Alumni Giving Hits New Record

BY GARY NG '11

Did you know that while you were enjoying your summer break at the nice Cape God beaches (or anywhere else in the world for that matter), some annual giving folks were busy toiling away in the Office of College Advancement in Becker House? They were in the final stretch of the fund-raising race, working hard to meet the ambitious annual giving target set forth by the college for the fiscal year ending June 2007.

And the end result was worth it all. We received a record-breaking Annual Fund contribution of $4.7 million and registered an extraordinarily high alumni giving rate of 45% - a 3% increase from last year. That means nearly 8000 alumni - along with 1220 faculty, staff, parents and friends of the college - donated to the college last fiscal year.

"The financial support and increase in participation clearly indicate what we've always known: that our extended community understands the value of a Connecticut College education and wants to support the college as its students and alumni continue to impact the world," said President Lee Higdon in a recent press release.

Of course, special mention must go to the Class of 2007, of which a stunning 93% of the recently-graduated alumni contributed to the Annual Fund, smashing the previous senior-giving record of 73% held by the Class of 1995.

Ellen Anderson, Director of Annual Giving, attributed the success to the tremendous effort by the large committee comprising a diverse group of students and, perhaps more importantly, the inspirational leadership of President Lee Higdon.

"For the first time in a few years, we have a president who's eating lunch with us in Harris, walking with students, and then having dinner with us in Harris," Anderson said.

For freshmen wondering exactly what this means, Anderson explained that the final stretch of the annual giving race is particularly important. "This is the time to get some cool Camel gear - so don't miss out!"

Campus Welcomes Alumni and Parents for Fall Weekend

BY KASEY LUM '11 & AMY FALK '11

Fall is finally here and what better way to start off the season than Fall Weekend 2007! Harvest Fest and Fall Weekend are a popular time for students at Conn and this year should be no different considering the exciting lineup of events, some new and some old.

For freshmen wondering exactly what fall weekend is, it is the college's annual celebration for alumni, current students and their families. Activities include a number of panel discussions, lectures, athletic events, mini-courses, alumni gatherings, campus tours and other events.

A new tradition starting this year is Blue and White Day, a pep rally kickoff to Fall Weekend on Friday, September 28. Beginning at 3:45pm students and faculty will head over to Knowlton Green dressed in their best blue and white camel attire, where there will be a multitude of fun activities celebrating athletics at Conn. Students will have the chance to dunk faculty and staff in water tanks, cheer for the sports teams as they run through banners, and enjoy a performance by a live band and DJ. This will be followed by a dinner with President Higdon and Camel Athletics representatives.

This is the time to get some cool Camel gear - so don't miss out! Other events to look forward to during the weekend are the annual all-group a cappella concert in Harkness Chapel, Saturday at 9pm, the Mum and Pumpkin sale in front of Cro, President Higdon's State of the College Address in Cummings, various sporting events, and two musical performances: Brad Stein of the band Five Times August, and The Narrator, 10:30pm Friday at Cro's Nest.

Harvestfest, which begins on Saturday, September 29 at 12:30 pm, will feature dorms, clubs and vendors selling goods on Knowlton Green. The SAC president Caitlin O'Neil explained that, "Harvestfest is an essential opportunity to fundraise for many clubs, activities, sport teams, dorms and advisory boards on campus. In particular, this year all participants are required to breakdown their table at 4pm and return it to the delegated space within the tent. SAC is requiring this due to the growth of Harvestfest, and the length of time it takes to break down each individual table." Don't expect to leave Harvestfest with an empty stomach either; there will be s'mores, apple cider, smoothies and anything else you might want!

Not only are students involved in this weekend of fun, so are alumni. Numerous activities and special events will welcome back graduates to their alma mater. Starting on Saturday at 11am, former students and friends will have the chance to meet old and new friends over lunch, panel discussions, and other exciting affairs. It will be a memorable time for alumni to reminisce about times at Conn and to catch up with the college presently.

As customary, Unity House, Deans Office and Alumni Relations are sponsoring the catered Home Sweet Home Dinner held in the Larrabee common room and courtyard from 5:30-8pm. Students have the chance to cheer up over delicious food, great music, games of pool, and the company of other parent-less friends.

An important change being incorporated this year is that no alcohol will be served at the Saturday night SAC hosted event due to the excessive drinking and recklessness experienced last year. Fortunately, there will still be a tent dance on Saturday, from 11pm until 2 am on the green, to give students and alumni the chance to get together and have some fun.

In past years there were kegs and alcohol served for students over 21 and alumni, however this year the school has decided not have any alcohol involved. According to O'Neil, "SAC puts a tremendous amount of time and effort into the organization of Harvest fest and the Tent Dance. I hope that students and alumni will show appreciation for that effort by displaying respect for one another and our beautiful campus on Saturday evening."

That said; don't miss out on one awesome, event-packed weekend beginning this Friday! Check out the school website for the full Fall Weekend schedule of events. Happy Fall Weekend!
EDITORIAL

Harvest Fest, Alumni, Tent Dance...
Oh My!

With Fall Weekend comes Harvest Fest, the tent dance, and alumni, both young and old. For everyone it is the kick-off event of another year at Conn. There is a lot to look forward to and a lot to show your parents (including an issue of the new and improved College Voice).

We live on one of the most beautiful campuses in the United States, and Mr. Lake, the college campus aficionado here last week, is not the only one to confirm this. But it isn’t simply the natural beauty that keeps alumni returning year after year. It is the community and the network of friends that students at Connecticut College build while they are here. They meet people that they hope to know for the rest of their lives. We both know that we have met our best friends here at Conn.

The many alumni that are coming back this weekend proves that the community we build on campus is not transient. It extends into the “real world.” For those juniors and seniors who are becoming weary of their futures, searching for internships and jobs, it’s comforting to know that there are many contacts out there from Connecticut College. Alumni contacts are excellent resources and are usually willing to help out another Camel, even if it just through a supportive email.

We don’t need Fall Weekend to demonstrate that we have so much at Connecticut College—be it clubs, SGA, SAC, strong relationships with faculty and an on-campus network here to make our lives more dynamic and fulfilled. For some, there is the chance to show your Camel Pride at Friday’s Pep Rally and through athletic endeavors. For others, there is CELSabration on Saturday morning. You can see who represented Connecticut College out in the work force this past summer—the opportunities available to students will amaze you. As seniors, we’ve made the most of what Conn has to offer, and everything going on this weekend should remind you that it’s never too late to get involved.

Cheers,
Areti & Claire

Letters To The Editor

Mr. Krogh-Grabbe’s column of September 21 caught my attention. He seems to accept what has now become “gospel truth”: that any emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere is a bad thing. I would like to point out that there are now many numerous studies in well-respected journals that challenge this very assertion. Like Sam Clemens, the rumors of the death of the global warming debate have been greatly exaggerated.

Despite Mr. Krogh-Grabbe’s assertion that carbon dioxide is a primary greenhouse gas, I would like to point out that instead water vapor is the primary greenhouse gas with an effect many order of magnitudes larger than that of CO2. It is in no way settled as to why there is a global temperature cannot rise, however new data is very telling: A paper, from Duke in the last few months, shows a very striking correlation between global temperature and the solar strength. Long term data shows the global temperature has been rising since 1650 AD; well before any industrialization (Scafetta and West, Geophysical Res. Lett., 2006). Another paper demonstrates a strong correlation between the solar influence on the heliosphere and the cosmic ray influx and its role in cloud formation which can have a greater influence on climate change than CO2 levels. (Scherer et al, Space Science Reviews, 2006). Another study shows solar variability as a principle cause of Artic temperature variations for the last 130 years (Soon, Geophysical Res. Lett., Vol 32, L16712, 2005). I could go on, but my point is that the scientific debate is far from settled, and trying to influence people’s life style choices based on a point of science that is under intense scrutiny is not advisable.

