipping them to a country in need, don't call people out on wasting "perfectly good food." Not that this applies to us, since we're at Geneva and perfectly good food does not exist.

Possibly the best thing we can do is be more generous with what pretty much everybody except graduating college seniors have more than enough of: money. Leave behind the trite saying and write a big fat check of $19 to the Child Fund dude. Then maybe he'll stop making those wretched commercials.

The purpose of The Geneva Cabinet, the official student newspaper of Geneva College, shall be to keep the members of the college community informed about all events that concern it, whether of international or campus-wide significance; to provide for an open forum for airing the views of all interested groups on campus in order to promote understanding among all the groups; to help create a climate of intelligent and mature consideration of issues and events; to expose injustice on any front; and to develop in the readers an appreciation of Christian values by approaching all duties in the spirit of love, justice and responsibility that Christ showed in all his dealings on earth.

The views expressed in The Geneva Cabinet are not necessarily the views of Geneva College.

UNCERTAINTY *is* UNDERRATED

ADAM ROWE / OPINION EDITORIAL

People call me indecisive all the time.

I can't pick a movie to watch, I don't have a favorite color, I can't figure out my political agenda, I can't stick with a salad dressing.

I haven't even started my laundry, and I washed it a week ago.

Now, I'm well aware of the disadvantages to this. But plenty of people aren't aware of the benefits, which is what I hope to shed light on in this article.

Technically, I'm talking about uncertainty, not apathy. It's distinct from apathy, and the fact that everyone calls it apathy highlights just how underrated it is. But let's head to the realm of Facebook comments to see what I mean.

The comments on Facebook provide some of the best examples of illogical and poor decision-making on the internet. This is only because YouTube comments aren't good examples of anything. But anytime I stumble across a discussion of politics or religion, I find that one single most common failing rises above the rest: People are too certain of their own views.

"Obama sits on a throne of lies!" That, or he is genuinely trying to help the American people, but from a viewpoint separate from your own, which may or may not be as effective. "Ken Ham is qualified, but Bill Nye isn't!" Or neither of them are. "Abortionists are murderers! Homosexuals are perverts!" How many of the murderers and perverts are going to take you seriously after that? You're just making them more certain of their own views!

And anytime you find yourself typing "It is disgusting," into a Facebook comment, you should reevaluate the level of certainty you're putting into your view.

DON'T BE APATHETIC. BUT BE LESS CERTAIN OF YOURSELF.

Apathy is caring so little about an issue that you don't form a view. Uncertainty is caring so much about both sides of the issue that you can't pick which view to form.

Don't be apathetic. But be less certain of yourself.

Facebook isn't the cause, either. People never question themselves enough in real life, too.

Living in a Christian college bubble can make the problem worse. Your neo-conservative views are less contested, so it's easier to be certain about them. But it can be the opposite: the Geneva bubble can just as easily provide a safe environment to question all your views. And it should.

Essentially, there are multiple viewpoints to almost all decisions. *Children of Men* might be a good film to see tonight, but so is *21 Jump Street*. *Blue Cheese* is good, but so is *Thousand Island*.

The failure to sort clothes is my bad, though. I should definitely be more proactive on that one.

Now, sure, one view might easily be more valid than the rest when you study it, but you'll never get there if you constantly assume that you started out with the right view all along.

Now, I realize that I sound pretty certain about all of this. And maybe I'm wrong. I admit there could be exceptions. I see the value of passion and commitment. But I still believe that too much certainty is a larger problem than too little certainty ever is.

Anyone who's filled out a multiple choice quiz knows that the two extremes are never right. The answer always lies between them.

Well, most of the time. But you get my point.



SENIOR STUDENT PUBLICATIONS STAFF WILL MISS THE JOB

CABINET STAFF

Senior student publication editors are distraught as their final semester comes to a close. And it's not because they're graduating.

"This job is literally better than being President of the United States," sobbed Joel Shannon, two-year editor-in-chief of the Cabinet.

