The College Republic: Vol 1, No 2

Connecticut College

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THE COLLEGE RE PUBLIC

NEW LONDON, CT.

FEBRUARY, 1982

VOL. 1 NO. 2

CF Plots Conn's Future

A Buyer's Market

By Rob Mahoney

Sweeping changes urged for Conn. College's market

Recommendations for the college's current market position

VOL. 1 NO. 2

Connecticut's Marketability

By Rob Mahoney

The Connecticut College administration has recognized that demographic trends will sharply curtail the number of applicants over the next fifteen years. In order to meet this inevitable decline in numbers of students, President Oakes Ames initiated the Committee of Connecticut's Future (CCP) to investigate the college's current market position.

After a year of deliberations, the committee has issued Part One of the Report on Connecticut College's Future.

Part One, which outlines recommendations for the college's survival, was given to the Trustees in December for review. They will be at Connecticut College in mid-February to vote on the following day.

The faculty received a copy of the report at a special faculty discussion on January 27, 1982. The four page report was classified the following day.

Part One is the culmination of an earlier Interim Report recommended by the committee. The Interim Report is a longer, more detailed document analyzing specific factors and trends that will affect Connecticut College.

In the face of national and regional population declines, there is serious question as to whether Connecticut College can maintain its "highly competitive position" as a Liberal Arts institution.

As the U.S. approaches the tail-end of the baby boom, the college confronts a 38-41 percent drop over the next fifteen years in the pool of applicants from which it now draws students.

The 35 page report compared the strengths and weaknesses of Connecticut to other small liberal arts schools. The data was collected by the American Council of Education—a national organization which administers an annual study of socio-economic trends in the four year private non-academic vet schools. A small group of scientific, particular interests, and reasons for the student's choice of a college are samples of inquiries made on the questionnaire.

Based on this study as well as similar research projects COER and the committee itself, the interim report states that Connecticut attracts students with unusually strong preferences in the arts, humanities and social sciences and unusually weak compared to math, computer and science.

CF (College of Connecticut with sixteen other schools) was hallmarked

Cont. on page 7

Scientific Illiteracy in the U.S.

By David Lottuff

A recent government report "Sciences and Engineering Education for the 1990's and Beyond" found a trend toward "scientific and technological illiteracy" in the United States. This report states that over the next 15 years there has been a diminishing national commitment to the sciences. The report found that the focus on "basic education" in many schools often failed to include the sciences.

Apparently the sciences are not generally viewed as "basic education." Nationwide, many secondary schools are requiring fewer science courses for graduation while colleges and universities have lowered their science requirements for admission.

After citing these facts the report backs away from any blame on the schools by stating that "the schools are but reflections of the national commitment...and therefore are not so much the cause of the condition as a result of it."

At Connecticut College a student can spend four years taking a total of 12 courses where only one must be a science course. Does a single course prepare a "well rounded" graduate to make responsible decisions regarding science and technology in society?

Politicians as well as the general public are frequently forced to make judgments concerning science and technology. One of the most controversial technological issues of political interest is nuclear power. Although many people feel very strongly on this issue, most are completely ignorant of the concepts of nuclear energy or nuclear arms.

Very few people actually know what radiation is and how it is damaging to the human body. One can't make informed judgements unless one has some basic knowledge of the issue.

Another controversial issue concerns environment, a very highly complex biological system. Dr. Gertrude McKeon of the chemistry dept. states "it is vitally important for people to understand the problems as well as be concerned about them. Many people today are concerned about the environment but they have no real understanding of it. She went on to say that only informed decision-making will aid in solving environmental problems. In order to make responsible decisions regarding the complex issues facing us today, it is imperative that man has some basic understanding of science and technology.

A professor at Harvard University, Nathan Glazer, summed up this problem by saying that in the past 15 years there has been an alarming growth in what he called an "anti-science mentality." Particularly among those Americans who should know better—the ones with advanced educations. The government report stated that one reason good scientific educators are in such short demand is that industry can afford to pay scientists higher wages. This practice results in job vacancies or jobs filled with employees who have only "marginal capability in these teaching areas."