Before suggesting to someone about their car “that it’s kind of disgusting how much their car pollutes”, a student might want to calculate the amount of nickel in a typical hybrid car. From there one can calculate the energy costs to mine the nickel, transport it to a refining mill, the amount of energy needed to refine the element, the energy costs to transport the nickel to the battery plant, the energy to make the battery, and finally the energy cost to produce the hybrid. Compare that number to the energy cost savings of an additional 10 mpg and the payback time. One can then calculate the net total energy cost to the planet from the SUV compared to the hybrid. I leave it as a student exercise. Hint: Toyota buys about 1,000 tons of nickel from Sudbury, Ontario each year, ships the nickel to Wales for refining, then to China, where it is manufactured into nickel foil, and then onto Toyota’s battery plant in Japan (Philadelphia Inquirer, April 4, 2007). All these shipments go via diesel powered ocean-going freighters and diesel-electric trains.

Michael Monce, Professor of Physics, x2348

POLICIES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are due strictly by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding publication. The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. No unsigned or anonymous letters will be published. However, names may be withheld upon the author’s request. The College Voice will not publish letters deemed to be a personal attack on an individual. The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. Letters should be single-spaced, no longer than 300 words, and must include a phone number for verification. Please send all letters to a Microsoft Word attachment to: evoice@conncolll.edu

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Polishes
National & Middle East:
Ahmadinejad at Columbia and the U.N.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has started off his trip to New York with a visit to Columbia University where he was greeted by boos and heckling from the students — and was berated by the university president. Yet his appearance also offered evidence of why he is widely admired in the developing world for his defiance toward Western, especially American, power.

In repeated clashes with his hosts, Ahmadinejad accused the United States of supporting terrorist groups and characterized U.S. and European efforts to rein in Iran’s nuclear ambitions as hypocritical. “If you have created the fifth generation of atomic bombs and are testing them already, who are you to question other people who just want nuclear power,” Ahmadinejad said. He added, pointedly: “I think the politicians who are after atomic bombs, politically, they’re backwards. Retarded.”

This much-talked-about appearance at Columbia came as the opening act of a week of dramatic theater in New York as the UN General Assembly opened its annual session. He, along with his nemesis, President George W. Bush, addressed the assembly on Tuesday.

Ahmadinejad made it clear in his speech that Iran does not intend to comply with UN Security Council sanctions aimed at Iran’s nuclear program. “In the last two years, abusing the Security Council, the arrogant powers have repeatedly accused Iran and even made military threats and imposed illegal sanctions against it,” the Iranian leader said. “The nuclear issue of Iran is now closed and has turned into an ordinary agency matter,” he added.

Mr. Ahmadinejad, as he has in the past, argued that Iran’s nuclear program was solely for civilian purposes and fell within the legal requirements of the atomic energy agency. The Security Council powers believe that Iran’s real purpose is to build nuclear weapons, and it has backed up that conviction with two resolutions and economic sanctions against the Tehran government. The foreign ministers of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the US, France, China, Russia and the United Kingdom — plus Germany are due to meet on Friday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to discuss imposing additional sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program.


Asia:
US Imposed Sanctions on Burma

The US imposed sanctions targeting Burma’s military leaders. President George W Bush has led international condemnation of Burma after more people were killed in its crackdown on popular protests. Mr Bush said: “[The American people] feel admiration and compassion for the monks and peaceful protesters calling for democracy. Every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand up for people suffering under a brutal military regime like the one that has ruled Burma for too long.”

The US has called on China, one of Burma’s closest partners, to put more pressure on the country.

According to an official media report, nine people were killed on Thursday. This included eight protesters and a Japanese video journalist. Authorities were trying to control the largest uprising in two decades, as it continued for its 10th day. Reuters news agency reported that soldiers and police fired into crowds of demonstrators in Rangoon and gave them 10 minutes to clear the streets or face the consequences. The protests have been led by Buddhist monks but there were fewer monks on the streets on Thursday as a result of the overnight raids on monasteries.

A curfew has been enforced in Rangoon and the city’s streets are said to be quiet. Analysts fear a repeat of the violence in 1988, when troops opened fire on unarmed protesters, killing thousands. The current protests were triggered when the government doubled the price of fuel within the impoverished nation.

Source: news.bbc.co.uk

Latin America:
Mexican Rebels Come Out of Hiding

The Marxist rebel group, Ejéreto Popular Revolucionario, or Popular Revolutionary Army, has
Camels Around the World:  
Letter From Morocco

BY ADRIAN STOVER '08

contributing writer

“Adrian, I think maybe you would like to marry a Moroccan woman now?” My friend Zeynep asked me this, and I laughed before saying yes. I had told her earlier that evening how many men in Morocco had asked me if I was married, if I wanted to marry a Moroccan woman, or if I was interested in perhaps marrying one of their sisters. It was an appropriate conversation, for we were at a wedding in the city of Fez, Morocco.

During this past summer, I worked in Fez for my CISLA internship, and Jihan Hakimi, one of my friends who I worked with, invited me to come to this ceremony. It was an invitation I could not refuse. The wedding was on the second floor of an apartment building in the new part of town. There were two large rooms in the apartment with couches lining the walls, and it was filled with people dancing to Egyptian popular music, eating small cakes and pastries, and drinking steaming glasses of mint tea even though it was very hot. Most of the women and girls wore dresses, and as in the rest of Morocco, some wore the headscarf and others did not. When I arrived, Halima, a little girl who was a cousin of Jihan, took me by the hand and led me to her family, all of whom immediately embraced me and invited me to dance.

There were two kinds of music played. One, which was played through loudspeakers, was mostly Egyptian pop music that people were dancing to when we arrived. The other was played by a live band of five musicians, who were dressed in yellow shoes, yellow pants, and white robes. All of them had microphones, and all of them played some sort of percussion instrument. I got to talk to one of them later on in the evening, and he answered a couple of questions that had to do with the kind of music they were playing, the size of the orchestra, the names of the percussion instruments being played, and other kinds of questions that only I, a massive ethno-musical-nerd, would ask at a wedding.

After a little while, the music and dancing stopped, and the procession of the bride and groom began. The wedding band started to play as the two descended from another room upstairs. As they entered the room, everyone rose gathered around them. As another round of mint tea and pastries was served, they made their way to a large, silver-covered, marriage throne. After a little while, everybody started to dance as the bride and groom looked on, and this continued until it was time for them to leave. One thing that I could not help but notice was that the bride looked rather young. She was completely covered up, so it was hard to tell what age she was, but I later discovered that she was in fact seventeen years old and the man she was marrying was forty.

I do not know the whole story behind the marriage, but if I had to guess why it happened I would say that it is probably a better social or economic situation for her and her family. One reads about these sorts of things happening in old issues of National Geographic, but you do not really believe it can happen until you see it before your eyes. At the same time, however, you never really understand all the reasons and customs behind it, so I feel it is better to just leave it as one of the great mysteries of this country.

News

Alumni Giving

BY ADRIAN STOVER '08

Continued from page one

through the campus and really knowing people by their names. The seniors loved him and rallied behind him,” said Ellen.

Also deserving mention is the Phonathon Program, which consists of a dedicated team of 25 students who make phone calls to alumni over the school term to convince them to donate to the Annual Fund.

“Last year, the program raised over $320,000 in support of the college's operating budget,” revealed Leidy Valencia '09, Vice President of SGA, who has participated in the program since her freshman year and is now heading the Phonathon team. This year, the team hopes to raise over $380,000.

The Annual Fund provides immediate support for the college's operating expenses, which include scholarships and financial aid, funded internships, faculty salaries, research stipends, funding of student organizations, acquisition of sports equipment, among many others. As William O’Neil, Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, aptly puts it, “annual giving is like (a contribution to) the college's checking account.”