After enjoying the fame, notoriety and wealth associated with a student publications job, many of the editors feel as if settling back into normal serfdom will be simply boring.

"I'm getting married," Cabinet managing editor Judith Campbell blurted out randomly.

"I've always wondered how the Baha Men felt after they recorded 'Who Let the Dogs Out,' knowing it was the last memorable thing they would ever do with their life," mused Chimes editor Elaine Griffin. "Now I know… Now… I know."

For two years, the editors had it all: a 12x12 office that also doubled as a sauna. A refrigerator that turned soda cans into explosive balls of ice and pressure. A printer that sometimes spat out ink on a page in a semi-organized fashion. Pay that could buy several cups of coffee per week. And a reprieve from the burden of sleep every Tuesday night.

And most importantly, a never-ending supply of support from their thousands of adoring fans.

"Who is David Daniels? Judith Campbell… Rob Ji… I seriously have no idea who these people are. Are they like freshmen or something? I don't know many freshman," commented Junior engineer Adam Rowe.

Despite their overwhelming notoriety, they've remained humble. And they haven't let their egos get in the way of becoming the best of friends.

"Every Tuesday night I just want to punch Joel in the face," commented campus editor David Daniels. "He listens to that Mumford and Daughters crap... On loop for hours. I'm going to throw coffee on his computer again just to shut it up."

But after two years of pampering, it's off to the real world, devoid of all the glamor of student publications work.

Shannon has some ideas of what his future holds: "I'm thinking of running for President. I mean, I know I'm qualified and would win and all. Being editor of the Cabinet is way more work than that job. But it all seems so… boring after this."

SERIOUSLY THOUGH, IT'S A GREAT JOB.

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SCHUSTER SHATTERS S



ED SCHUSTER, STARTING SAFETY AND PUNTER FOR GENEVA'S FOOTBALL TEAM, BROKE THE SCHOOL INDOOR 55 METER SPRINT RECORD IN LATE JANUARY ON HIS FIRST EVER ATTEMPT AT THE EVENT.

Ed Schuster, starting safety and punter for Geneva's football team, broke the school indoor 55 meter sprint record in late January on his first ever attempt at the event.

He exploded from his starting stance, finishing with a time of 6.44 seconds—beating teammate Ryan White's record time that he set last season, 6.47.

"He shot out of the blocks quick and I knew it was going to be a hot time," said sprint coach Phil Thompson. "Just didn't know it was going to be that hot."

Schuster ran track only one year in high school and didn't start running for Geneva until the 2013 outdoor season.

"He was a real surprise for us last year," said Head Track & Field Coach Brian Yowler. "He just continued to get better and better and better. He turned into one of our better sprinters by the end of the season."

Geneva's record breaking start to this season comes as little surprise to those involved with the team, though. Geneva's men's 4x100 meter relay team broke the school record last year. Much of the excitement for this team is centered on the sprinters from that group, senior Aaron Marga and dual track-and-football athletes Josh Guiser, Ryan White and Schuster.

"With the 4x100 team having everyone coming back and having a lot of new runners challenging them for those spots," said Thompson, "I expect to see a faster time this season."

Three out of the four record-breaking, 4x100 sprinters being both track athletes and football players suggests a positive correlation between the sports.

"Track really translates well to football," said Schuter, "but they're both explosive sports so the complement each other well."

Yowler spoke well of the relationship between Geneva's athletic staff, crediting the football coaches for making players like Schuster better overall athletes.

"Certainly each sport helps with each other," he said. "As a collegiate athletic staff we're all about aiding athletes to become faster, stronger and more explosive."

Schuster's 55m performance gave Geneva a great opening outing. He's projected to also break the school's indoor 60 meter record, which he will run on Saturday, and rank him sixth in the event in Division III if he maintains his record-setting speed.

Thompson raved about the energy level of this year's team, mentioning that there are many talented freshmen ready to compete for starting spots.