The government report does present some recommendations for reversing this trend characterized by negligence in recognizing science and technology as important fields of study. One recommendation was to create a President's Council on Excellence in Science and Technology Education. The objective of this council would be to encourage students to enter these fields and support excellence in scientific and technological education in the United States. The report found a "desperate need" for curricula for students not interested in professional scientific careers, and recommended that schools

Cont. on page 7

UPDATE ERA

By Lisa Battalla

On January 13, 1982, the Oklahoma Senate rejected the passage of the equal rights amendment. Last week, an 8th district court ruled that extension, granting the ERA until June 30, 1982 to secure the 38 states needed for ratification, unconstitutional. This same court also ruled that states who already voted in favor of ERA can rescind their vote.

Is ERA dying?

On a national level, three college students just suspended their education to start the National Organization for Women's (N.O.W.) campus project. Together with other groups, such as the ERA task forces' missionary project, they hope to get this amendment ratified.

Citizens of Connecticut, who have already ratified the national as well as a state ERA, are now using their energies to lobby in unratified states. According to

Cont. on page 2

News Analysis

If it were simply a matter of contraction, there would be little problem in maintaining and even improving the college's present strengths. However, CF is planning a contraction of about 15 percent. This means the college will have to shrink the student body by 220 spaces. Consequences of the faculty reduction and a proportional number of non-academic personnel must be eliminated.

When asked how this could be done without undermining the present academic prestige, President Ames confessed: "This is one of the great challenges we

Elaine Bono, treasurer for the regional N.O.W. organization, a message brigade is in full swing. Supporters of this project send messages to citizens of Connecticut in unratified states expressing their beliefs in ERA.

Vicki Korte, (60) president of EQUAL, equality under the law is organizing a movement on the Conn College campus. The group hopes to secure message cards from students that come from unratified states as well as circulate petitions, show movies, and sponsor the South Eastern N.O.W. organization on February 15, in Orono.

Student opinion would seem to applaud these efforts to secure passage of the amendment. When Scarritt ('84) believes we need ERA as a precedent to fight discrimination. The fourteen amendment is not enough, she adds, as it only deals with race against religious and racial discrimination.

Cont. on page 2
Watt About the Environment

By Susan Pratt

James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior under the Reagan administration, has been to the forefront of numerous political figures of the time. His policies and proposals have been met with mixed reaction, especially under the attack of numerous conservation groups who fear that this man will do irreparable damage to this country's natural resources.

As Secretary of the Interior, James Watt heads a department responsible for the management of publicly owned lands in the United States. He is responsible for decisions which determine what public lands will be used or exploited, and the extent and areas what areas will be preserved for recreation and conservation purposes.

But Watt has demonstrated, through some of his proposals, that he is much more interested in the exploitation of public lands by industry than in the preservation of lands for posterity. His major proposals include plans to open environmentally sensitive coastal areas off the California coast to oil and gas exploration, to endorse drastic cuts in the federal budget for environmental programs, to advocate for increased and accelerated and expand oil drilling and resource exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf. These two examples blatantly show how Watt intends to wield his power to please his supporters in big industry and his contributors.

Watt and his ideas do indeed have support in America. Energy lobbying groups that represent the cutting edge of the oil and gas industry and burgeoning business interests both on- and offshore provide support for Watt and his plans.

They hail Watt as being "thorough, bright and very well informed." They claim that in reviewing the situations, he considers the economics and the industry and the advantages and disadvantages of tapping the country's wilder..."Watt's supporters, his "environmental backwash industry." Industries fear that "authoritarian" environmental policies to environmental laws that Watt has pushed. This concern over the potential regulations of the conservation groups have lobbied vigorously against this man in an effort to reverse decisions and cut his proposals.

Opposition to Watt and his proposals centers around such organizations as the National Wildlife Federation and the Wilderness Society. These organizations have lobbied for the removal of Watt from office. They fear that Watt's policies will create more drastic and unpalatable decisions that will create a "monopolistic land use." The American people, "regressive" and "environmental backwash industry." Industries fear that "authoritarian" environmental policies to environmental laws that Watt has pushed. This concern over the potential regulations of the conservation groups have lobbied vigorously against this man in an effort to reverse decisions and cut his proposals.

