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THE SPARK

SGA versus free press

Oct. 1977

Vol I Issue I

RICHARD GOLDIN

Wars have been fought, and men have died, to preserve such basic rights as freedom of the press. For a free press is the backbone of any society; ideas can be exchanged freely and without fear of reprisal. But freedom of the press is dying on this campus, and the corpse can only be laid at the door of the Student Government Association.

For in a small room on the second floor of Crozier Williams sit a group of people with egos so large, as to diminish their ability to judge an issue fairly. People who don't know the meaning of the word "principle", but who can quote word for word the definitions for the term "power".

For the last two weeks, The Spark and The College Voice have waged a battle against the S.G.A. in the name of integrity and freedom. Both publications have insisted on their right to be independent of any outside authority, and to be able to resist pressures from groups not associated with the newspapers. The Student Government Association has attempted to thwart these moves at every point, insisting that the views of the S.G.A. be paramount. Constantly, the threat of

financial reprisal has been held over the heads of the newspapers in order to force them to do the bidding of the S.G.A.

Unfortunately, the members of the Student Government Association are too cowardly to even face up to what they are doing. They will insist that they too believe in an independent newspaper, and would never think of using their power to influence content. But at S.G.A. meetings this show of piety has been revealed as a facade, presented by a desperate Student Government Association determined to win influence, if not friends, with its power of the purse strings.

At a special meeting of the S.G.A., called in order to discuss the question of whether or not to fund two student newspapers, the true nature of the Student Government Association was revealed. Perhaps basic attitudes were best summed up when representative Stephanie Pick bluntly asserted, "If you're getting money from us, you're going to have to do what we want."

What Ms. Pick, and the other representatives of the student government fail to realize is that the decision to go to the S.G.A. for funds is not a voluntary one. There are few other sources of funds on this campus, and last year

The Newsletter suffered greatly for want of capital.

So the S.G.A. holds the money, and they wave it in front of the two newspapers, waiting to see which will compromise its ideals and crawl for the needed funds. Fortunately, both The Spark, and The College Voice, have insisted on freedom of the press, and have not succumbed to what amounts to financial blackmail.

Two weeks ago, in a frail attempt to "go to the people", meetings were held in three dormitories in order to discuss the issue of funding two campus newspapers. But, as Donald Goldberg, Social Chairman of Branford, put it, "The whole meeting was a joke. It was evident from the start that S.G.A. members had certain viewpoints, and were simply intent on lining up the students behind them. The meetings were one-sided, and no alternative views were presented." It should be noted that at no time were members of either The Spark or The College Voice informed of where or when the meetings were to be held.

Perhaps the real argument between the Student government Association, and the newspapers, revolves around the S.G.A.'s conception of itself. The representatives of Student Government consider themselves to be very important people, determining issues of paramount importance. In actuality, the S.G.A. is like a drowning man being pulled further under by the foolishness and short-sightedness of its present members.

The attitudes of the present student government vice president, Jim Garvey, are probably typical of the entire S.G.A. body. Mr. Garvey is a man who wormed his way into his present office by deceit and trickery, never telling the student body what his views

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Photo by Pines

WHO DO THEY THINK THEY'RE KIDDING?

Opening words

Our older brothers and sisters, who preceded us into college, had something we have now lost. They fought hard for the goals they believed in, and whether or not they succeeded, they exalted in the knowledge that they were working hard for a just cause.

How have we lost so much in so short a time? Why do we allow ourselves to be trampled upon, allow our wishes and desires to be ignored, without putting forth some form of protest?

Mere complaints have never, and will never, be sufficient. The administration and faculty are too wrapped up in their own concerns to care about those things which benefit only students. For the administration, the primary concern is the survival of Connecticut College as an educational institution. What exactly it is that will be surviving, and where the student body fits in, has never really been their concern. Headed by Oakes Ames, the administration is consistently trying to take the easy way out, and will thus rarely side with the student body (a group which, as of now, has no real power). For to side with the students, would often bring forth a storm of protest from the faculty, and Mr. Ames is far more likely to bow to faculty pressure, than to stand up for an issue solely out of principle.

For the most part, the faculty often seems more concerned with benefits and salaries than with quality education. In a time when sacrifice is called for from all, the faculty is doing its best to make sure that they are not forced to contribute their fair share.

As a non-unified student body we can accomplish little, but as a cohesive unit nothing can stand in our way. The faculty and administration know this, and will always attempt to prevent the unification of the student body. - The choice is ours to make.

The saga of Pass/No Pass

CINDY GALL

The policy of the Pass-Not Passed option has recently been a matter of great interest on campus. During the third week of the semester, juniors and seniors with a grade point average of 2.0 or better, were allowed to file a P-NP for any one course which was not part of their major or the general education requirement. Many, if not most of these students had already decided, at Registration, which of their courses they would use this policy for. At the same time, they were under the impression that their option for a P-NP could be retracted before the end of the semester, allowing them to take a letter grade if they felt they had done well in the course. But in the middle of the third week, while these students were filing for the option, the Exceptions Committee clarified the Pass-Not Passed system:

students could not retract the option at the end of the semester in order to obtain a letter grade. Students were then given an extra two days to decide whether or not they should take the option.