Major gifts, on the other hand, are accruals to the college’s “savings account.” These are typically donations exceeding $50,000. Last fiscal year, the college received $11.8 million in major gifts, including a $3 million endowed gift for faculty and student research, a $1 million gift for renovation of Bill Hall, a $1 million endowed gift for financial aid, and a $1 million unrestricted gift.

In addition, we just received a $2 million gift from an anonymous donor that is designated for a new fitness center, which is a great start for the new fiscal year.

Don’t be daunted by these numbers though. You don’t have to be a multi-millionaire to give to the college. “Every donation, no matter big or small, matters,” emphasized Leidy. Indeed, a ten dollar donation is as good as a thousand dollar donation when it comes to computing the alumni participation rate, an important statistic monitored closely by college ranking authorities as well as corporations and scholarship foundations which deem it as a measure of alumni satisfaction.

U.S. News and World Report’s ranking of national colleges, for instance, accords 5% weight to alumni participation rate. Now, if you think that’s insignificant — think again: The average SAT score of incoming freshmen is given only 7.5% while the acceptance rate takes up a meagre 1.5%. Never mind that the rankings have been slammed by college presidents over the nation, surely it doesn’t hurt to move the college up the rankings.

Each gift is an appreciative gesture to the school and an endorsement of what the college stands for. Quite simply, it is an open declaration of our love to the college — and we should never be shy about expressing that love.

Alumni Giving

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Getting to Know the Housefellows: Part 1

BY CHRIS BUONINCONTRI '08

contributing writer

When you first walk into Wright, the layout can be a little disorienting. If not for a sign indicating the HF Suite, for example, it might have taken a while to find it tucked away in a short, twisty corridor. The door at the end of the nook was wide open however, and after a quick knock, Jon popped out of a back room with a ready welcome and a smile.

"I dropped my thesis because it was either that or housefellow," Jon explained. "The way I saw it, it's not so much a job but an opportunity. I like to be busy with fun things, and figured I might as well help the community at the same time."

"The end result is that I've turned my house into summer camp!"

Jonathan McLean, 21, comes from Franklin, Mass. He studies history and computer science, but prefers spending time organizing events with other Wright residents. Whether it's a game night, a random get together, or a grilled batch of "trifle," Jon works hard to build community in his dorm. So far, he attests to having seen an extremely positive turnout.

It's not only the position in the house itself that matters to Jon, but the position of Housefellow in the context of the whole Conn community. Upon being asked if there was anything he'd like to tell the school about his dorm or himself, he immediately thought of his colleagues. "Everyone at Conn should be proud of their Housefellow. We have a great group, and the tightest group this year than any others I've seen."

On the other side of the Plex, the Lambdin Housefellow sat on a couch in the Game Room, watching the Red Sox game over a mountain of fresh unopened pizza boxes. As of yet, only two of the dorm's residents had discovered the delivery.

"Lambdin's been a great dorm, everyone's friendly and there haven't been any incidents." Said Hannah Krivis, from Los Angeles CA. "I feel like the Plex has been traditionally viewed as less social than South...I'd like to make my dorm more social, without being a 'party' dorm."

Sure enough, after only a few minutes the room was filled with residents grappling for a slice with a particular topping from the pile of boxes.

Almost all of the freshmen in this dorm are girls, so the other night, we had a girls night here," Hannah said amidst the growing crowd. "Right now, we're having a study break."

In response to an inquiry as to why she became a housefellow, Hannah thought back to her first year at Conn. "My freshman year housefellow was wonderful, she helped me out a lot, and was there whenever I needed her. I guess you can say she was something of an inspiration."

Immediately to the South, in Larrabee, another Housefellow from California, Lauren Brug of Ventura had similar plans for her dorm. "It's hard to work against an existing stereotype." She began, just as a freshman walked into the suite to report a problem with the voicemail in her own room. "I feel that dorms like Larrabee, or some Plex dorms, have reputations for being less social than other dorms. So far though, we have a strong community: the freshmen have been getting into it, and upperclassmen too."

Lauren went on to describe a time when a freshman she knew was threatening to smoke inside the dorm. She snuck up behind him and patted him, leaving him stumbling down the hall with his shorts stuck around his ankles. The moral: don't mess with the Housefellow.

In describing her dorm, Lauren reported: "It's either really quiet, really loud, or there's a lot of sex going on. Especially among the Larrabee freshmen. They're getting more action than the seniors. All of the seniors, across campus, confirmed that."

Down in Branford, Dan Proulx of Guilford, CT described his dorm as "a chill, fun dorm" with a different, yet also great community. He stepped outside to talk as a resident swung his Wifi controller around the room. "I always have my door open," he said. "Anyone's a always welcome to come hang out or chat."

On a serious note, Dan admits that theft has been a problem, in his dorm and others across campus. "It's especially disturbing because it hasn't been resolved."

Other Housefellows and Branford residents alike describe Dan as a very friendly, easy-going guy. In addition, he reportedly plays the viola, likes soccer, is a master electrician and can do magic.

Next door, in Plant, Arielle Curtis described the year so far as she opened the door to her suite. "It's been good, a lot of transition. Thankfully not too many problems so far." She sat down, and almost immediately different people on the floor came by, to say hello, chat, or (in the case of one girl) borrow a bit.

"Plant's been more of a low-key, cohesive house in the past." Said Arielle, who comes from Weston, Mass. "We've had weekly study breaks and parties so far...Last Sunday, we all went apple picking, and had a great turnout." Arielle laughed after being asked about any particularly funny incidents in her dorm over the last few weeks. "A quad door fell off its hinges out of nowhere during a party in the basement. Thankfully, no one got hurt.

Over in Park, Areti Sakellaris looked up from a history book while friends watched TV in her suite. "Guys, what do you want people to know about me for the paper?" She asked. One responded: "You're crazy!" Another chimed in: "You like Euro-techno dance parties? And 'dropping it like it's hot'?"

Areti laughed, then jokingly warned that she's the editor-in-chief of the Voice: ultimately, she has the final say as to the content of the current article.

"I have the Voice, and the other Housefellows behind me," she said, laughing. "I'm actually taking over this school, don't tell anyone."

In explaining how she became a Housefellow, Areti thought back over her Conn career. "Early on, during freshman year, I was kind of homesick, and quiet. I even almost transferred. Then I started getting involved, with the Voice, and SAC, and when I found my place in the community I wanted to stay."

Areti, who comes from Milton, Mass., went on to describe plans for the year. "I'm very happy with the group of Housefellows this year. Conn's going through a transition, and we, as well as seniors in general, need to set the tone...and say what's acceptable and what's not."

"In the past, there have been lots of problems with vandalism, bias incidents, over-consumption of alcohol, and theft. She continued to say that the administration is going to start making a stronger effort to work against these problems.

As for any problems in Park itself, Areti said that everything's been going well so far. She then smiled and commented: "Well, at least the elevator hasn't broken down yet: that's good."

Housefellows to be featured in upcoming Voice issues:

Hannah Fisher - Abbey House
Jessica LaVallee - River Ridge
Leigh Ahrensdorf - Marshall
Jeff Postera - Hamilton
Sarah VanHooogenstyn-Morrison - Taconic
Bianca Kissel - 360/Earth
Zach Olson - KB
Eliza Cooper - Smith
Kate DeConinck - 360/Earth
Matt Dyer - Blackstone
Neal Gibeault - Freeman
Elizabeth Bennett - JA
Katrina Scherben - Harkness
Heather Munro - Knowlton
Colleen Cowperthwait-Windham
Mike Panoli - Laz/War
Radio Radio
BY NICK SULLIVAN '08
staff writer

The letters WCN1 mean a lot to the community and the people who are involved with the programming, but many people on campus don’t have a very clear notion of what the station is, or represents. WCN1 has been a staple to college radio since it was officially founded in 1974.