The college is a public institution. It is a coherent formal expression of the dialectic of its world and a substantive participant in the dialectical itself. The college is a public institution. It is a coherent formal expression of the dialectic of its world and a substantive participant in the dialectical itself.

The college is a major repository of the continuous traditions of man. It is therefore, and has been, in the proposition that at birth man is only an inferior to a constellation of social institutions, events, and that man's claim to his estate is expressed in the form of a planning connected effort.

This effort is education, the making of man. Education entails a rigorous definition of the self and the world. It demands a critical evaluation of the experience of being 'man' and 'given reality', just as it forces upon the self the notion that the world is knowable, not only as an original and as a planned, conscious effort. If the self is education, then it is the pursuit of knowledge and to the expression of the dialectic of its world and as a substantive participant in the dialectic itself.

The future of the American government is financially strong; now, they are much weaker, having to raise taxes.

The president intends to wield his power to please his supporters in big industry and his contributors.

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Equal Rights

By Vicki Kurts

The National Organization for Women is a group that was organized in 1967. The members of this organization are pledged to fight tirelessly for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. NOW has grown in membership from 5,000 to more than 70,000 in less than four years. The organization has also become more representative of mainstream American women. This is evidenced by increased understanding of women and their plight is also representative of the general attitude of the population.

As of the June 1981 issue of Time Magazine, the ERA had 2-1 support among the American people. A poll taken in April of 1981 found that 61 percent of the people supported ERA. A Washington Post - ABC News poll, conducted at about the same time, found Americans supporting the ERA by the same percentage. The poll asked: "Do you or do you not hope that the Reagan Administration will work for the passage, into law, of the Equal Rights Amendment?" 60 percent of those interviewed answered in the affirmative. President Reagan would, 29 percent hoped he would not, and 10 percent were not sure.

The ERA is a proposed amendment that would give women and men equality under the law. If ratified, it will become the 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It was passed in 1972 by Congress after having been introduced forty-nine years before, in 1923. Since 1972 the amendment has been pending before the state legislature for ratification by the necessary 38 states. In 1981, just three more states are needed before the amendment becomes law.

The amendment has been endorsed by every U.S. President from Eisenhower to Carter. Ronald Reagan is the first President to reverse the 40 year support of the Republican party for the equality of rights for women and men. The Democratic party has continued its support for the ERA. Thirty-five states have already ratified the amendment, representing 72 percent of the United States. These states recognize that the ERA, along with the other laws banning discrimination practices do not eliminate the problem of discrimination without clear rational constitutional protection.

Opponents of ERA have expressed fears that the passage of the amendment will provide for the installation of co-ed bathrooms. But the ERA is a legal issue first and a social issue second. "It is simply 51 words that states that the Government cannot pass a law that restricts the rights of women and men." "Relationships between women and men will continue to be a private decision on the part of individuals. Privileges that male persons now enjoy will be extended to women."

Another argument used by the opponents of ERA is that under it, women will have to engage in military combat. The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to draft women as necessary. ERA does not affect this power, but would give women the right to volunteer for service and would also give them some of the benefits now being received by men, such as GI educational benefits and deferments. It could be presumed that since men are assigned civilian type jobs (almost-10) then this benefit would be granted to women as well.

People should accept the ERA for what it is, a law that states that no one can be discriminated against because of sex. Equal rights for everyone threatens no one.
The Future Isn't Over

By Chris Honock

On January 27 a faculty meeting was held to discuss plans proposed by the Committee of Connecticut's Future (CCF). The report was distributed to faculty members. Immediately prior to the meeting, the College Republic acquired a copy of the report. After a brief discussion of an earlier committee report entitled "Interim Report from the Committee on Connecticut's Future." The report was distributed to faculty members written up by fifteen pages of tables and graphs. The heading on page 1 reads in bold print: "CONFIDENTIAL."