Granted, the Pass-Not Passed option is a luxury, and we have been permitted an indulgence in grade manipulation when we had the power of retraction at the semester's end. But the Committee's action, implemented as a result of their Tuesday, Sept. 20 meeting, was objectionable on several counts.

After talking to Dean Johnson, Mr. Rhyne, and Mrs. Sheridan, all members of the Committee, I found that this policy was not new, and that students were never allowed to retract their option at the end of the semester. They were allowed only to file for a Pass-Not Passed, not to 'unfile' it. As we all

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SPECIAL THANKS

The Spark wishes to express its thanks to the staff of The College Voice for their help and encouragement.

Letters to the Editor

The Spark welcomes and encourages letters from its readers. Responsible letters should be sent to:

The Spark
c/o Box 618
Connecticut College
New London, Ct.

The mosaic appearance of this week's issue is caused by a lack of typewriters. This was due to a cutback in funding, and we ask our readers to bear with us.

THE SPARK

Volume 1 / Issue 1

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The Spark is a non-profit organization with offices located in the Chapel boiler room. Our mailing address is

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SGA vs free press continued

really were. This statement, while obviously quite strong is easily verified if one compares Mr. Garvey's present actions to his campaign promises of last year.

In his election platform last spring, Mr. Garvey said, "I thought it best that the flows of this system be analyzed, labelled and rectified before a new set of officers be placed in the same old government with the same old problems." What, we might ask Mr. Garvey, has been done to create this "brand new S.G.A. world" he foresaw a scant six months ago? Why is our vice president now able to declare to the newspapers that the Student Government Association essentially is the student body when last semester he was boldly stating, "The simple fact is that the Student Assembly is too busy looking up the power scheme trying to decide who is making the decisions rather than looking below them at the empty shell which is supposed to be their source of support. The fact is that the support is not there and neither is the power..."

The answers to these questions seem rather obvious. The only changes which have taken place in the Student Government Association, since last year, are that a new set of officers, including Mr. Garvey, have taken over. Rather than attempting to obtain support, the Student Government Association members have simply declared that the support is there, and thus they authorize themselves to speak for the entire student body.

The fact remains that it is not the whole student body, but only a small group of people who have been battling the student newspapers. At first the issue was the printing of Student Government platforms, with the S.G.A. as a body claiming that platforms were all they cared about, and actual newspaper content would never be a concern. However, at one point, S.G.A. representative Eric Schoenberg declared to the *College Voice*, "Your assurance that you're going to print good news, that is relevant to this campus is not good enough for me. Because we're paying for it, and I look at your last issue...with the front page,

a full page picture of a frisbee being thrown around by some clown, and I open it up and I see a full page article on frisbee, and to me that's a waste of student money." It seems rather obvious that Mr. Schoenberg's remarks represent an attempt to influence newspaper content, and there is no reason not to assume that his opinions are shared by the entire Student Government Association.

As it stands now, the S.G.A. has funded *The Spark* only for the first semester. Second semester funding depends on, as yet, undefined criteria, and past experience has not inspired confidence in the student governmental body. However, *The Spark* will continue to speak out forthrightly on the issues which affect the student body, with the hope that student pressure will keep the financial ax from falling.

(The *Spark* welcomes any member of the S.G.A. to respond to this article, and promises to print such responses in next issue's "Letters to the Editor" section)

The beer facts

ROYCE WINSTEN

Saturday night lines at the bar are such a drag. You don't go there to wait in line. You want to drink, converse, and have a good time. Long lines and no seats are not my idea of having a good time.

Because of logistics, the bar is only able to handle one beer on tap. The Schlitz now served is fine, but an imported beer in addition would be nice. Some customers ask for cider, but it is impossible to comply because of the physical limitations of the bar.

Crowding at the bar is another problem. Obviously, having more space would alleviate this situation. The abundance of space available in the seldom used

Alumni Wing next door, could easily be used for the expansion of the bar. With a student population of 1600, almost entirely made up of people drinking age, a seating capacity of 80 seems less than adequate.

But what can be done to correct this gross inequity? How could the bar be enlarged without incurring great expense? Let me briefly outline the proposal: First, use the adjacent room at the north end of the bar for the expansion. By knocking down one wall, the serving area would become centrally located in a reasonably large enclosure, and be doubled in length at the same time. At present, the adjacent room is seldom used. Next, relocate the walk-in cooler, presently behind the pinball

machines, to the central island the proposed two sided bar would form. Besides making the cooler secure against theft (which it now isn't) the proximity to the bar would allow Mr. Regolo to sell cider, and keep another beer on tap. Wouldn't it be nice to buy a pitcher of Lowenbrau?