"We have more athletes in every event," he said. "It can be tough with not having a whole lot of returners, but the ones we do have returning are great mentors and keep everyone on pace."

SCHOOL 55M RECORD

EVAN WILT / STAFF WRITER



HE EXPLODED OUT THE BLOCKS, FINISHING WITH A TIME OF 6.44 SECONDS

Schuster noted that, at the track meet that he broke the 55m record, only 10 of the 36 competitors that represented Geneva were returning athletes. With so many freshmen on the 2014 Golden Tornadoes' roster, one would be hard pressed to make valid predictions for this year's squad. However, Thompson sees early promise and expects to be better in every event this year.

DIFFICULTY = EASY

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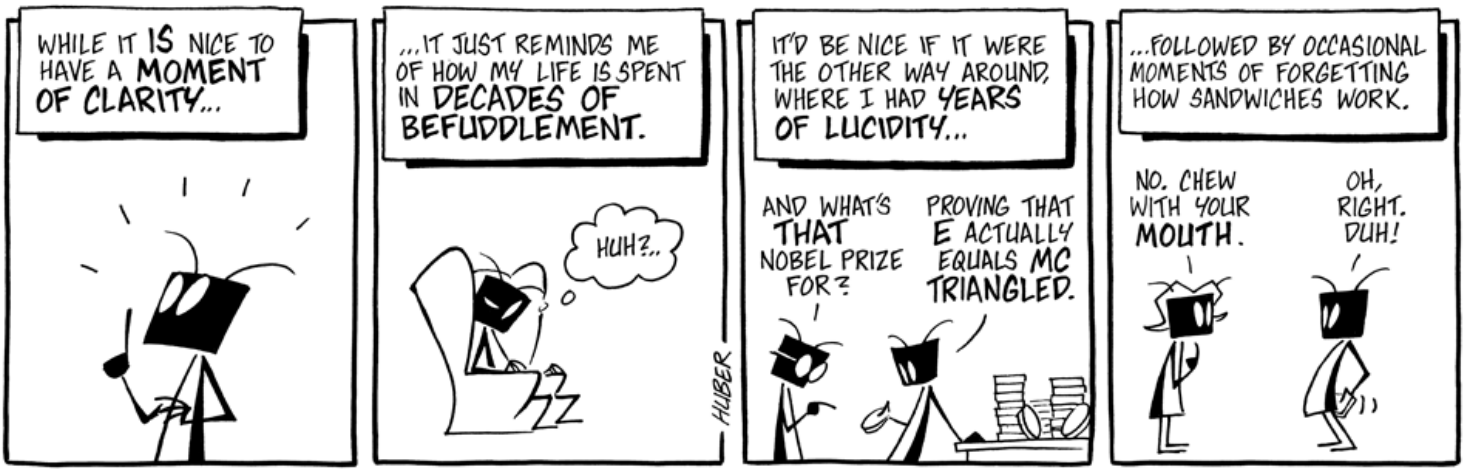
JOEL ON A TREADMILL