Unfortunately, solving problems of the future does not add up to a plan. It is ignoring the current problems in this area. For example, crowding two students into single-room doubles is not the answer. Double-b lowers will remain an inconvenient reality.

The administration has promised for several years that it would renovate Palmer Library. The idea being to convert it to a humanities center with faculty-office and two or three new lecture rooms. This "priority" now couples with another recommendation of the CCF: cut non-"academic" departments - mathematics, physical science, computer science, and economics - in order to "balance the budget." The practice of housing students in basements and in the infirmary will be continued.

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"A committee might have suggested strengthening the existing humanities departments to those that are competitive. Why did they not discuss the possibility of creating business or communications departments? These would have significant effects on the numbers in the applicant pool. One significant graph, issued by the CCF's report, demonstrates that the existing humanities departments have so far, for all intents and purposes, put their departments on the map. The Committee's suggestions for marketability make sense if one looks at the evidence they obtained. The obvious conclusion, in other words, is that the humanities departments would have to strengthen their quantitative and career-oriented aspects. The CCF concludes that the expressed preference trends of college bound high school seniors of both sexes have remained stable in the arts and humanities from 1973 to 1980. Meanwhile the humanities have lost market share, in percentages of both sexes in business, commerce and communications field. If this piece of data were interpreted accurately one might expect that the CCF might consider developing an interdisciplinary program in communications.

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Mike Wallace got caught with his pants down. While doing a story about attenuation loans, he made a racial slur. The TV cameras had stopped rolling, but a tape recorder, and subsequently, the newspapers caught every word. But Mike Wallace is a respected television journalist, and, when The College Republic asked him for an interview, he believed in being a solid journalist. I vowed to evade the racial incident.

What follows is a hard-hitting interview I did with Mr. Wallace. The CCF points out that they do, in the long run, the proposals depend upon major construction projects, as well as progressively financing in departmental build-up. The Interim Report has stated that what is most important to the Connecticut College environment, at this point, are changes which improve the marketability of the college. Focusing future financial pressure is to attract more male applicants. The proposed changes, as stated, are in the best interests of all students. Nevertheless, the college community must cautiously analyze the fine-line distinctions in the administration between education and business.

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ON THE ROCKS
by Kenny Larkin

Center Ring

Whenever I listen to Reagan speak it is always with amusement and anxiety. It's like going to church. Everybody enjoys watching a clown. And yet there is a great potential for disaster in this clown, since he is a trapeze artist making one of those perilous jumps. I imagine he's going to miscalculate and he plunges to his death. Of course, the irony is, however, the risks are far greater. Just one little "off the cuff" remark might destroy the illusion. In fact, "being a yellow-bellied sap sucker" and "we'll all be three billion hungry for a competitive steak tomorrow morning."

I would therefore like to share with you the highlights of President Reagan's State of the Union message and indulge in a little bit of personal commentary.

Today, the fine print of the Union address to you, a constitutional duty as old as our government. The President is telling us that he is not on the podium for fun, but on a high premium on accuracy, let me say that I actually never hear George Washington say that, but it is a matter of historic fact.

Can you criticize someone who is merely following the footsteps of the great? No way. As to the little joke, Ronnie is letting us know he's just a good guy and that lately the press has been picking on him. George Carlin has also pointed out that humor itself is also an effective defense mechanism. If you're not a big tough fighter dude, or get tired of running around and want to be funny. No one's going to hit a guy laying in the middle of the street, acting like an idiot.

"What we do and say here will make all the difference to auto workers in Detroit, lumberjacks in the Northwest, and steel workers in Steelville, who are in the unemployment lines, to black teenagers in Newark and Chicago."

Wor!'t also make all the difference to share-holders of GM in Las Vegas, the president of lumbering companies in Mercer Island, steel factory owners in Shaker Heights, who've just been forced to trade in their Rolls-Royces for teeny weeny BMW's, and to the 160,000,000 more people in the nation. We'll make it...it's no question that we can make it...it's no question that we can do it.

To the editor,

I think I therefore like to share with you the highlights of President Reagan's State of the Union message and indulge in a little bit of personal commentary.