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Food for thought

SELDON PRENTICE AND
PETER REICH

At Connecticut College we claim to have the goal of becoming an environmental model, but in the area of food we have fallen short of this goal. We have not even considered our use of the earth's resources in terms of the food and energy we consume and waste.

We shall start with the premise that the earth's operation is based on certain laws. If the human race is to survive on this planet, it must learn to respect the laws of nature. We must keep our soil healthy and maintain its natural balance of organisms and nutrients. Energy use must be efficient and production of non-recyclable and poisonous substances must be minimal. In nature, no matter disappears; it only takes a new form: Leaves, for example, decompose and become nutrients for plants.

Our most common means of producing food is one in which we have diverged from the ways of nature. American methods of production require enormous energy input in the form of fossil fuels and chemical fertilizers. Fertilizers are detrimental because they destroy the natural balance of elements in the soil and force the land to produce more than it should. They also inhibit the plant's natural absorption abilities, making them deficient in important elements. Manure is a fertilizer which returns nutrients to the soil in their natural balance. Today most natural wastes are stockpiled and left unused.

Another negative aspect of modern agriculture is the use of monocultures. In nature a stable ecosystem requires species diversity. A massive field where only one crop is grown is vulnerable to attacks from pests. This leads to the use of pesticides which don't disappear once they've done their job. They stay in the

ecosystems and poison many forms of life including Man. Evidence also shows that their use has led to an increase of pests because they have built up immunities to the poison.

A third negative aspect is the waste of energy in the processing of food. Much processed food is of no value as it contains high quantities of sugar, preservatives, colour-

also given hormones to increase their fertility. Cattle who have eaten these drugs produce beef and milk that contain harmful pesticides.

Another source of protein is eggs. But eggs also contain poisonous artificial elements that we must eat to get this protein. Chicken feed also contains pesticides and chemicals for things such as "yolk im-

"If Connecticut College is striving to become an environmental model, it should care more about the type and quality of food it serves."

ing and other additives. A great deal of evidence suggests that these foods are detrimental to our health and result in various forms of cancer and other diseases. Other grain foods are bleached, stripped of their nutrients, causing such foods as white bread, rice and pasta to be of little nutritional value. All that is left are the calories. Starches with no nutrients and sugar disrupt the body's system by producing energy for our cells without feeding them more essential nutrients.

What is the point of wasting energy to produce foods such as those? Do we not have a responsibility to grow food in an ecologically efficient manner, and provide it in a healthy form?

At Connecticut College most of the food is typical of our modern production system. Meat is offered as our main source of protein although it is unhealthy as well as inefficient. In the U.S., beef cattle are fed pesticides to rid them of parasites; they are given a hormone to make them grow fatter, with less food, and they are given tranquilizers and antibiotics. The females are

provement". Before the eggs go on the market they are washed with detergents and disinfectants and given an oil treatment to extend shell-life. Many of these elements are absorbed into the egg through the multiple pores of its shell.

Vegetables are an important source of vitamins, but the vegetables we get, are produced on soils high in fertilizers and pesticides. Pesticides do remain inside these vegetables and they are of less nutritional value because they are grown on land too heavily fertilized.

If Connecticut College is striving to become an environmental model, it should care more about the type and quality of food it serves. There is an alternative choice. There are natural food companies which provide food for colleges. These companies provide food grown without fertilizers and pesticides. The kind of food that would be offered would not differ so much from what we have now but would be of whole grain and without sugar, additives, or preservatives. Such foods bring roughage to the diet, important for digestion, and containing healthful vitamins and minerals.

Miss Voorhees, the director of food services, is willing to change the quality of the food here if she knows that a significant number of students would like a change. If we care about our health, and do want to become an environmental model, then these issues on the quality of food at Connecticut College must be addressed and changed.

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What are Oakes' aims?

RICHARD GOLDIN

Reading the statements distributed by President Ames concerning the drug policies of Connecticut College, one could only say, "how typical". As it now stands, the drug policy is as follows: the school will exercise restraint in turning any student into the authorities, but no voice will be raised in protest at the possibility of these outside authorities invading this campus. Obviously, Mr. Ames has once again tried to walk the thin line --neither defending or of-fending anyone. And, as usual, he has pleased no one.

While it is certainly true that a college President has no authority to order law enforcement agents off of a campus, there is no excuse for Mr. Ames to equivocate and vacillate on the issue. Instead of the "pro forma" statements which have been issued, a declaration should have been put forth by the President's office declaring that, where drugs are concerned, the College would, at all

times, take care of its own. Furthermore, New London officials should simply stay away from the campus, for the benefit of all concerned.

Certainly, a statement of this sort would have no real enforcement power behind it. but at least the



student body would have known where its President stood on the issue. Instead, Mr. Ames has chosen to hide behind a cloak of ambiguous statements and meaningless answers.

When asked in a recent interview if he was in favor of the decriminalization of marijuana, Mr. Ames' reply began with the statement, "I haven't really given it much study." When further asked if he was in favor of legalizing marijuana his response commenced with, "I really don't know on that."

