

Connecticut College

Digital Commons @ Connecticut College

Spark

Student Publications

11-30-1977

The Spark, Volume 1 Issue 3

Connecticut College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/studentpubs_spark

Recommended Citation

Connecticut College, "The Spark, Volume 1 Issue 3" (1977). *Spark*. 5.
https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/studentpubs_spark/5

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spark by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. For more information, please contact bpancier@conncoll.edu.
The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.

THE SPARK

Nov 30, 77

Housefellow selection - does the system work?

CAROLINE BOYCE

It has been three years since any group of students on the Connecticut College campus has examined the process by which Housefellows are selected. According to one of this year's Housefellows, the last attempt was made by the members of the Student Trustee Committee consisting, at the time, of Ken Crerar '77, David Gosnell '77, Stewart Sadick '77, and Doug Haynes '78. This committee was responsible for many other issues as well, and thus the Housefellow problem was not adequately dealt with. It is also interesting to note that three of the four students were Juniors at the time, and all three were later appointed to the position of Housefellow. The fourth member of the committee is presently a Housefellow.

The time has come, in the search for improving campus life, to scrutinize the process by which Housefellows are selected. These twenty people have a direct influence on the lives of every resident student. A number of the aspects of the present system need to be changed.

The existing procedure is as follows:

1) Prospective applicants attend a general meeting.

2) Applications are submitted (a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0 is presently required).

3) Candidates are interviewed:

-individually by Dean Watson.

-individually by a Housefellow who is relatively unfamiliar with the candidate.

-in a group situation with an average of four Housefellows and four candidates. There are two of these meetings.

In addition, various offices and departments on campus, receive lists of the candidates, and are permitted to submit recommendations, whether they be positive or negative. These recommendations are kept, confidentially, by Dean Watson. This is unfortunate, because students should be allowed to defend themselves against any negative comments made about them.

Working with Dean Watson, the existing Housefellows present her with a list of approximately thirty names from the original seventy to eighty applicants (this has been the average number). Dean Watson then makes the final cuts.

It is obvious that this process does not allow for input from the student

body, with the exception of the Housefellows, who were chosen through the same process the year before. This can, and does, to a large extent, lead to the selection of a "type" of person for the job. People do push favorites, for as one Housefellow indicated, "Subjectivity is part of the game- the way we play it here." This particular Housefellow did qualify this statement by saying that perhaps this might lead to better qualified people.

Dean Watson indicated that, " the Housefellow position, being administrative, is not the student's choice. The college must take the ultimate responsibility." It is my belief that the college has the responsibility to find out how the student body feels about who will be their Housefellows, but I have seen little effort made in this area. Dean Watson might have a good idea as to which students will be best able to relate to the administration, but a Housefellow deals, on a face to face level, with students as well.

Through my research on this subject, I have developed a proposal, which, I believe, would improve the existing selection process. My proposal would satisfy the administration in their concern for selecting competent individuals, as well as allow for student input. John Rothschild, Housefellow of Wright, said in an interview, " I would be in favor of Housefellows elected by the student body, and then interviewed, or the other way around." It is my opinion that " the other way around" is the better option.

The existing procedure could be maintained up to the point where the final
continued on page 14



Photo by Pines

Food budget - (story inside)

Sacrifice

Many colleges, across this country, are experiencing financial difficulties, and Connecticut College is no exception to this rule. As financial problems arise, cutbacks must be made somewhere.

And so, the student body is repeatedly told that sacrifice is called for. As food quality deteriorates, and eating conditions become abysmal, we are told that we must understand, and that our sacrifice will be appreciated.

In hard times, such as these, there is little question that the student body has an obligation to sacrifice for the good of the college community. But we also have an obligation to ask the faculty to sacrifice to an equal degree.

One of the greatest problems caused by the lack of funds is the, ever-increasing, size of classes. Increases in the number of faculty does not keep pace with the growing amount of students which are admitted each semester. In addition, certain courses tend to be extremely popular, and suffer from a severe case of over enrollment.

Perhaps the greatest drawing point of Connecticut College is its small classes, and the intimate rapport which can thus be established between professor and student. To lose this, would be a tremendous detriment to the quality of this school.

If faculty members truly care about this school, then they should be willing to sacrifice, in order to maintain Connecticut College as a high quality educational institution. Each member of the faculty should attempt to teach one more course, at the same pay they are now receiving. Thus educational opportunities would be expanded, and more students would be able to take courses they are interested in.

There is little question, that this heavier burden on the faculty would be difficult for them to bear. But if sacrifice is going to be needed to help Conn. College maintain its position in the academic world, then this sacrifice should come from all members of the college community.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in the hope of making the student body aware of an important lobbying group which now exists on campus. COPUS is a nationwide student-operated lobbying and research organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. COPUS is concerned with all state and federal legislation dealing with education. Its primary interest is in the problems of independent colleges, and specifically in the area of financial aid. It was founded three years ago on the premise that student diversity adds significantly to a college community, and that the way to achieve this diversity is through increased financial aid.