President Washington began this tradition in 1790 after reminding the nation that the destiny of self government and the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty is 'finally staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.' For our friends in the press, who place a high premium on accuracy, let me say that I actually never hear George Washington say that, but it is a matter of historic fact.

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To the editor,

Congratulations to all of you for a successful first issue. I particularly applaud the selection of newspapers to the readers in the upper.

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To the Editor,
Dear Editor,

After getting over my initial excitement about reading your wonderful novel, I sat down to read it, but finished feeling subdued and contemplative — something was missing. I found myself asking, how can a work that is so well-written and well-researched be so lacking in coherence? The fact that members of our community took the initiative to speak out in a constructive way is commendable, but we must ask ourselves: Are we making any progress in our efforts to resolve the problems that we have identified? Your analysis of defense initiatives suggests that we are not. If we are so concerned about the future of our country, why are we allowing ourselves to be distracted by other issues? Are we really making a difference? I hope that The College Voice, like every other student publication, will continue to publish articles that encourage critical thinking and meaningful discussion.

Sincerely,

[Student's Name]
SWEEPING
Cont. from page 1
face: If we are going to be in-
creasing the allocation of fac-
culty resources slightly to cer-
tain departments, then how can we
also maintain quality in the areas
the College Community must
keep our image?

President Ames’ question is
one that is troubling many
people. Working from the pre-
cedent that sweeping changes
are necessary to keep the College
competitive, actual or perceived
positions must be eliminated from
certain departments in the hum-
ble name of the academic
sciences to reallocate positions
to the departments specified by
the CCF.

Still remaining is the question of
whether this move will come from
reallocation, a fortuitous mainte-
nance of present strengths possible.
Reallocation also includes
increasing those strengths such as
more and better compre-

The only answer even at-
tempering to address the large
funding gap that would result
from the CCF proposals was
"incentive fund raising cam-
paigns.”

Therefore, a conclusion can be
drawn that the CCF's proposals
are dependent upon imagination,
controversy, encouragement of
outreach campaigns for financing, or
dipping further into the endow-
ment, contributed by the Connecticut
Trustees.

The committee justifies the change in academic emphasis asserting that "to be weakest in the curricular areas where interests of prospective students are greatest is an unacceptable position in an increasingly competitive ad-
missions market.

This statement contains a revealing ambiguity, in-cluding one acknowledged by
the committee.

The fait pas is the CCF’s use of
the word "weakest." In many
contexts the word "weakest" is am-
biguous, yet Professor McKeon of
the English Department, in a compten
ty article of 1770, states that
prospective students, among other faculty approached
have some basic
interests in non-academic
areas. CCF had better make good
notice of its ambiguity, or
"weakest" is "over.

This, however, may not be the
case. Many faculty members may
simply be reserving judgment.

One professor, not related to the
Response, expressed the
belief that the Report involves no
test of evidence or surprise. "In fact, it
seems to me that the CCF may be offering
largely post facto rationalization for
decisions undertaken in piece-meal fashion in the past two years. The raison
d'etre of the Report is to make the
college more attractive to prospective
students. In short, this whole thing may be nothing
more than a hype for the sake of the
President's image."

Another faculty member sees
the people on the committee as
"real believers."

I think they have climbed the
mountains and have a vision of the
promised land, and really believe
something that we will lose if we don't
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The purpose of CCF's Report is the Response by
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Among the reasons suggesting the
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marketinfg marketing. A product must be priced
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The authors of the Response program recognize the apparent principle allowing the
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Clearly, science is extremely important in our high-
technological society. It is
certainly one of the fundamental
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MARKETABILITY
Cont. from page 1

CONFIDENTIAL.

Reduction in the applicant pool could lead to a percent
overall contraction of the college. If the number of 220
students and a proportional number of faculty and non-
academic personnel.

To meet these potential
decisions the committee outlines three options: 1) contracting
2) lowering admissions stan-
dards. 3) changing marketing
procedures and facilities.

The first two options are
clearly unattractive to the
committee. Therefore, the Interim
Report attempts to define a viable policy based on the
third. The committee "urges modest shifts in resource allocations that
make the college more competitive in the scientific and tech-
nical charges."