Either Mr. Ames is totally unaware of what has been going on in this country for the last ten years, or he is simply not being honest with the student body. A college President is not merely in charge of making basic administrative decisions. He must set forth certain values which both he and his administration will represent. However, having a college President who refuses to let his stand be known on basic moral issues makes this ideal of value-setting extremely difficult, if not impossible. Perhaps Mr. Ames should remember an old rule, "While the jellyfish is seldom caught, he is never respected."

WCNI FALL SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7-10 AM classical Nancy Hollister	7-10 AM Doug Fisher	7-10 AM Stewart Lyons	7-10 AM Andy Wolfson	7-10 AM David Cruthers	7-10 AM Larry Simon	7-10 AM Robert Lazaroff
10-12 classical David Levy	10-12 Steve Owen	10-12 James Wolff	10-12 Tom Kadzis	10-12 Robert Seide	10-12 John Azarow	10-2 Henry Hauser
12-3 Mark Grossman	12-4 Stephen Simeone	12-4 Bill Sheffield	12-4 Mark Longsworth	12-4 Tom Mortimer	12-3 Scott Giarman	2-6 Raymond Negron
3-6 Michael Schiff	4-6 classical Jack Wade	4-6 classical Patty McGowan	4-6 classical David Levy	4-6 classical Patty McGowan	3-6 Barry Gross	6-10 Viki Fitzgerald
PSA/News 7-10 Bill Farrell	6-10 Lex Richardson	6-10 Royce Becker	6-10 Erica Phillips	6-10 Win Morgan	6-10 Mark Conrad	6-10 Viki Fitzgerald
10-2 Warren Klotz	10-2 Caroline Boyce	10-2 Tim Dempsey	10-2 Scott Calamar	10-2 Peter Rustin	10-2 Meaghan O'Connell	10-2 Marc Pandone

Gynecology and you

ANDREA BLOMGREN

At Connecticut College, where women comprise nearly 60% of the student body, gynecological services are a critical facet of health care. Over 900 women at Conn. have a right to informative and responsive counseling as well as competent treatment. Yet there are indications that a lack of effective communication between students and the College Health Service has resulted in a potentially hazardous situation.

"Yet there are indications that a lack of effective communication between students and the Health Service has resulted in a potentially hazardous situation."

The gynecological service, under the direction of Dr. A. Gordon Murphy, is located in the infirmary. It offers a range of services from contraceptive clinics twice weekly to routine examinations. All women 18 and older, should have these examinations every 6 months. It is imperative to stress that all consultations are held in total confidentiality. Dr. Murphy will provide several contraceptive methods with the exception of the I.U.D. (the intra-uterine device), since he is unconditionally opposed to its use. He feels it is definitely dangerous to women, much more so than the potential dangers commonly associated with the birth control pill. In his professional experience over the years (he has been at Conn. for only four years) he has seen the I.U.D. result mainly in harm and ineffectiveness. Consequently, the doctor favors prescription of the Pill. As the easiest and most effective method of birth control, it suits the needs and lifestyles of college students. Nothing is prescribed without a thorough examination and a discussion of the student's medical history. Thereafter the patient may be assigned to

any method agreed upon. Precautionary discretion is practiced in the prescription of the so-called "Morning-After" pill, which will only be administered twice to a woman. Dr. Murphy emphasizes that this method should never be relied upon as an alternative to regular contraceptive practice.

In his comments relating to the prescription drugs aspect of the services available, the doctor took the occasion to clarify a special problem. He stressed

a careful treatment of young women here whose mothers took the drug DES while pregnant. This drug was widely given to women in the mid to late 1950's. Women who were prone to miscarriage, took DES in order to carry a child full term. Many females born to mothers who used this drug are currently of college age. A significant percentage of these young women have subsequently developed precancerous conditions involving the cervix known as "adinosis." This condition is treatable for some; unfortunately others have developed serious vaginal cancers. A relationship between the DES intake of mothers and the adinosis of their daughters has thus been established. Dr. Murphy has extensively researched the area of DES. He is responsible for the new addition to the College's health forms. These forms ask specifically for DES usage in mothers of students. Students for whom this is true are and continue to be treated more carefully when drugs such as the Pill and the morning after pill are administered. He recognizes and is quite concerned with the hazards these drugs present to those young women born with the aid of DES.