The past decade has shown the rise of the goliath MTV and the monopoly of a few record companies, resulting in a suppression of outlets for alternative music. Through the creation of this suffocating web, college radio has emerged as a gold standard for alternative music aficionados - and when I say “alternative music” I’m talking about everything; not just the new popularity of indie music (which college radio helped drive), but also programming for Polka, Celtic, Metal, Jazz, Reggae, and just about everything else you could possibly conceive.

Accompanying the rise of megalithic conglomerates have been attacks on radio as an outlet for free speech, and the battle has integrated itself into new technologies. Record companies want royalties and music played from any place like WCN1 have led the fight for decades on free speech and variety. While the parents and older generation are trying to cope with new technologies as forums for politics and music, they have decided to attack their own school option of plugging a cassette into an old boom box and making a mix tape from all the stuff that’s allowed to float through those invisible frequencies. It seems like an endless battle that record companies will never be able to win, but are obsessed with trying to stop.

Why the huge squabble over radio to begin with? It’s an archaic technology that most people don’t really use anymore except on long drives when they’ve run out of mix cd’s and are bored with their 1-pod. Commercials clog all the big stations, and there seems to be no variety. That’s the misconception people have when looking at college and public radio versus the commercial stations; places like WCN1 have led the fight for decades on free speech and variety. While the parents and older generation are trying to cope with new technologies as forums for politics and music, they have decided to attack their age-old enemy in an attempt to try and halt the inevitable progression of technology and ideas. Maybe it’s the only thing they know how to control.

Clash City Rockers
BY CLAIRE DOWD '08
editor-in-chief

On August 1st, Interview Magazine and Hugo Boss co-sponsored a rooftop screening and after- party in honor of Julien Temple’s docu-rockumentary Joe Strummer: The Future Is Unwritten. Because of my intern work at Interview this summer, I was invited to work the event. Catching a glimpse of the guest list revealed a who’s who in music, fashion, and film (the David Bowie and Lou Reed invites stood out). I was beside myself. This film screening would be the realization of my adolescent dreams: to get chummy with my rock ‘n’ roll heroes. If that didn’t happen (it didn’t...no one “cool” came), I would at least be at a really cool party that celebrated a really cool person.

I didn’t mean to call Joe Strummer really cool. He is more than that. Simply labeling him “cool” and leaving it at that is the watered-down, teenybopper description of Joe Strummer - used by all those people who hear “Should I Stay or Should I Go” on Top 40 radio and say, “Oh my god, I just love this song!”, but couldn’t name a Clash album to save their lives.

The Clash, with Strummer as their leader, still manages to be one of the most pioneering, evolutionary, and revolutionary bands in rock ‘n’ roll, despite having been broken up since most of us were born. In other words, if The Sex Pistols were the catalyst, then, The Clash was and remains today the godfather of punk rock - a genre which endures as one of the most influential in modern rock music. To many people, The Clash and their message stand as pure testaments, unsullied by the corporations that stand behind most popular music. They had a fiercely independent spirit, standing up to the record companies to make tickets and albums cheap and accessible for their fans. They were still “punk”, even though by releasing their legendary album London Calling, they stylistically moved away from the traditional punk format. And that independent, punk spirit is what carries Joe Strummer’s posthumous, eternal fame.

His spirit is also what brings their self-titled debut The Clash from a piece of solid punk rock to one of the greatest rock ‘n’ roll albums to date. It is tight, consistent, and almost flawless. The songs are sophisticated, yet impulsive. There is a need to listen to each song; the music begs you. It is a bright burst of flame that never burns out. It captures a moment and a feeling in history that has long since passed, but the music remains as current and necessary as ever. This is quite an accomplishment for a debut album, for any album, and although The Clash remained prolific, none of their following albums have the explosive life of The Clash that seemed to be Strummer’s alone.

I hope the Future Is Unwritten stressed how once The Sex Pistols imploded and punk became immediately commoditized by popular culture, The Clash prevailed. And even after The Clash ended, Strummer continued to make music for himself that was still filled with the same urgency and desire for social change that blows through the speakers on The Clash’s self-titled debut.
Sad Stories of the Death of Kings

A Review of Richard II at Yale Repertory Theater

September 21st - October 13th

BY BEN FISHER '08

staff writer

All of Shakespeare’s plays are marked by a high level of poetic complexity in the language, but only one of the thirty-six — Richard II — is written entirely in verse.

Richard II tells the story of an incompetent, self-obsessed king who’s unshakable faith in the divine right of monarchs empowers him to mismanage his kingdom, outtax his subjects, and enrage the other nobles. When Richard usurps the inheritance of a banished noble — his cousin Henry Bolingbroke — these dissatisfactions explode into open rebellion. As enemies emerge from all sides, Richard loses his crown, his faith in his god given right to rule, and ultimately his life.

It is a masterfully constructed play, propelled forward like a bullet by an aggressive, elegant, lyricism in the language. Shakespeare deftly balances the personal tragedy of Richard’s disintegration and the broader collapse of the medieval ideology that places a king above the rest of humanity. The characters are at the same time heroic and despica-
ble. Frothing under the entire drama are blood feuds, unchecked aggression, and insatiable greed that will lead to decades of civil war — chronicled in the subsequent plays of Shakespeare’s history cycle Henry IV Parts I and II, Henry V, Henry VI Parts I, II, and III — and ultimately culminating with Richard III.

Richard II is widely discussed and celebrated in academic and theatrical circles and happens to be my personal favorite after having read 30 of the thirty-six — Richard II — is written entirely in verse.

Regrettably, the other performers in the production cannot operate on Carlson’s level — a lamentable fact, since the play is ripe with complex, meaty parts. Alvin Epstein’s performance as John of Gaunt, the king’s uncle, reduces a fantastically fiery and grief ridden character to another doddering old man. The same can be said of George Bartensieff’s portrayal of the Duke of York, who seems confused rather than conflicted when asked to change his allegiance. Billy Eugene Jones’ Henry Bolingbroke likewise reduces Richard’s rial to an empty suit. These performances are not bad, per se, just bland, and in such an amazing play, the missed opportunities are inexcusable.

There are some unequivocally bad performances too, typically perpetrated by Yale Drama Graduate students. Painfully inept acting like Edward O’Brien’s portrayal of Lord Willoughby should give every drama student at Connecticut College hope for future employment. Welcome surprises like Johnathan Fried’s snide, thuggish Northumberland — a fantastically devious brute who will appear in the subsequent Henry IV plays — and Christopher McHale as the defiant Bishop of Carlisle provide much needed dimension and passion, but the ineffectualness of the supporting cast sucks the drama from the play, reducing a titanic clash of passions to a marginally interesting history lesson.

The performance is not bad enough to be passed off as a complete mishandling, but when such an interesting play performed by experienced, reputable actors can be so dull, it indicates that something must change about theater in this country. Yale Rep’s Richard II is not unlike Richard himself — not offensively bad, but not worthy. This sort of mediocrity, I fully believe, is a greater threat to the survival of the artform than offensively bad productions — it will rake in enough money not to be regarded as a failure, and will undoubtedly lead to a some similar, beige Shakespeare production later on down the road. There is no reason not to see it, but no reason to see it, and when seeing the theater becomes a matter of indifference, the format will completely cease to be relevant.

We, students of Connecticut College, need to take action. Clearly, the most reasonable thing to do is drive down to New Haven and demand the heads of Evan Yionoulis be spit upon on a pike out in front of the theater. If they refuse, we should, like reasonable people, burn the entire city. Then we can decide if one of us wants to be king. It worked in England, why not New England?