BORING SUPERBOWLS



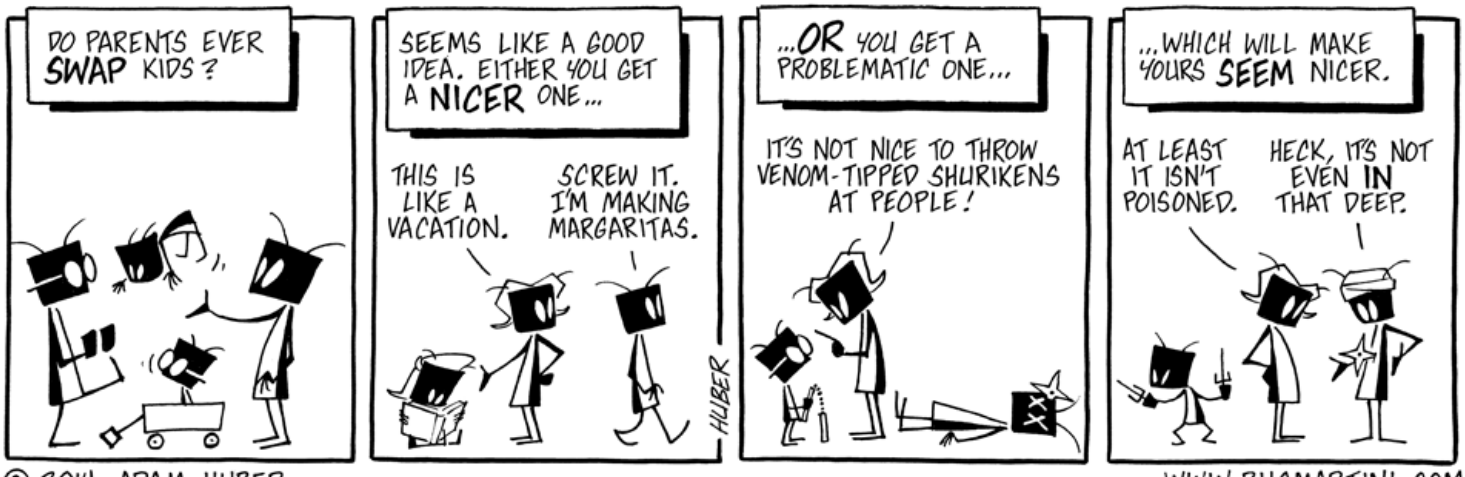


SNOW DAYS



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ONLINE STUDENT REVIEWS: WHY DOES GENEVA RANK SO LOW?

JUDITH CAMPBELL / MANAGING EDITOR

Although Geneva is just focused on staying warm right now, somewhere a skeptical high school senior is searching for a school that's just right for them.

And the official charts, ratings and "best-of" lists will only tell them so much.

As the shiny badge-thingies on Geneva's website show, U.S. News and World Report ranked Geneva in the "Top 20 of Regional College North Rankings." The blurb failed to specify that we are 17th out of that Top 20, but considering that there are 62 schools in the list, that's still decent.

Oh, but then there are the unofficial lists.

Like College Prowler, a student-written college assessment site founded in 2002 by a Cornell student. Last week, its ratings of Geneva were something less than stellar.

Geneva ranked at 1189 out of 1392 schools for "smartest professors."

For "best social scene," it was flying low at 1336 out of 1378. Penn State's social scene, just for a little context, ranked No. 2 out of 1378.

Those are some pretty telling statistics for that uncertain high school senior.

But don't worry, some student reviewers assured on the site. If you look hard enough, you can find the students who party. Relief? Maybe not.

These statistics, however, fail to factor in that this is a Christian Coalition of Colleges and Universities (CCCU) school we're talking about here. Of course Geneva won't be the top party school in the nation.

Even when compared to other CCCU schools, however, Geneva still did not look too hot. In the three categories of best quality of food, best dorm atmosphere and most caring professors, Geneva ranked in the bottom 10% of CCCU schools.

In best overall experience, Geneva was just slightly below average for CCCU schools.

And in case you're wondering, for most conservative, Geneva was in the top 3%. You know you were waiting for that.

But Brian Jensen, Director of Student Leadership Development and Coordinator for Student Retention, thinks that websites like College Prowler should have a "Use With Caution" banner across the top.

"Numbers can be tricky," Jensen explained. "You can make them look however they want."

Jensen would prefer to see numbers in context—434 people reviewed Geneva on College Prowler, but divide that by the 12 years that the site has been in existence.

"What if it is only 50 or 60 people a year putting these votes out there?" Jensen asked. "50 or 60 people might think that Geneva is kind of a rotten place, which matches up because we lose 50 or 60 people a year."

Senior Thomas Corwin is also not sure about the accuracy of College Prowler.

"I think those sites can be hit or miss," he said. "The people that are negative are more vocal," he opined, which leads to skewed statistics. "It's hard to get what a school's like from online."