Dr. Murphy's basic position is that our school offers better than average facilities for one of its size. He therefore sees no reason why any women on this campus should ever contemplate Planned Parenthood as an alternative to what they can receive here. At other schools, he added, only nurse practitioners are available for this all important health need. Thus, Dr. Murphy sees nothing wrong with the services Conn. College provide. Discontent prevails, however. Criticism voiced at a recent Women's Group meeting has indicated very real problems. Whether these criticisms are the result of faulty assumptions or misinformation is not the point. The fact of the matter is that these negative reactions are present and need a forum for their discussion. Dr. Murphy has, in the past, participated in a radio broadcast designed to inform the college community of the gynecological services and policies at Connecticut. There seems to be no reason why he cannot do so again. Therefore, it is suggested that a similar mass media approach be repeated. Obviously, more people can be reached and enlightened on this level. At the very least, a question and answer session is urgently needed to hear students' attitudes and comments. Dr. Murphy is, of course, invited to comment in the next issue of "The Spark." We are more than willing to use The Spark as a vehicle for facilitating an effective communications line between students and those here who serve them.

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The artist at Connecticut College

SARAH J. RABINOWITZ

It has never been easy to be an artist. The very nature of the profession demands a removal from mainstream social convention. Usually, this is as inconvenient as it may be desirable. The contemporary artist in particular faces the grim prospect of expending more energy justifying his work than actually doing it. Backed into a corner by a Puritan public, he is accused of everything from general grubbiness to spreading Communism and often has a hard time with such feeble defenses as "Freedom of Thought!" or "Creative innovation is the basis for progress!" Defend himself as the artist will, the crowd stands firm in its condemnation of art as "play" rather than "work"; as nonsensical rather than serious.

The problem, of course, is exacerbated by the modern proclivity for fast, simple answers to ancient, highly complex questions. Art is neither fast nor simple. It does not conform to pat generalizations and must not confine itself solely to depthless expressions easily understood by all. Therefore art and the artist, being stubbornly committed to the philosophical challenge, are thorns in the side of the public which consistently evades that challenge.

Is there an ultimate haven for the artist? Artists' colonies, although professionally rewarding and stimulating, are far too removed from the public to effectively promote the cause of art. Economic and technological complexities, on the other hand, leave little room for creativity. Perhaps the ideal setting for artistic development is at a liberal arts college. For, a large portion of its population is presumably dedicated to the very same philosophical and intellectual challenges to which the artist ascribes. In such a community, the artist would be encouraged to experiment, to develop and create. Free from the fetters of academic and administrative bias, he would have instead the full support and interest of the academicians and

administrators. In return, the artist could offer this community a more expansive outlook on the learning process. He could also demonstrate the importance of visual harmony and beauty.

Connecticut College has a unique opportunity to become just such an artistically sophisticated community. We have spectacular facilities in Cummings Arts Center, a dedicated and talented faculty, and a long history of commitment to the arts. It would be the College's misfortune to be seduced by the forces of expediency; to waste on athletic teams the money that might be used for

a visiting artists series. The department of studio art regularly displays a strong commitment to the basic value of a liberal arts college—that of free and creative thought. The liberal arts community, therefore, must strengthen its financial and intellectual support for the arts, or face the possibility of closing off one of the broadest avenues to growth and discovery. An artist at Connecticut College should feel that his art is a vital part of the college environment. Let us make this community one that welcomes the artist, and in so doing, one that is dedicated to humanism and progress.

Bachelor Blues

After work I'd just assume

stay here with the sound

of machinery.

Or I'll go to a bar

to find company

in gin and tonics and bartender's talk

of Yastremski and women.

Or maybe I'll pick up a women.

Let her have a fat ass, horn rimmed glasses,

blood red lipstick and a lisp.

Let her be stupid and have her hate poetry.

I don't care,

anywhere but home.

Home, what an enigmatic word

for an abode

Where last week's dirty dishes roam the kitchen aimlessly like records after a dawn breaking party.

Where on the floors, dirty clothes search for an owner.

Where bare plaster walls cry for laughter that's never been heard.

Where the sound of the alarm clock is the only other heart beat.

J.J.C

Fabled foundations

SCOTT CALAMAR

There are very few people -- mostly alumni and kitchen staff -- that remember or have even heard the true story of Palmer Library. The Gnu library, bustling with activity, offering sanctuary and refreshment to ever expanding minds, looks out over old Palmer, a shakily standing requiem to past years and social security numbers.

It was in 1924 that Aldredge R. Palmer, founder of the Arnold Club Company, decided that he hadn't helped build a library in over three years. At his request, his wife Regina ("the Palmer Charmer") traveled the land, stopping here and there to look for a site for the new library. (Regina had favored building an optometrist's clinic instead, but Aldredge insisted that he would not invest his money "in a site for sore eyes...") Arriving at Connecticut College for Women on a rainy January evening in 1925, Regina was met by Andrew P. McGonigle, the boyishly handsome Assistant to the President of the College. They talked throughout the evening, and upon discovering she was about to be pregnant, Regina cabled her husband that the site for his erection had been found.

Aldredge, having gotten out of the bathtub to receive the cable, was immediately filled with elation and a bit of pneumonia. Taking the night coach from his manor in Bayonne to New London, Aldredge, still filled with elation -- and about a fifth of gin -- dreamt merrily of his new structure, and his reunion with his beloved one-eyed wife. (In her early childhood, Regina had heard the phrase "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." Later, at the tender age of five, little Regina was told about the tooth fairy. Confusing the stories, she put one of her eyes under her pillow, hoping she would receive enough money for a bottle of Coca-Cola.)