COPUS will be an active organization on the Connecticut College campus this year, as well as throughout the state. COPUS representatives will be testifying at committee hearings in Washington on issues like the Tuition Tax bill that the College Republicans are advertising campuswide. COPUS, however, is opposed to the Tuition Tax Credit Plan because it will serve to increase the gap between public and private college tuitions, and because COPUS feels that the money could be more effectively distributed through the present financial aid system.

Connecticut COPUS chapters are currently working on tightening up the state organization, and setting up a meeting with the Governor. COPUS is a constructive way for students to voice their opinion. COPUS can also be a rewarding experience for anyone interested in lobbying and legislation dealing with education. Most of all, though, COPUS cannot exist without broad-based student support. If you are interested in joining COPUS, or in obtaining more information, please contact me, Janice Mayer, at Box #953. Thank you.

JANICE MAYER
Acting Campus
Director, COPUS

Letters continued on page 11

THE SPARK

Volume One/ Issue Three

Wednesday November 30, 1977

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief
Richard Goldin

Business Editor
Royce Winsten

Fine Arts Editor
Anne Birdsall

Production Editor
Tracy Duhamel

Bob Adler
Rich Blakley
Andrea Blomgren
Caroline Boyce
Leslie Chase
Scott Calamar
Jeff Fishman
Karen Frankian
Cindy Gall
Steve James
Marty Johnson
David Knox
Kim Lewis
Carolyn Nalbandian
Lisa Pines
Selden Prentice
Sarah Rabinowitz
Peter Reich
Linda Rosenberg
Linda Stamm

GRAPHICS

Ellen Ambach
Leslie Johnson

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

Box 618
Connecticut College
New London, Ct. 06320

Food budget - do we get what we pay for?

ROYCE WINSTEN

The words "you are what you eat" have frightening implications if you happen to be unfortunate enough to be eating at Harris Refectory. It seems safe to say that if one encountered food like that which is served in Harris, in a restaurant, one wouldn't patronize the establishment again. But day after day (for those living in the complex), or just on weekends (for those situated in the more peaceful and secluded regions immediately to the south) hapless students trudge, head bowed, to Harris Refectory for nutriment.

We students pay approximately \$1,620, per year, for the privilege of living in a Connecticut College dorm, and eating the food they serve. But the question is; do we really get what we pay for?

The room and board fee here at Conn., \$1,620, pays rent on the room you live in, insurance (fire and liability), utilities (heat, electricity, water), and repairs (damage caused willfully and otherwise). It is interesting to see how this figure, for room and board, compares with figures from other schools, for the same services.

The best institutions to use for comparison to Conn. are the member schools of the Twelve College Exchange. These schools are all approximately the same size as us, and are cast of approximately the same mold. In other words, they all fit into the category of small, New England colleges. The list of these schools, and their cost for room and board, is as follows:

Dartmouth-	\$2,145
Wellesley-	\$2,100
Williams-	\$1,933
Mt. Holyoke-	\$1,900
Wesleyan-	\$1,840
Vassar-	\$1,825
Smith-	\$1,800
Wheaton-	\$1,800
Bowdoin-	\$1,768
Trinity-	\$1,670
Amherst-	\$1,650
Conn. College-	\$1,620

These schools are all in about the same price range (total yearly fees), but they, quite obviously,

have different ideas on how much should be spent on satisfying the students' needs with respect to lodging and/fare. In addition, it should be noted that the rent, utilities, insurance, and repair costs, per student, are similar at each of the institutions listed above. The differences in room and board costs are due largely to variances in the amounts spent for food and its preparation.

Upon this reporter's investigation of the Food Service and its management, and through interviews with Ms. Voorhees (Director of Residence), Mr. Knight (Treasurer and Business Manager), and three employees of the food service, it appears that the organization is run fairly efficiently. Considering that the food is prepared in three kitchens (Smith, Harris and Knowlton), and then served in ten dining rooms, the operation is pretty tightly controlled.

venture a qualified yes. We do get what we pay for, but we don't pay for much.

The food we are served here is decidedly, and consistently, poor. The blame doesn't fall as much on the cooks (although they cannot be completely absolved), as it does on the financial constraints imposed with respect to purchasing provisions. Starting with poor quality ingredients makes it difficult, if not impossible, to prepare a high quality meal. We students are the ones who suffer with this situation, and, I would suggest, our grades and psyches suffer also.

There is little doubt that morale and grades are positively related, and it seems equally clear that the same holds true for food and morale. Thus, the better the quality of the food, the better student moral will be, and hence grades may well improve.