He and sophomore Kathryn Hebenthal agreed.

Hebenthal thinks that campus tours, website blurbs and fancy postcards never do the school justice. According to her, you can't know what a school is like by only seeing a nice, friendly dining hall.

"If you're going to use these websites before actually giving the school a chance, Geneva may not even want you here anyway," she strongly stated. She advocates for campus visits instead of prowling online.

Corwin's first campus visit as a hopeful transfer did not quite win him over, he remembers: "I was interested in chemical engineering, and a Christian school … It dribbled down to two, Calvin and Geneva College. I visited Calvin first, and it's pretty nice. And then I visited Geneva, and I was like 'ehhhh.'"

Once he transferred, however, he loved his decision to come to Geneva. Which maybe means that Corwin is yet another Geneva student satisfied with his experience who hasn't (yet) become a contributor to College Prowler.

Gabi Chamberlain—also a sophomore—has a bigger problem with the contributors: "people who go on College Prowler only want to complain."

She was especially enraged by the "caring professors" ranking. "When I give campus tours, the kind professors here is what I stress," she protested.

Jensen agrees—he mentioned the Geneva Pulse survey, in which caring professors and staff are always at the top of the list.

"Again, it depends on who you're asking," Jensen explained. "There's always going to be that squeaky wheel."

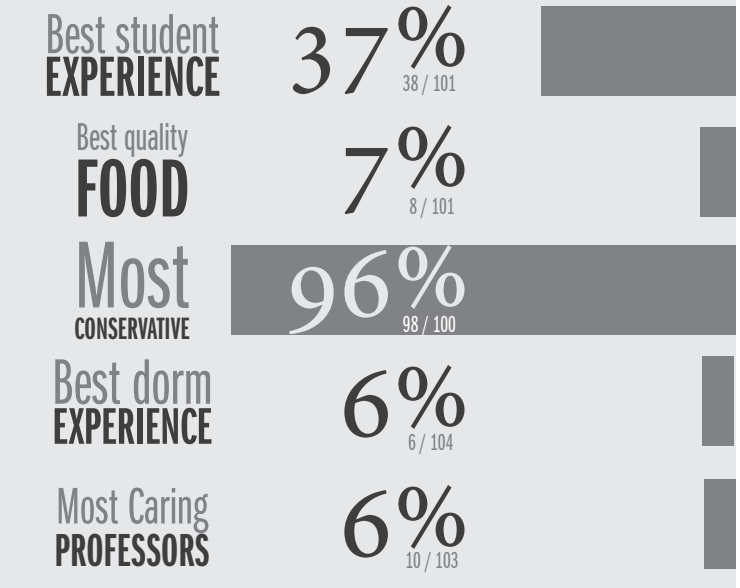
Which still doesn't quite explain why Geneva seems to have more squeaky wheels than other CCCU schools.

So should that college-bound senior scrolling through college reviews believe the squeaky wheels on College Prowler or the showy banners from U.S. News and World Report?

Well, like Jensen said, just "Use With Caution."

GENEVA VERSUS OTHER CCCU SCHOOLS

ON COLLEGEPROWLER.COM



EAT OUT: *for less*

ALLISON MCCORMICK / STAFF WRITER

Hungry?

SPO is coming to the rescue with little something they're cooking up this February: cheaper prices to local restaurants such as Chong's, Sal's, Z Pub, Athens, Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe, El Paso, Applebee's and Eat N' Park.

The event will occur every Thursday in February, but the extent of the discount is still in the works.

Stephanie Walther, a graduate assistant that works for the SPO explained that "this is the first time that we have offered this kind of opportunity."

The goal of this event is to give students a chance where they can get off campus for a while, eat great food with friends, support local business and get a deal just by showing their student ID.

Walther hopes that students will take advantage of it.

And student Hayden Crowe, for one, will be there.