Deer Tick: War Elephant

BY CAROLINE DENHAM ‘08

staff writer

21-year-old John McCauley is something of a paradox. He’s a young Rhode Islander playing homage to the roots of country music. He’s a singer/songwriter who considers Bob Dylan to be a “non-influence.” “I’m f*ckin’ serious,” insists McCauley. “I never listened to Bob Dylan growing up, never listened to him in high school, the only album I own by Bob Dylan is John Wesley Harding. It’s a great album, but I seriously didn’t listen to Bob Dylan until like a year ago.”

Substitute Neil Young for Dylan and you’ll have something closer to the music of McCauley’s solo project, Deer Tick. With some folk, blues, and grunge influences to be heard, Deer Tick is alt-country at its core. McCauley follows the trail of Gram Parsons, expanding the borders of country music without losing its essence.

With a voice that sounds like it’s been on a late whiskey nights, Deer Tick sings of the iconic lonesome hero who has fallen from grace. “I am the boy your mother wanted you to meet,” begins McCauley on his debut album, “but now I’m broken and torn with halos at my feet.” War Elephant, released September 4th on Houston’s Feow! Records, is a wanderer’s testimony, bringing in tales from the dance floor, the highway, and the wrong side of the tracks.

McCauley’s lyrics are insightful and heartfelt as he reckons with his own choices while managing to capture the vast emotion of the American West. On “Nevada” a violin pairs with McCauley’s skillful guitar picking to evoke the desert’s sense of solitude, while “Spend the Night,” offers the warmth of a two-step dance hall. Heavily distorted guitar synthesizers War Elephant’s most desperate tracks, “S**k or Swim” and “Not So Dense.” On “Jesus Christ,” the desaporan figure finds himself hopeless and for-

saken, raising a tired fist to the sky.

War Elephant’s only disappointment is a cover of “What Kind of Fool Am I?” which seems an out-of-place ending to an other-wise terrific album. The song does at least provide a glimmer of the playful sense of humor that adds so much to Deer Tick’s live shows; his charismatic style and stage wit are as much a part of his performance as the lone acoustic guitar he brings with him. My first encounter with Deer Tick was last spring in Middletown, and I spent the following weeks trying to learn more about him and kicking myself for not having bought one of his homemade CDs. Last weekend, I had the pleasure of seeing Deer Tick play again, this time in McCauley’s home city of Providence.

In a Red Sox cap and worn-out gray t-shirt, McCauley shuffled around the room most of the evening, shaking hands and sharing cigarettes with other hands. By the time he took the stage with drummer Dennis Ryan and double-bassist Chris Ryan (no relation to Dennis), AS220 was full of Deer Tick’s friends and fans. Much of the crowd was singing along throughout the set and a few pals joined the band on stage for “Ashamed” and “These Old Shoes.” At ease in the familial setting, McCauley was both charming and sincere, delivering his music with skill and refreshingly straightfor-

wardness.
Stepping Up: Women’s Tennis Adjusts to New Additions

BY ABIGAIL MAYER ’10

After four seniors graduated, all of whom were in the top six seeds on the roster, Women’s Tennis welcomes five freshmen into the fold. The addition of so many young players greatly distinguishes this season from those in the past.

In his seventh season coaching both Men’s and Women’s tennis, Paul Huch has no difficulty recognizing the team’s biggest weakness on the court. “The number one thing is trying to figure out how to play doubles this year. A lot of these new girls didn’t play doubles in high school,” says Huch. Last year, he points out, the majority of the team’s success was based on the girls’ ability to dominate in doubles, taking at least some of the initial pressure off of singles performance.

Captain Danielle Coleman ’08 has been a vital asset to the team because of her positive attitude and strong leadership. In her fourth season of Conn tennis, Coleman also identifies the team’s youth as a potential drawback, but she feels confident that the girls’ technical ability will overcome their inexperience. She notes, “the team’s greatest strength is our ability to track down balls and consistently play with heart. One cannot tell if we are winning or losing when we are out on the court. Hopefully we will be doing more winning.”

To some extent, Huch regards the two seniors, Coleman and returning player, Kari Barklias, as his assistant coaches. He acknowledges that Conn students wish to get involved in extracurricular activities, and he hopes that his style of coaching appeals to this desire. Huch describes his technique as one of “open communication,” which Coleman views as crucial in the team’s progress this fall. “He is honest, so if we need to change or do something better, he tells us so. On the other end, if we are playing well, he lets us know.”

The team finished second overall in the recent ECAC tournament, beating Lafayette, UNH, and RPI. Barklias and Coleman led this effort by winning the doubles tournament.

Though the team is focused on competing to its highest potential in this fall’s matches, Huch points out that the spring season’s aggressive schedule will present itself as the ultimate challenge to the girls’ focus and intensity. The team’s first real test will be on October 3rd when the girls’ focus and intensity. The team’s first real test will be on October 3rd when

Steve Bloom

BY STEVE BLOOM ’10

This fall, many club sports have taken the field for practices and games against other colleges. The co-ed Frisbee team practices everyday, men and women’s rugby are some of the most intense teams on campus. The men’s club soccer team has already taken photos for their risqué calendar to be sold at Harvest Fest.

In addition to these fine club sports, Connecticut College also has a full club baseball team. Created in 2003, the team’s roster has expanded to over twenty students.

The team is not offensively part of a club league, but they do play other colleges and universities such as Hofstra, BU, Fairfield, Mass Amherst, Wesleyan, Holy Cross, and Northeastern. Bloom adds that “it is in our five year plan to join the NCBA [National Club Baseball Association], but at this point in time we don’t have the funds necessary to do so.” He adds, “donations are welcome.”

In the past, the team has not matched up to their opponents, but this year seems promising. Talented freshmen Tommy Howd ’11, Seamus Joyce ’11, Julian Ferdman ’11, and Alex Domenicci ’11 have joined the team along with newcomers Rocky Delforge ’10, Chris Muscatello ’10, Bobby Romanow ’10, and Rob Purple ’08.

“We are really excited to have Purple join the team, he looks like the pitcher we have needed for a while,” says Bloom. “Each freshman also looks like they will add something special to our growing team. In the past we have struggled mightily with numbers, but it looks like things are turning around in terms of that.”

Bloom and co-captain, Matt Jacobs ’08, have also planned games against local prep schools in order to play more competitive games. “We have games against The Pomfret School and Suffield Academy planned for late March,” says Bloom.

“Our next game is scheduled for October 20th at the Williams School field and we would love you all to come,” says Bloom. “And don’t forget we are always looking for more players in the spring when our real season gets underway.”

CAMEL SPORTS

Club Baseball Shows its Skills on the Field

BY STEVE BLOOM ’10

Club Baseball, 2007-2008 (Mayer)

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“We are really excited to have Purple join the
Victory Within Reach For The Men's Soccer Team

BY MATT FAVA '09

Although the men's soccer team has only had one victory so far this season, they have not lost a single game by more than a two goals. Every game has been closely contested, and they have had a legitimate chance at winning each contest.

The Camels made the short trip to the Coast Guard (5-1) last week - and faced the Bears under the lights. Even though Ted Lane '09 had four saves in the first half and Rick Pierce '11 had one of his own in the second, Conn did not have the firepower to keep up. Each team had sixteen shots, but Coast Guard scored on two of them. USCGA goal keeper Chris Tarbell saved an impressive five shots in the game to reach his third shutout of the season. With their next game at home, the Camels had a NESCAC match up against Bates at home. Coming into the game with similar records, the two teams expected to battle it out which was exactly what ensued. Trevor Prophet '11 of Nashua, NH scored 34 minutes into the game to give the Camels a 1-0 advantage.

The second half was very evenly played. CC maintained most of the possession, but Bates had their runs as well, and Lane came up with some big stops down the stretch. Head Coach Bill Lessig was smart in using far more substitutions in the second half than is typically seen in a college game - particularly at the NESCAC. In the last minute of play, after several questionable non-calls from the referees, there was a controversial foul called within Conn's penalty box. Bates was given a game tying opportunity with a penalty kick with approximately 30 seconds remaining in regulation and, Duane Pelz '08 capitalized.