Aldredge and his pneumonia arrived in New London very late on the night of January the 17th, 1925. After investigating the proposed site of his pet project, he went looking for his wife.

As fate- and Regina- would have it, he found her in room 417 of New London Hall, locked in McGonigle's arms. Unhooking his arms, McGonigle pulled some lint from his pockets and left the room. Before Regina could turn to see him, her husband heartbroken and confused in his love for her, took the eye she had given him when they married from his pocket and dropped it to the floor. "It takes alot to laugh, it takes a train to cry," he said. "If this be so, then you must be loco, you fiend" shouted McGonigle, who had returned. "Give me that eye!" "Gentlemen", said Regina, "no one gets the eye until this library is built. First we must plan. This building must be for all. It will have thousands of books, none of them published after 1938. We should have a bust of Dante on the landing between the second and third floors. It will be a home of knowledge." By now Aldredge's pneumonia had advanced to new improved pneumonia D and he could stand no longer. Collapsing to the floor, he started to speak in sweaty tones. "My library! I see it now. A three dimensional computer card..." "What's a computer card?" pondered McGonigle, "it's 1925!" "...And the inside, red carpet, chairs of bright purple and green.." "My God, Regina, he's hallucinating. We must put him out of his misery!" "Yes, Andrew," she conceded. "Get the dictionary- that Oxford Dictionary over there, the one that weighs 120 pounds." McGonigle lifted the dictionary off the shelf and dropped it on Aldredge. The impact of it startled Aldredge and he shouted, "Get that dictionary off me! Grab it! Grab it by the cover!" "Don't you know you can't budge a book by its cover?" inquired McGonigle. With that, the last spark of life left Aldredge and New London Hall acquired an odor it has yet to lose.

The money from Aldredge Palmer's estate went to build the Palmer Library, as it was to stand, addition upon addition, until 1975. The plans for it were laid out by Andrew and

Regina Palmer McGonigle, and the interior was done in shades of white, pale green and woodtones. Andrew and Regina (and her eye, which was made into a brooch pin) lived happily ever after. Their only other contribution to Connecticut College was the initiation of a fund for replacing those little white moveable discs found in the intercoms of South Campus rooms.

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Party line ————— by Marty Johnson

As you slowly ascend the stairs to Cro-lounge, you cast your eyes upward and pray to God Almighty that this won't be another one of "those" all campus parties.

First, you encounter a young lady at the cash box. Quickly, she snatches the dollar clenched in your hand before you have an instant to change your apprehensive mind and flee for the door. Her eyes widen with delight as she sniffs your fresh, crisp bill and crams it into the till. She gazes back at you with a knowing stare, and titters greedily under her breath. Somehow you get the feeling that she knows something about this party that you don't.

Next, you are herded towards a gentleman of Nean-

slaughter. In one painfully cold instant your body is totally shocked. Regretfully you look down to find that the entire left side of your body has been drenched with beer. This you feel is definitely an omen.

Next you battle your way towards the beer. After being pushed, shoved, and generally dehumanized, you arrive at the front of the line. Here you are promptly presented with a large glass of thirst-quenching, lukewarm beer virtually overflowing with foam. You just can't help being pleased.

Later you find yourself on the dance floor, or, in actuality, the dance stamp. Here you attempt some reasonable toe tapping, only to find yourself doing the

After reaching the head of the line you are told by a young man with an apologetic grin that "Gee whiz, all the cups are gone!" Slowly you begin to feel as though you are gradually moving closer and closer to a serious nervous disorder. Nothing has gone right.

In a last ditch effort to save your worn mind, you and the young lady make a mad dash for the door. In the process, you are pushed, shoved, and bumped by oncoming traffic. A few feet ahead, you scream in anguish after being scorched by a cigarette in the hand of an excessively expressionistic young lady. People who talk with their hands should never be allowed to smoke at parties. Just as you make it to the door, you are baptised with beer once again. Some hasty excuses are made, but somehow it doesn't compensate for the fact that you are soaked from head to foot. Clearly, the first incident was an omen of the highest nature.

Once outside, you turn to the young lady, who has made the evening somewhat bearable, and suggest that far more interesting things are occurring in the direction of your room. With that, she smiles and sadly informs you that she really must go and type her Psych. lab, and ironically bids you good evening. "Yes," you mumble as you attempt kicking yourself, "It was another one of those all campus parties."

"People who talk with their hands should never be allowed to smoke at parties."

derthal proportions. He grabs your wrist, crushing your watch and several vital bones, and with one swift blow he imbeds a rubber stamp into your skin. The ink, which was so carefully smeared onto the stamp, was not at all necessary because the large black and blue welt which is now rising out of your skin clearly testifies that you have paid.