Crowe, a junior human services major, expressed, "I think that is an awesome idea. I know at least for me, I do not get off campus very much … a lot of us could definitely use an excuse to get out and about. Plus, who doesn't love discounts?"

Crowe's opinion is echoed by Bryanna Ehly, a junior English education major: "I think that's a great idea … it would be great for students to get off campus and into the community even if it's just for dinner once a week."

She would have changed the day, however. "I'd personally prefer it to be a Friday or Saturday since I work Thursdays after class."

Junior psychology major Mackenzie Hobdy is another student who has concerns about the discounted days being Thursday's. She affirmed "Heck, yes!" to the opportunity, but added "I honestly feel like Friday would be a better day for students."

Although they may seem preferable, Fridays and weekends tend to be the busiest time for a business, especially if it's local. With the offered deals and multitudes of college students, this can overcrowd and overwhelm any business, which the SPO hopes to avoid.

Although the plans are not set in stone, the SPO will soon be sending out which restaurant will be the host of the week.

Walther wants students to make sure they check their mailboxes and emails on a weekly basis to get information on the business that's offering a meal for a deal.

IMAGE BY JOEL SHANNON / THE GENEVA CABINET



HISTORICAL OLD MAIN

KAYLEE AUL / STAFF WRITER

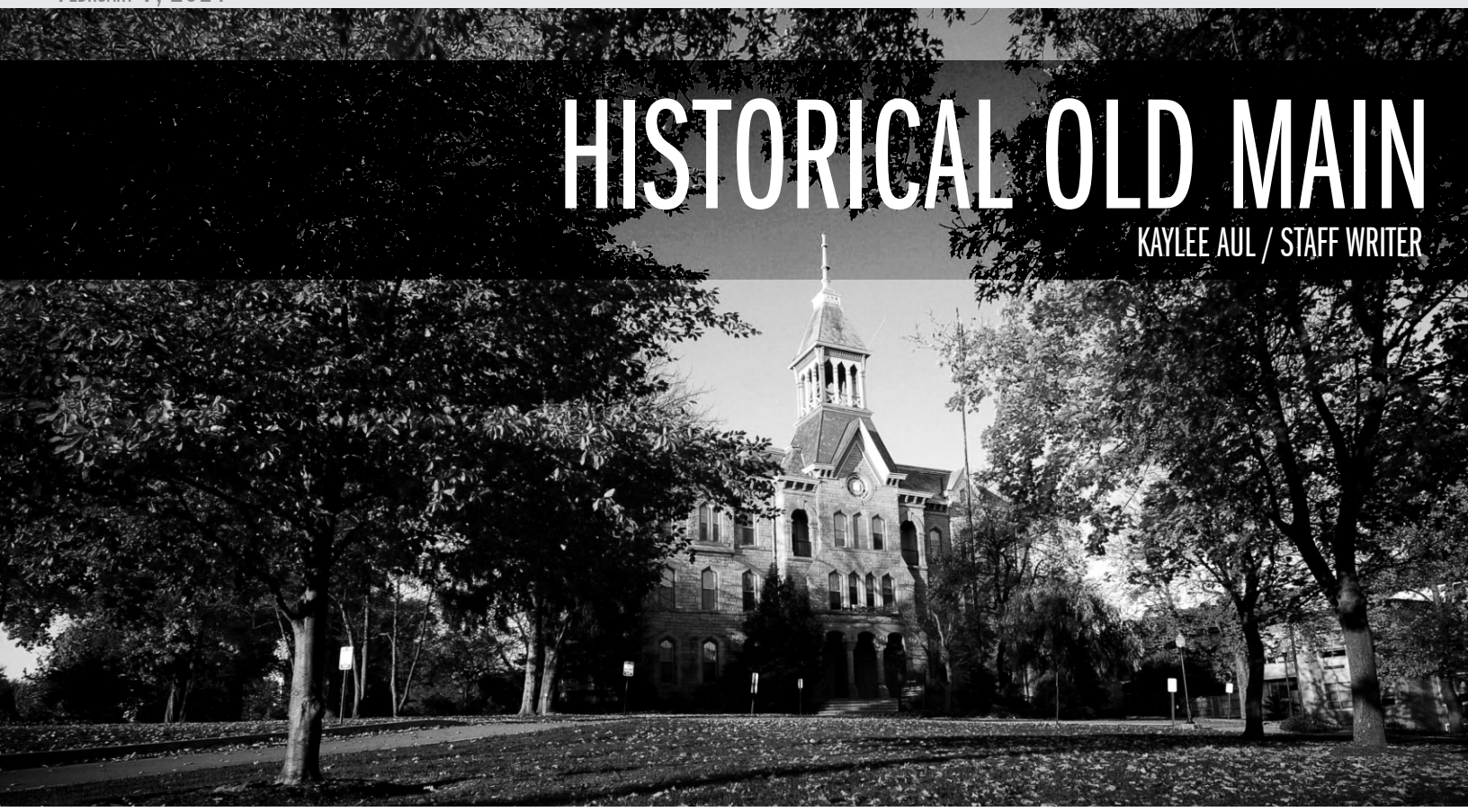


IMAGE BY JOEL SHANNON / THE GENEVA CABINET

A Glimpse into the History of Old Main

Imagine being the first students to walk through Old Main to their classes—the smell of new paint, the polished floor boards.

When it was built, Old Main cost about $40,000, according to Dr. David Carson's history of Geneva College: *P ro Christo et Patria*.

For students today, that's about the cost of two years of tuition. But $40,000 in the late 19th century is equivalent to approximately a million dollars today.

Construction on Old Main began in 1879 and was completed in 1881. The building and land were donated by the Harmony Society, a collection of German Pietists who were heavily involved in developing Beaver Falls and surrounding towns.

The Harmonists were generous enough to not just donate Old Main but also all the land that the main campus was built upon. The Harmonists offered Geneva the best land they could offer: the top of a hill overlooking a booming industrious town and a stunning view of the river below.