In the ensuing overtime sessions, the game was back and forth, although the Camels seemed to have more chances on net. The best opportunity came in the second overtime when GL Genco '10 played a beautiful corner ball in to Alex Sama '10 whose powerful header bounced wide of the twine. At the final whistle, the game came to a close in an even tie at 1-1. Following this draining effort, Conn traveled to North Dartmouth, Massachusetts to face a strong UMass Dartmouth team (6-1-1). This non-conference game did not boost the win percentage for the Camels as they fell 2-3, even though they put up a valiant effort yet again. Coach Lessig mixed up the line up a bit starting Alex Martland '10 in net who had three saves in the first half, and Rick Pierce '11 had four saves in the second. Conn's goal were scored by Prophet off an assist from Genco, and David Driscoll '08 from Mike Dodge '09.

The most exciting news from the men's soccer team, however, is not what has happened in this past week. As everyone should have already penciled into the planners, Conn will be hosting Wesleyan this Saturday at 2:00 PM on Harkness Green. After a tie and two losses, the men will be looking forward to playing on Alumni Weekend in front of students and parents surging with Camel Pride.

See Men's Soccer vs. Wesleyan, Sat. @ 2 pm, Harkness Green

the girls face Wesleyan at home. "It's been a very close match-up in the past," Huch notes.

Thu far, the younger players have risen to the occasion, and Rebecca Heupel '11, and Elyssa Emsellem '10 currently hold the top seeds. Both Huch and Coleman associate a winning season with strong, individual mental focus in every match. "It's one of the hardest sports to play in college, because it's singles. You are solely responsible for keeping your head in the game," says Huch.

Women's Club Soccer playing around (Kaminsky)

Women's club soccer has also started off their fall season in great fashion. Captains Maddie Carlson '08, Taylor Katz '08 and Colleen Cowperthwait '08 took over the team this year and practice on Dawley Field, located behind the Athletic Center.

In addition to practices, the team has a number of games scheduled for the fall season including a contest against Brown.

-Steve Bloom '10
Connecticut College to celebrate the life and work of William Meredith Oct. 5

Guest speakers include two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Wilbur and Michael Collier '76, former poet laureate of Maryland.

Award-winning poets, former students and fellow faculty members will gather at Connecticut College on Oct. 5 to remember William Meredith, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Connecticut College emeritus professor who died May 30. The service is at 3 p.m. in the college's Harkness Chapel.

The memorial service will include readings of Meredith's work, a dance piece improvising Meredith’s “The Open Sea,” and remarks by Richard Wilbur, former U.S. Poet Laureate and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner; Robley Evans, Connecticut College professor emeritus of English; Janet Gezari, the Lucy Marsh Haskell '19 Professor of English; and Richard Hartieis, Meredith’s partner of 36 years.

Michael Collier, a 1976 Connecticut College graduate and former poet laureate of Maryland, will also speak. Collier, a former student of Meredith’s, delivered the eulogy at Meredith’s funeral in June.

David Kieran, a 2000 Connecticut College graduate, will read Meredith’s “Sonnet on Rare Animals,” a poem Meredith requested be read at his memorial service.

Meredith was a professor of English at Connecticut College from 1955 to 1983. He was named a professor emeritus upon retirement in 1983 and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1988. During his career he also held professorships at Princeton University, University of Hawaii-Honolulu and at the Bread Loaf School of English.

In 1987, he won the Los Angeles Times Book Award, and in 1988 won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his collection “Partial Accounts.” He won the National Book Award for Poetry in 1997 for his collection “Effort at Speech.” In 1996, Meredith was awarded the Connecticut College Medal, the college’s highest honor.

Connecticut College awarded two Frank Loomis Palmer Fund grants totaling $35,000

Grants will support the community mentoring programs and an environmental initiative for the college’s Children’s Program.

Connecticut College has been awarded two $17,500 grants from the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund to support the college’s mentoring programs and an environmental awareness curriculum for the college’s Children’s Program.

One grant will be administered through Connecticut College’s Office of Volunteers for Community Services (OVCS). Connecticut College students participate in a wide variety of community learning and community service activities facilitated by OVCS, including three mentor programs: Students Implementing Services through Education and Recreation (SISTER), Mentoring Youth by Reaching Out through Education and Recreation (MY BROTHER) and Advocating Brighter Choices (ABC). The college partnered with the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School in New London to create all three programs, which provide positive youth development activities and relationships designed to increase participants’ academic levels and improve social decision making and life style choices.

The second grant will support the Connecticut College Children’s Program, which provides a model child and family-focused early childhood program within a community context for infants and young children of diverse backgrounds and abilities in Southeastern Connecticut. The program, which has been in existence since 1983 and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1988, is funded by the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund. The college plans to expand on the health and wellness program, which incorporated good nutrition and regular physical exercise and life style choices.

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Should We Gear Up For Another Sox-Yankees Showdown?
BY JASON STARR '09

The Red Sox-Yankees rivalry affects every Conn student in one of three ways. Sox and Yankees fans completely immerse themselves into the series which causes them to neglect their studies for three days.

This match up also alienates the students who support teams from the Midwest or the West Coast who wish that ESPN and Fox would give their team this kind of attention when they face their rivals.

And then there are the students who don’t follow baseball and can’t understand why their peers would choose to watch it for three hours every night. These people will always find baseball dull no matter who is playing. However, most baseball fans can appreciate all of the hype that surrounds a Sox-Yankees series even if they are from Minnesota or San Diego.

We should partially attribute this to the national media, but there are no other rivalries in professional sports that can compare to the constant tension felt between the Sox and Yankees.

The San Francisco Giants, Los Angeles Dodgers, and the San Diego Padres all consider each other to be rivals, but these matchups don’t generate the hype that exists between the Sox and Yankees because the series gener- ally wins the division.

The Yankee have won the American League East for the past eleven seasons, and for a while it looked like the Red Sox would win the division this season for the first time since 1995. New York has an overall record of 14-3 against the Sox this season (10-8), Boston has mustered only three games behind the Sox as of Thursday the 27th. The Yankees clinched a playoff berth on Wednesday and find themselves three games behind the Sox.

The Yankees own the division series against the Sox (10-8), Boston has sixty-six games and four wins, only three games behind the Sox as of Thursday the 27th. The Yankees clinched a playoff berth on Wednesday and find themselves three games behind the Sox with four games to go.

While the Yankees won the season series against the Sox (10-8), Boston has been leading the division since April 14th. Though this lead has shrunk drastically over the past month, New York plays its final seven games on the road which has proven to be a challenge for the Yankees so far this season.

Will the Sox and Yankees meet again in the 2007 Playoffs? The Cleveland Indians and Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim need to be defeated first. Both the Indians and Angels are tough teams to play in a five game series as they both have terrific starting pitching and significant power in their lineups.

But one thing is for sure: if the two teams meet this October, nearly half of the student body will put all of their commitments on hold for about a week to resume the rivalry.

Sources:
http://espn.com
http://baseball-reference.com

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A Plea to James Dolan
BY BEN EAGLE '09

I really want to like the New York Knicks. I made a promise to myself last spring that if the Knicks fired Isiah Thomas, I would begin rooting for them. It doesn’t really bother me that there aren’t many great players on the team—trust me, I don’t watch a sluggish Zach Randolph and Eddy Curry fight with each other for position in the paint. I just hate Isiah Thomas that much.

Thomas’s actions as both a general manager and a coach drag the Knicks into a mire they have not previously experienced. As a GM, Thomas has gone out of his way to acquire high salary players who have often returned zero cents on the dollar. Despite having the league’s highest payroll, the Knicks finished the 2005-06 season with the second worst record in the entire NBA.