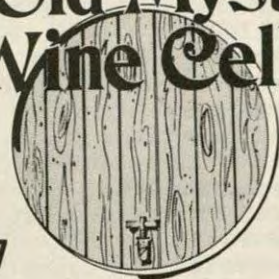
Gradually you make your way into the vortex of the party, feeling somewhat like a cow being led to

bump with a minimum of five other couples. And of course, the ventilation is flowing at slightly less than hurricane speeds.

With that, you and the young damsel you've been cutting the rug with make a noble attempt to get more beer. After being decked nearly a dozen times, you make it to the outskirts of the dance floor, only to find your beer cups smashed beyond recognition. So, with much apprehension, you stand in line for what seems to be an eternity.

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Pass/No Pass continued

know, this was not adhered to, and we were all under the impression that we were doing nothing wrong when we opted for a letter grade. This gross misunderstanding, however, was not our fault. The policy should have been spelled out long ago, not only for us, but for the Registrar as well, who allowed us to adhere to the retraction of our options. For the student, then, this policy is new, although in actuality it isn't - it has just been clarified for us.

According to Dean Johnson, the reason the P-NP policy was even discussed at the Sept. 20 Exceptions Committee meeting, was that it had come to the attention of the faculty that students had been dropping P-NP options for letter grades at the end of semesters. It was then that it was decided that definite clarification should be made. Presumably, if the faculty had been left in the dark a bit longer, clarification would not have been made, and students would still be utilizing the option of retracting their P-NP.

How can we even call this

a misunderstanding, if there was never even any policy stated concerning the option? According to Mrs. Sheridan, the practice of switching to a letter grade was "the type of thing that mushroomed, although it was not a policy." Therefore the faculty, students and Registrar were all operating under a policy that was never even made clear. Obviously, the operation of this system has been inefficient.

It has been asked: Why are there no students on the Exceptions Committee? (Basically, the Committee decides on whether or not to accept student petitions which are contrary to regular academic policy.) If things like P-NP policies are going to be discussed, why can't students get involved? From both Dean Johnson and Mr. Rhyne, I was told that the Committee does not make policies, it merely acts on them. (Policy-making is the business of the Academic and Administrative Procedures Committee, of which there are student members.) But more importantly, there are no students on the Exceptions Committee be-

cause confidential academic matters are discussed. It would simply not be possible to let a student see the academic records and transcripts of other students. According to Dean Johnson, up until last year, students were experimentally allowed on the Committee. But since no policies were made, and since they were excused from any discussion of individual students' records, they were superfluous. Therefore, student membership on the Committee is not the answer to our present concern with the P-NP option.

Mr. Rhyne told me that the policy will stand as is; that we will not be able to retract the P-NP option for a letter grade at the end of the semester. But he also stressed the student's right to petition for the retraction of the P-NP, just as the student petitions for the dropping of a course. A seemingly easy thing to do, who knows if the Committee will allow the retraction of many P-NP options? If they are faced with a barrage of students who want to switch to a letter grade, how many will they allow? What will

Preregistration at last

In a surprise move, the administration of Connecticut College, announced at the Student Government meeting of Wednesday, October 5, that pre-registration has finally arrived. If the proposed timetable is adhered to, students will take advantage of this new system by November. While there is some doubt that pre-registration can be implemented at this time, all members of the administration expressed confidence that the new plan would commence, at the very latest, by the following fall.

The greatest obstacle to the smooth running of the pre-registration system is the problem of advising incoming freshman. While no permanent solution was offered, all parties seemed confident that this inconvenience would be surmounted.

Some sentiment was expressed by members of the Student Government Association that perhaps no student input would be allowed in the planning stages of the new registration format. One student member suggested that two members of the student body might be appointed to any committee which was devising pre-registration formats. No guarantees were offered by any administration members, although promises were made to keep students informed at every stage of the process. As the favorable decision for pre-registration had only been decided shortly before this government meeting, details were obviously, and necessarily vague.

The question must be raised, why has it taken so long to achieve pre-registration, and what

factors went into this surprise decision. As of now, these questions cannot yet be answered, but they certainly

bear investigation. For the past three years there has been a steady stream of student opinion calling for pre-registration. There would seem to be no new factors this year to change administration opinion, and yet, for some reason, student wishes have suddenly been fulfilled.

But regardless of the reasons, let us hope that pre-registration fills all the expectations that students have for it. Let us remember that in the long run, it is better that pre-registration not be implemented too quickly, and instead as much time as is necessary be taken, in order that a logical and coherent plan be implemented.

be their criterion? At this point, no one knows.

We all realize a mistake has been made, and certainly a misinterpretation has been allowed to exist for too long. But simply because the Committee has clarified the Pass-Not Passed option does not mean it should be implemented at this time. My reasoning is this: At Registration, many juniors and seniors had already decided which course they wanted to take P-NP. Whether for reasons of exploring new areas of study or for lightening their workload, these students were under the impression that if they did much better than expected they'd be able to switch to a letter grade before the end of the semester. After registering for this course, and only three weeks into the semester, the students were then told that their P-NP would either have to remain that way, or would have to be rescinded immediately. I feel that if the students had known this at Registration, they would have been more careful about their courses, and would have been especially careful deciding on their possible P-NP course.