Shortly after Old Main was opened and classes began, there were few buildings on College Hill. The majority of the surrounding land was occupied by stables and pastures. Fencing had to be placed around the proximity of the building, and turnstiles guarded the entrances from grazing, wandering cows.

As time went on, College Hill began to attract more human residents, and the stables were replaced by homes and new buildings on Geneva's campus. Beaver Falls rose and grew around Geneva, and Old Main stood overlooking it all.

Today, Old Main is the center of campus. As alumni and professor Russell Warren stated "It is the quintessential college building. You have the wood work; you have the high ceilings, the old chalk boards, the radiators that sound like they have little people banging inside of them."

More than that, Warren maintains that the building lends one an identity as a student. "You come in and you feel academic; it is a building with a purpose."

The greatest part of attending an "old college," is that the current students, professors and staff are a part of an ongoing history. Every class that takes place in Old Main, every meeting and every conversation furthers its 133-year-old history.

As Warren added, "It is the traffic that really defines it, the fact that you have professors standing in the hallways talking to students and people meeting up, discussions going on."

"That really makes it what it is. There is something wonderful about old colleges; the buildings are living as well, they have a history," Warren concluded.

SENIOR WOMEN BASKETBALL PLAYERS EMBRACE LEADERSHIP ROLES

SPENCER GREENE / STAFF WRITER

Senior women's basketball players Samantha Fisher, Mary Keen and Lydia Steele find themselves in one of the hardest roles to stay motivated in all of sports — they're seniors on a rebuilding team.

Geneva enters Wednesday's action against Thomas More with a record of just 3-15. It finished the previous two seasons at 3-22.

The Golden Tornadoes have reason to be optimistic about the future. Their four leading scorers are freshmen and sophomores. Speculation that wins will start rolling in after it graduates offers a senior class that has endured immeasurable adversity during their college careers an opportunity to wave the white flag, but it hasn't.