Isiah’s coaching skills are barely better than his “ability” to evaluate talent. After Knicks owner James Dolan gave Thomas an undisclosed, multi-year coaching extension in March of 2007, the team promptly mailed it in for the rest of the season and rapidly fell out of playoff contention. Thomas lets his selfish perimeter players dribble away the shot clock, and he refuses to start his most efficient player (Forward David Lee) for reasons unbeknownst to pundits everywhere.

The beginning of my Knick-fandom, however, may be near. This summer, former Knick employee, Amucha Browne Sanders, sued both the Knicks and Thomas for sexual harassment. James Dolan, if Thomas’s utter lack of competence as a general manager and a coach weren’t enough to fire him, how do you feel about all of the negative P.R. he adds to your team?

What bad P.R. am I talking about? Well, Isiah began the sexual harassment trial by claiming that it is more inappropriate for a white man to call a black woman “a b**ch” than if a black man were to do so. Then, as if Stephen Marbury needed anymore bad press this summer, it became publicly known that he had sex with a Knicks intern in the back seat of his truck (though it later came to light that it was consensual). As if all of this information wasn’t bad enough, reports indicate that this mess could have been avoided with a settlement, but Isiah wanted the opportunity to clear his name in the public court.

Unfortunately Isiah, your name has already been tarnished regardless of the verdict. This is not a fight that should have been brought to the front pages of the Times and the Post. Dolan is a very media conscious owner, so it is surprising that he has stuck by Isiah thus far. Considering all of the unsettling issues that this trial has uncovered within the Knicks’s organization, I see no other action that Dolan can take once it finishes: he must fire Isiah Thomas and make me a Knicks fan.

Some of Women’s Club Soccer (Kaminsky)
**The Utility of C-Span**

By Ian Barnes '09

There are some things in this world that exist solely because someone woke up one morning and said to themselves, "Why the Hell not?"

Napalm falls into this category. One day, some guy decided he didn't just want to burn things; he wanted to burn things.

There is no real need for napalm. It's a sticky substance that completely coats swaths of land to ash. It's unnecessary, but someone decided it would be a good idea anyway.

To a similar end, I feel much the same about C-Span. Right now it serves no real positive purpose. I think it was created to encourage people to kill themselves. Nothing has ever made me question the value of my own life more than watching John McCain make small talk for forty-five minutes.

This television station has siphoned away my very will to live. I spent an entire evening watching it and I can say with some honesty that I'm finally ready to die.

Dante himself greatly underestimated the inclusiveness of the underworld in writing *Inferno*. The deepest, coldest, circle of Hell is reserved not only for the treacherous, but also anyone who enjoys C-Span. If that's you, I hope oblivion is yeecherous, but also first to admit that it is not completely for this television station, I would be the first to admit that it is not completely without merit.

It has great potential to be not only an innovative but also a cost-effective method of torture for Guantanamo detainees. All you need is a big room, a bunch of chairs, a large TV, surround sound and a staple gun to prevent the closing of eyelids. It'd be like a gas chamber, but instead of Zyklon B, you have Dennis Kucinich.

Prisoner suicide rates would be relatively high, but it's easy to sympathize with that. The human mind can only take so much of a man with the last name Kucinich. Trying to spell it is bad enough.

I know some of you probably sneer at my metaphors, but I wouldn't have to do it if the people running our government weren't so unbearably boring. Blame them, not me.

I guess it's not entirely their fault, though. The bi-partisan system is destroying politicians' ability to speak meaningfully and passionately about what they truly believe. Instead, they are now relegated to simply saying what they think the voters want to hear.

When was the last time you heard anyone in our government speak in a way that truly moved you? My memory fails me utterly in this regard.

The necessity of conforming to party lines is producing uninspired, mundane, cheap people who speak from a script and prescribed platform, not their hearts. The once-progressive nature of the United States has come to a halt; its very nature stilled by a lack of candor and fearlessness. Please politicians, stop hurting this country because you have no character.

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**Green In Your Wallet From Your Gas Tank**

By Alex Krogh-Grobbe '08

Do you want some extra cash? You can actually find it in your gas tank and wallet. And you can ease your environmental conscience at the same time. Here are some quick statistics:

- The current national average for gas prices is $2.79, which is up 37 cents from a year ago and down 39 cents from the all-time high in May. And gas prices are likely to go up in the future.
- The most efficient car on the road, according to fueleconomy.gov, is the Toyota Prius... surprise, surprise. It gets about 47 mpg (miles per gallon) which is about 6 cents per mile. A standard midsize car (think 4-door sedan) gets about 26 mpg, about 11 cents per mile. And finally an SUV gets about 20 mpg at best, about 14 cents per mile. The average American drives about 11,000 miles per year, spending $660/yr for a Prius, $1210/yr for a midsize car, and $1540/yr for an SUV.
- That means, switching from an SUV to a midsize car saves you about $330 per year in gas, and getting a small hybrid like a Prius can save you an additional $550.
- Greenhouse gases from transportation fuel use are one of the main causes of climate change and just one gallon of gasoline produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.
- So, SUVs that have the lowest mpg emit about a pound of carbon dioxide for every mile they’re driven, whereas a midsize car emits about .77 pounds and a Prius emits about .43 pounds. That means you’re reducing your emissions by about 25% by switching from an SUV to a midsize car and more than 50% by switching from SUV to Prius.

Being average college students, our parents usually give us the car we drive, so for now, you don’t have much control over what vehicle you drive. But you can express your disapproval of your parents’ and friends’ lifestyles (if they drive gas guzzling vehicles). The more disapproval SUV-buyers hear, hopefully it will encourage them to stop buying SUVs.

However, I’ve seen a few influential members of the student body driving around looking pretty happy in their SUVs, and I just want to say to you folks: people look up to you. I urge you to send a message of responsibility and compassion, not one of immaturity and carelessness.

You can read this and my previous *College Voice* articles on my webpage at http://oak.conncoll.edu/alexro커/voicecolumn.html

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**Interested in a career in the entertainment industry?**

Join Rebecca Rosen Shapiro '95, director of publicity at Shore Fire Media in Brooklyn, NY, for an online chat!

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd @ 9 pm

log on to: cconline.conncoll.edu
"I am so blessed that you care enough about me to be concerned and will continue to live in this brighter state with all of you by my side during this trying time."

- Britney Spears

Can you make Britney Spears sound articulate?

Then copy-edit for The College Voice, y'all.

Contact Areti at aasak@conncoll.edu

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I'm finding it harder and harder to watch TV. Not that I have the time to watch a whole lot anyway - mostly over the summer at friends' houses and dorm rooms here at school. But I feel like I used to be able to just channel surf and numbly settle in to whatever was amusing or visually stimulating. These days, it's kind of like the emerald curtain's been pulled back on the whole operation - hey there, Mister Wizard! Most shows (and all commercials) can be broken down into a neat schema outlining target audience and formulae for retaining attention, creating this huge distance between intended versus actual effects. Ultimately, the only television I can really bear any more is programming that makes fun of other programming, or of the predictability of these now-obvious schema that are inherent in all television and everything else that comes to you packaged and ready to eat.

