

The Hill News

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY - FOUNDED IN 1911

Vol. CXI No. 13

Friday, February 17, 2006 www.thehillnews.com

Canton, New York

Chiarella '83 and McNally '71 Read at Writers Series

Jamie Dyer
Advertisement Manager

Tom Chiarella, '83, and Dennis McNally, '71, read and reminisced in Syke's formal lounge February 9 as part of the Writer's Series and St. Lawrence's Sesquicentennial celebration.

Chiarella began the evening with "Hobie's Love Contract," from his unfinished novel "Things I Already Know in a Language I Don't Understand." "Hobie's" is a quick read that relays the narrator's fear of incompatibility in the form of an amusing and insightful contract. The "initial here" sections ensure lighthearted chuckles, as do various odd-ball requests. However, it is the small, vivid memories and personal preferences scattered throughout that give the reader a glimpse into the intricacies of his desires and fears that classify this piece as a whimsical satire of love, more than a contract.

Chiarella concluded his time with "The Vineyard Where the Grapes of Wrath Grow" a short story from a collection of such that focus on car accidents. Chiarella was intrigued with this topic after a 1995 car acci-

dent left him seriously injured and separated from his wife.

When completed, the book will capture Chiarella's love of painting, in the form of sixty-four hand-painted inserts that will correspond with particular stories.

"The Vineyard" is an interesting story about a man whose wife tries to kill him not once, but twice while driving together. The narrator suspects his wife of cheating on him, and at the end his suspicions become reality when she empties his bank account and has her lover beat him up. Despite his past experience, the story ends with the narrator painfully trying to follow his wife.

McNally's reading took a different approach than Chiarella's, focusing rather, on

his personal history. After graduating from St. Lawrence,

year, so as to avoid an assigned doctoral thesis.

"I wanted to write a book publishable in New York, not just an academic press, and Kerouac hadn't been done."

Thus began the seven year process of researching and writing Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, the Beat Generation, and America, published in 1978. McNally quickly read a scene describ-

ing Kerouac's death and funeral, interrupting himself generously to explain things and add information.

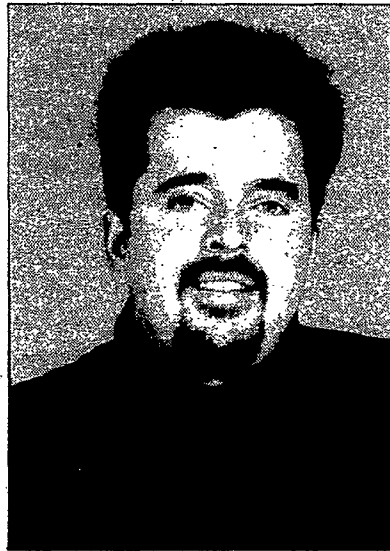
He proceeded to describe his obsession with the Grateful Dead, a topic sought by many at the reading. McNally vowed to write a biography of the Grateful Dead after attending his first Grateful Dead concert and experimenting with psycho-

tropic drugs, and sent Jerry Garcia, an avid fan of Kerouac, a copy of his book as a sign of interest. One thing led to another, and he became close friends with Garcia, but a few years passed before he was asked to write the Grateful Dead's biography.

In 1985 McNally put writing on hold to work as the Grateful Dead's publicist. In 1997, two years after Garcia's death, he resumed the biography. "A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead" was published in 2002, the first biography sanctioned by the group. McNally finished his visit with a passionate reading of a concert scene excerpted from "Long Strange Trip".

Chiarella, has authored such books as Thursday's Game: Notes from a Golfer with Far to Go, Writing Dialogue, and Foley's Luck, which was published in 1992 to wide acclaim. Currently he is an associate professor of English at Depauw University and free-lance writer for Esquire Magazine.

McNally continues to work as a biographer and publicist for Grateful Dead Productions as well as free-lance for various publications.



Tom Chiarella '83

Photos by University Communications



Dennis McNally '71

McNally entered UMass Amherst with "a wonderfully romanticized view of what I thought college was."

"It wasn't until I arrived at U-Mass Amherst," McNally said, "that I realized graduate school is more like a food production line at McDonald's than college." McNally chose Jack Kerouac for the subject of his doctoral thesis his freshman

Winterfest 2006 Consumes Quad; Clarkenstein Appears

Mia Vachon
Contributing Writer

Students took over the quad on Saturday afternoon as participants in The Class Council's 2006 Winterfest. The event, whose origin and original popularity on campus date back to the 60's and 70's as a St. Lawrence tradition, was resurrected last winter and warmly received by the students. The idea for its revival was simple: the class councils wanted to get students together. Having been a success last year, with the creation of nine elaborate, detail oriented and large snow sculptures, the councils collaborated to "make it [the event] bigger" and thus, Clarkenstein was born at the suggestion of a member of RLC.

To defend our lovely campus from the monster, students were encouraged to again build

snow sculptures which would stand in its defense. There was a slight problem, however: not much snow. "We had wanted to do it [Winterfest] again because it went so well last year. Last year the snow was really great and the day was perfect, so this year it was a bit harder." Class Council members didn't want to postpone the event, due to lack of snow, so decided to use what was available, and with the help of facilities, had snow trucked in from other parts of campus and from The Canton Ice Pavilion. "It went over well" Danielle Weaver said.

The upside of little snow rested in the sunny afternoon and milder than



Photo by Claude Bartholomew

usual temperature, and students made due with the snow provided to them: scattered in clumps around the center of the quad. Each of the four Greek women's houses participated, in celebration of Bid Saturday and their New Member classes. The class of 2008, The Outing Club and ACE, the event's winner, were among participants as well. ACE, whose sculpture included a tunnel, was presented with a plaque in recognition of their win at the hypnotist later that evening.

The all-day event was made possible though the hard collaborative work of each class council. Events like Winterfest are an important and vital part

to life on campus. The amount of organization and planning that goes into an event like this should not be overlooked. Loyal Dana customers may have noticed the advertisements and decoration in the dining hall, created by the First Year Council. Publicity was left to the junior class, leaving event logistics and set-up to the upperclassman class councils. T-Shirts are still available and may be purchased by contacting sophomore class council members. The t-shirts are wonderful. For those of you who are seniors, perhaps becoming a bit nostalgic at the thought of leaving Larryland in a few short months, what better to remember our time here at Old St. Lawrence than with a royal blue t-shirt with large green monster on the back? And, as expected, Saints defeated the Clarkenstein.

This Week



SEX IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

PAGE 2

WINTERFEST PHOTO SPREAD

PAGE 6

BOOK TRANSLATION

PAGE 7

CORNELL HOCKEY

PAGE 8