"They have stuck with the program through some hard years and have never given up," said sophomore guard Heidi Mann. "I had a lot to learn coming into college basketball and these seniors provided an example of hard work and enthusiasm that has not dampened since I came to Geneva."

Inspired by Philippians 3:14, "forward" is the theme that Head Coach Lori Wynn had set in place for this year's team. While its losing record shows little outward progression, it's the culture that's developing in the locker room that, in time, can undoubtedly change those losses into wins.

Wynn, who has been the women's basketball coach for three years, understands that this doesn't happen overnight. After all, the squad is only in year three of a rebuilding process that she felt would take at least five years.

Injuries limited the team to a seven-player rotation this season. This has provided freshman Nicole Hyland, Miranda Heaney and Marissa Heaney with a rare opportunity to play 20-plus minutes immediately.

Having little substitution options has forced the underclassmen to adjust quickly to the college game. The seniors believe that this will be a contributing factor to any success the team will have going forward without them. Being thrown to the wolves this early in their careers has provided them with invaluable experience, and Coach Wynn and her seniors are optimistic about the potential this team has.

Fisher, Keen and Steele won't be on next year's roster, but they're striving to impact it. The trio is expected to set a precedent, taking on teaching roles themselves in order to prepare the younger players to lead.

"We continue to talk to the upperclassman about the legacy they are going to leave and what they are going to teach the incoming class in terms of work ethic and the culture of our team," said Wynn.

An opportunity to be in a leadership position has been embraced by the seniors.

Determination, resilience and perseverance are just a few of the attributes that they hope to instill in the program. The seniors' willingness to sacrifice despite their lack of success in recent years has in return united the team.

"Instead of pulling apart," said Fisher, "we have come together."

It's easy to get burnt out during a long season and, although the seniors admit to being frustrated at times during their Geneva careers, their motivation remains high when reminded of what a blessing basketball has been in their lives.

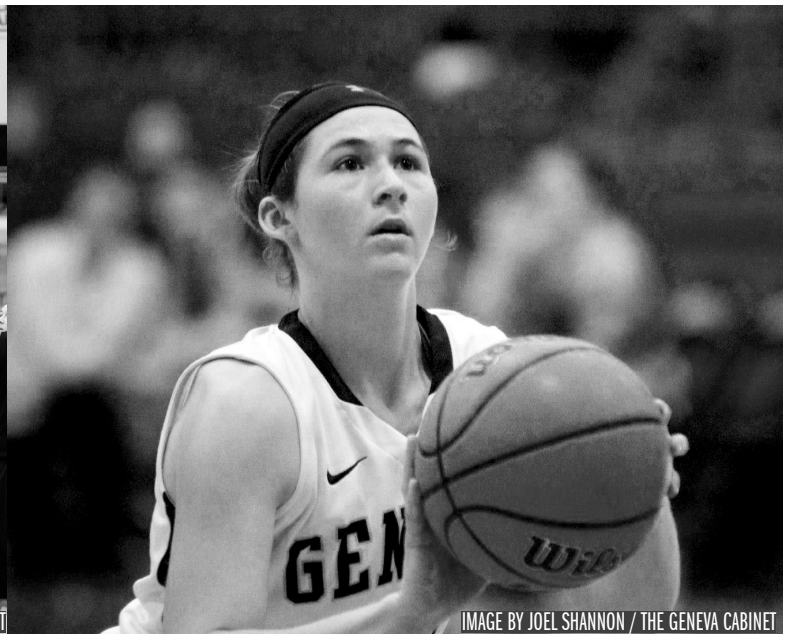
"Never lose sight of why you love the game in the first place," said Keen.

Even when their love for basketball dulls, Steele cited a higher motivation she's used to to persevere in the midst of a tough season.

"Do it all for the glory [of God]," she said.



IMAGE BY ROB JINKS / THE GENEVA CABINET


IMAGE BY JOEL SHANNON / THE GENEVA CABINET