Most students are under the assumption that the Exceptions Committee was informing them of a new policy on Sept. 22. It was not, but it might as well have been. At the SGA meeting on Wed., Oct. 5, it was decided that the Student Government should send a letter to the Exceptions Committee, strongly suggesting the policy to be put into effect next semester. It is doubtful that the Committee will change its policy now, much as such a change is needed. Since Mr. Rhyne has stressed the students' right to petition, hopefully students will keep this in mind at the end of the semester.

Nevertheless, the situation has been allowed to become unmanageable through administrative neglect. How could such a misunderstanding be maintained for so long? The students, faculty and Registrar were all under the wrong impression. And, as is usually the case, the students are left to suffer the consequences.



Photo by Pines

A museum for all

LINDA STAMM

Contrary to popular belief, South Parking Lot is not on the edge of the world. If you have the endurance to stroll just a short distance beyond the South Parking Lot you will encounter a six foot tall Foo Dog. This bronze tomb guardian, though not fulfilling its traditional role, is welcoming you to enter the West door of the Lyman Allyn Museum, and discover more surprises. The Museum is full of different and valuable items. Unfortunately, few Connecticut College students take advantage of its offerings.

Two special exhibits, "The History of America in Cartoons" and "Down by the Depot—a Study of Railroad Stations", will be appearing from Oct. 2 to Oct. 23. Besides these temporary displays, the museum has varied collections which range from an extensive doll house display to Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Oriental paintings. Other holdings include colonial American paintings, decorative arts and furniture.

The Lyman Allyn Museum was founded when Harriet Allyn, the daughter of a New London sea captain, died. Without an heir, Harriet left what remained of her father's whaling fortune to the establishment of a museum in his name. The

museum still receives the bulk of its funds from the Allyn estate. Connecticut College does not support the museum financially.

The hours are Tuesday through Saturday 1 to 5 p.m. and Sunday 2 to 5 p.m. There is no charge for admission. If the prospect of seeing the museum's collections does not sound appealing, a visit to the Museum shop might. Here, antiques and imported items specially chosen for the shop can be purchased. They are, no doubt, unique gifts and great conversation pieces. Whatever your motives for exploring the museum, true interest, the need for a gift, or a means to entertain visiting parents, everyone should discover its riches. The Lyman Allyn Museum not only contains a wealth of art forms but welcomes visitors to examine its holdings regularly.

The Spark is looking for interested and aware people. We need people who can write articles, take photographs, or do layouts.

If you would like to work for The Spark contact: Rich Goldin Box# 618.



Beer facts cont.

There are several benefits that would result from this proposal. Beer prices could be lowered, since increasing volume of sales decreases price per unit. Waitresses would find serving the customers much easier because patrons would be seated rather than milling around in the aisles for want of chairs. The increase in profits realized by the bar would entitle Mr. Regolo to the pay he deserves. And another two to three student jobs would be created, at a time when they are very much needed.

Considering the goings-on at the all-campus parties we are all so familiar with, it seems incredible that enlarging the bar will in any way undermine the moral fabric of the student body. Mr. Regolo doesn't oppose the idea. None of the bar's employees oppose the idea, and an amazing 100% of students polled are in favor of it.

If the bar is to be expanded into what is now the Alumni Wing of Cro, a new Alumni Center will have to be established. Since the Alumni wish to obtain larger quarters and house overnight guests, now is the time to change and improve their facilities. To satisfy all parties concerned, the Spark strongly urges the creation of a committee composed of students, Administration, and Alumni, which would work together to find more suitable arrangements for the Alumni. Thus, the Alumni's needs would be met, and at the same time, a large step would be taken towards giving the student body the type of center we need and deserve.

Cars on campus

SARAH J. RABINOWITZ

The thoroughfares of Connecticut College are rapidly succumbing to the power of a mighty machine—the automobile. Because of the campus' relative isolation from New London, increasing numbers of students are bringing their cars to school to compensate for the lack of local public transportation. The resulting traffic problems seem particularly unsuited to a semi-rural campus, and have interfered with pedestrian right of way.

The administration, although aware of the parking issue, has not responded to the more basic question of providing students, faculty and townspeople with a viable means of transportation between the College and New London on a regular

basis. According to Julie Gray, a Connecticut College student and part-time bus-driver for the College, the vehicles already owned by the school could be used to provide a shuttle service two or three times weekly. The service would enhance commercial and cultural interaction between the local and College communities.

If successful, such a program would not only alleviate the existing traffic problems, but could lead to future cooperation between New London community leaders and the College administration on joint social and cultural projects. Students and the administration should endorse the proposed shuttle bus service as a positive effort to bring New London and Conn. College closer together.

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