CCF reasons that "to be weakest in the curricular areas where interests of prospective
students are greatest is an unacceptable position in an increasingly competitive ad-
missions market."

The Response presents two
mutually exclusive, in-adequate,
or "Terrible Seven" by the college, is released, represents a four
page response outlining some
certain flaws in the committee's
positions.

The Response also raises a
business discrepancy in the
commitee's plan stating: "A
committee's decision must be
reversed from rather than precede a
decision about the intellectual
potentials of the student."

In short, CCF has developed a
marketing strategy before the product.

The endorsers of the Response are:
Fredric V. Bogel, David W.
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President Ames is establishing
"task forces" consisting of faculty, administration and
students which will meet with the "entire College Community" to discuss the
specifics.

The Great Winter Sale
Our entire stock of fall & winter
People who want to try at the schools with just a slightly better
reputation than ours. What about THE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE
humanities..." but go to school?

The report goes on to stress, "the
notion that we won’t cut back or
reallocate resources unless our
strengths seriously, is damaging
for two reasons. One is that it
would be difficult to cut back on
that, and the second is that we are
as we are.

The Inform Report is twenty
two pages of good demographic research attempting to study the fears of those who share
Professor Bogel’s sentiments. However, CCF considers
the fallacy of inconsistency, arguing with contradictory policy that
"No college can be everything to
everyone. College should build upon
their strengths.

After last week’s faculty meeting, Professor Bogel believes that democracy on the report
is "over.

This, however, may not be the
case. Many faculty members may
simply be reserving judgment.

One professor, not related to the
Response, expressed the
belief that the Report involves no

test of evidence or surprise. "In fact, it
seems to me that the CCF may be offering
largely post facto rationalization for
decisions undertaken in piece-meal fashion in the past two years. The raison
d'etre of the Report is to make the
college more attractive to prospective
students. In short, this whole thing may be nothing
more than a hype for the sake of the
President's image."

Another faculty member sees
the people on the committee as
"real believers."

I think they have climbed the
mountains and have a vision of the
promised land, and really believe
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Cadets Speak Out
By Nina Elgo

For the cadets, social life is restricted to mostly movies, mixers with women... This one day, Tech Hifi will not be only, everything in the store is undersold.

"Monda V," February 15, 1987

...year in New London, Connecticut

From scholarship award winners.

They are former class presidents, valedictorians, and

(1) always, Tech Hifi will not be

...they subject himself to such a lifestyle.

As Jim Seeman stressed, "Those cadets are a minority and unfortunate at the same time, the most visible and most outspoken." The cadets probably are more conservative than their age group. But if the cadets are to any degree socially immature, "it comes from being too closed off and isolated," said Bill McLaughlin, "in this atmosphere, asserted that the academy also includes completely structured days beginning at 6:00 a.m., continuing with breakfast, lectures, classes, etc. For a cadet 4th class (or swab), one day's has the added feature of enduring "brace up." Brace-up entails, for example, having to walk in the center of the hall, looking straight ahead. At mealtimes, cadets must sit at free inches of one's chair and eat without food. "However, adds Cadet 4th Class Steve Gjonnes, "the cadets 1st class are kings," garnering extra liberty, loans for cars, prestige, and respect.

Within their companies, the cadets get to know each other well. Under the stress of continuous structure, some cadets realize they can't live alone. With their tight schedule, they make good friends which is hardly indicative of sociability..

What kind of person would subject himself to such a lifestyle?" Jim Deen, students know the answer. Maybe too few are looking down at one's food.

At any rate, it is certainly much easier and more acceptable to write established, preconceived notions than question or challenge them. If the cadets can be characterized as "bored, perseverant and free," the ability to make sacrifices is more justifiable attributes.

The cadets enter the Coast Guard Academy for the opportunity of obtaining a superior education tuition-free. It is essential that the academy with the security of at least a temporary career as well as the opportunity to attend graduate school as a civil, again must know which each other well. Under the stress of continuous structure, some cadets realize they can't live alone. With their tight schedule, they make good friends which is hardly indicative of sociability.

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