On the other hand, these few shows I do enjoy aren't necessarily exempt from criticism either. Take The Daily Show, which works like this: They (in this case political newsmakers, but really this is a stand-in for almighty Thays everywhere) are trying to pull a very predictable and silly fast one on us, but We're too clever for it. Jon Stewart, paradigm of cleverness, and way more cool and funny than We could ever hope to be, is our anointed champion as we watch gleefully as he takes them down. This is pretty much why I love Jon Stewart, and also what separates him from a comedian like Seinfeld, whose territory is our own human foibles. But after a while it becomes clear that Stewart is himself operating on a schedule, and with a formula. He gets an exemption, though, because we still count him as One of Us, pulling back that curtain and facilitating the good laugh we have about what's behind it. Ultimately, though, it's still TV. See also Family Guy, or The Simpsons, or once upon a time, SNL. All televised satire, really. In the end, there's just not enough that can escape this little cycle. Adult Swim gets a nod because it's mostly comprised of shows that aspire to defy and evade all logic, convention, and predictability. The only guarantee made by Aqua Teen Hunger Force is that you'll be treated to a string of very silly and genuinely discontinuous non-sequiturs. Unfortunately, it ends up lacking something in terms of substance, because it so totally eschews its narrative in favor of random weirdness. The Adult Swim cartoons, in all their absurd and grotesque silliness, can end up still feeling like filler at the end of the day. So what, then, makes Good Television? We know it's out there. Critics know it's out there and say so, insofar as we're concerned with listening to them, and maybe you've got examples in your own mind. But, then, what makes something not hackneyed and groan-inducing?

Most programming - predictable, formulaic, market-driven - is analogous to the photo snapshot. Defined by fixedness; it captures a single moment and enshrines it, making it ready for mass-production. Then they are cropped, color adjusted, and airbrushed as needed for a specific and particular effect. Most TV gives us a snapshot of something familiar-looking. Good TV, on the other hand, is more like a person's reflection: fluid and changing, it can be marked by ambiguity and irregularity, and shows you something about yourself far more true to how we appear in real life. Good TV resonates in the same way that seeing your face in the bathroom mirror will always be more real than seeing someone who perhaps could be you mugging for the camera in a commercial or a sitcom. In the end, what makes it art and keeps it relevant is that Good TV tells us something meaningful about ourselves, something deeper than simply what demographic the producers think are likely watching it.
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Great Expectations for Two Designers at London Fashion Week

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

The balloon blocking the doorway popped and the girls flooded the runway on September 16th at Gareth Pugh's spring/summer 2008 London presentation. Pugh has been recognized for his discerning manipulation of volume, shape, materials and space, and his models appeared as a hybrid of Medieval princess-warriors and space cadets. He has also been famous in the mass market for witty t-shirts ("Cause me pain Hedi Slimane") and for his long-time friendship with model-of-the-moment Agyness Deyn.

But this season the hair and makeup were actually toned down so as not to overpower Pugh's creations. The first model donned a cube head-piece, her crystal-studded ensemble glittering. Vogue reporter Sarah Mower found the collection overly theatrical and geared to rock-star arena performances. She urged Pugh to err on the side of moderation, if he intends to earn a profit.

But Leisa Kamett for British Vogue lauded the designs. Agreeing with Kamett, I appreciate Pugh's attempt to maintain a sense of humor and creative control over his hauntingly beautiful collection. A mystified audience sat silently as a coat with a mice collar came down the runway.

Kamett confirms this collection to be "less graphic" and the "focus seemed to be firmly on silhouette over pattern."

Pugh's presentation electrified his audience; a long-sleeved, shor black leather dress with crystal detailing is bound to make the rounds at cocktail parties, as will a black crinoline pleated tank dress with sheer tulle sleeves.

On September 17th Christopher Kane and sister Tammy's refined collection for spring/summer 2008 was "more quietly accepted as a clever, and a welcome, step forward," says Dolly Jones for British Vogue. The Christopher Kane label has just two seasons to its name and is on its way to a signature style. They created something different for themselves and for fashion with these off-kilter combinations.

"It's like Bon Jovi's 'Living on a Prayer'- but elegant," says Emma Elwick at Vogue. Drawing inspiration from '80s movie favorites such as Carrie and Crocodile Dundee, the Kane siblings flirted with disaster with snakeskin prints, ruffles, western blouses and light-washed denim. Nevertheless, the waiting lists for their bomber jackets of chiffon are a testament to the Kanes' instincts.

The rich greens, reds and black of the autumn/winter 2007 collection have been cast aside. Swarovski crystals embedded in the cashmere vests will woo the hearts of buyers, and the Tammy-look-a-like models with their pin-straight locks gallantly mixed the "dodge" side, as Christopher calls it, with something more refined. Replacing the skin-tight microscopic looks of yore, the Kane duo's runaway looks are a welcome surprise.

Sources: style.com vogue.co.uk londofashionweek.co.uk

Don't Forget to Dance Sometimes
Live Music Listings

BY STEVE BLOOM '10

During his opening statements to the student body during convocation, President Leo Higden proudly gave the advice, "Don't forget to dance sometimes." Although this quote is quite fictitious, the student body of Connecticut College should keep in mind that we are less than three hours away from some of the most musical and thrilling cities in the country.

October 1st
Animal Collective @ Webster Hall in New York, NY
Kings of Leon @ Toad's Place in New Haven, CT

October 2nd
Bloc Party @ Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel in Providence, RI

October 5th
Minus the Bear @ Warsaw in New York, NY

October 6th
Arcade Fire @ Randall's Island in New York, NY

October 7th
Sunset Rubdown @ Middle East in Boston, MA

October 11th
Hot Hot Heat @ Paradise Rock Club in Boston, MA

October 12th
Architecture in Helsinki @ Studio B in New York, NY

By Ben Silberman '10 & Alex Krogh-Grabbe '08
WEEKLY CALENDAR

Saturday, September 29:
Academic Department and Center Fair, 8:30 – 10 am, 1941 Room, Cro
CELS-eration! CELS open house, 8:30 – 10 am, Cro
“Hard Hat” tour of renovated classrooms, 9 am, 1 pm, meet in front of Cro
Mum and Pumpkin Sale, 10 am – 2 pm, outside of Cro
State of the College Address by President Higdon, 10:15 am, Evans Hall
Women’s Soccer vs. Wesleyan, 11 am, Harkness
Field Hockey vs. Wesleyan, 11 am, Silfen Field
“What’s Bad About Bad Faith?” lecture by Simon Feldman, Blaustein 203
“Life After Connecticut College - What You Can Do With an East Asian Studies Major” by Greg Fleischmann ’90 Blaustein 210
Picnic on the Green, 12:30 – 2 pm, Knowlton Green
Harvestfest, 12:30 – 4 pm, Knowlton Green
Tennis vs. Bowdoin College, 1 pm, tennis courts
“CONN-course: Why Internationalization is Important at Connecticut College,” 1:15 pm, Ernst Common Room, Blaustein
“CONN-course: Meet the Dean Team,” 1:15 pm, Blaustein
Men’s Soccer vs. Wesleyan, 2 pm, Harkness Green
“Human Rights: Are They Really Universal?” Keynote speech by LaShawn Jefferson ’88, 3 pm, Evans Hall, Cummings

Saturday, September 29 (continued):
Ice Cream Social in honor of the Class of 2011, 3:30 pm, Knowlton Green
“CONN-course: Issues of Immigration,” Leo Garafalo, 4 pm, Blaustein 210
Discussion with Noche Flamenca’s Martin Santangelo, 4 pm, Olin 014
Rowing Open House and Reception, 4:30 pm, Rowing Training Room, Field house
“Home Sweet Dinner,” SAC, for student w/out families visiting, 5:30 – 8 pm, Larrabee Common Room and Patio
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 5:30 pm, Luce Field house,
OnStage: Noche Flamenca, 8 pm, Palmer Auditorium

Sunday, September 30:
Bird Walk with Robert Askins, 8 am., base of the hill on Benham Ave. Senior Brunch, 10 am, 1962 Room, Cro
Arboretum Afternoon Tour, 2 pm, in front of Olin
Connecticut College Republicans weekly meeting, 8 pm, Alice Johnson Room.

Monday, October 1:
Personal Trainer, noon, Athletic Center
Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology Student Open House, 4:30 pm, Olin 214
“Behavior Change for Cancer Prevention: Intervention and Quality of Life Outcomes” by Bryan J. Blissmer, 4:30 pm, Bill 106
Free Kickboxing Class, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, Cro’s Nest