There is little question that better food and better

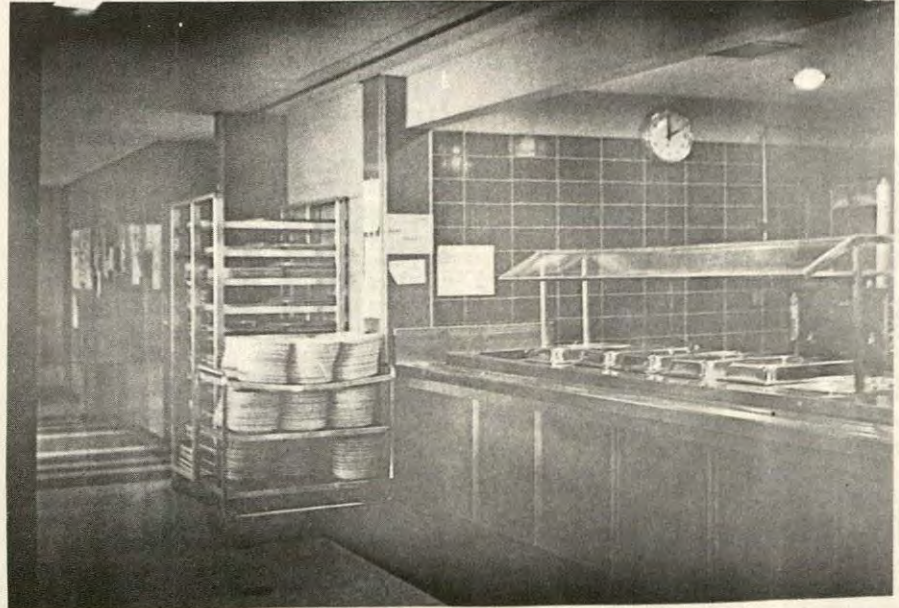


Photo by Pines

Pilferage is a problem; estimated at \$100,000 this year by Mr. Knight (This figure also includes damage due to vandalism). But vandalism is a problem everywhere. National studies place tolerable levels of willful damage and pilferage at two to three per-cent of gross. Here at Conn., the figure has been kept to about two per-cent.

So, to answer the original question-do we get what we pay for; this reporter will

grades give ones ailing spirits a lift. Thus there is little reason, when tuition is as expensive as it is, that such a relatively small amount of money should be allocated for food on this campus. It is well worth a few hundred dollars more per year, when we are already spending six thousand dollars, to facilitate the benefits which would be derived through a better endowed food service.

Affairs in Thames

RICH BLAKLEY

A vast number of college students spend four years preparing to enter the real world in an atmosphere that is systematically divorced from reality. This unhappy state of affairs often stems from a college's failure to view itself as part of a larger community with a responsibility to act as a resource within that community. Fortunately, this is not the case at Connecticut College. The College has made a real commitment to discourage such insular tendencies. The focal point of this commitment is the Connecticut College Office of Community Affairs.

The OCA is located in Thames Hall. Ms. Thelma Waterman, OCA Director for the past seven years, views the OCA's primary function as that of a liaison between the College and southeastern Connecticut. The establishment of such a liaison allows the OCA to act as a clearinghouse, utilizing the resources of the College to address community concerns.

The OCA is funded primarily by a variety of governmental and private social service agencies and foundations. Additional funding often comes from the College in matching grants. The College also contributes physical facilities for both day-to-day operations and special programs of the OCA.

The College's greatest contribution to the OCA, however, is the group of 160 students currently active in OCA programs. Ms. Waterman views students as "a very rich and important resource;" her office makes every effort to see that they are effectively utilized. During the first three to four weeks of each semester, the OCA in-

terviews prospective volunteers in an attempt to match their personal and academic interests to one of the many requests for volunteers it receives from agencies and institutions in southeastern Connecticut. Before the students are actually placed, they are trained by the OCA staff and fully informed of their responsibilities in the program. As a result, the attrition rate for the OCA's student volunteer programs is very low - typically less than 2%.

After their training, students are referred to groups which have requested volunteers. Ms. Waterman notes

Ms. Waterman notes that nearly 90% of the OCA's special programs have served as models for other agencies.

that while the OCA will make as many referrals as necessary to place a student, many students will accept a position resulting from the first referral. This is probably due to the extensive effort made by the office to select students whose interests and abilities are well-matched to the requirements of the available positions.

The programs available to students each year are continually shifting, as many social service programs are funded by temporary grants. Nevertheless, with some 70 municipal agencies and a number of private institutions operating in the New London-Groton-Norwich area, prospective volunteers are assured of a wide variety of options in any given semester.

Students with an interest in child development and education have served as art and music instructors, coun-

selors, academic tutors, teacher's aides, bilingual interpreters, and companions (as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Connecticut). They have been placed with such groups and institutions as the Drop-in Learning Center, Spanish American Cultural Organization, Waterford Country School, Seaside Regional Center Children's Unit, Norwich Youth Services Bureau, and the New London Department of Child and Family Services.

Volunteers have also been active in the health care field, serving as medical aides and case aides for area hospitals and such organiza-

tions as Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Connecticut. Conn. students have worked in the emergency and pediatric wards of Lawrence and Memorial Hospitals. Students of Psychology have received valuable field experience with the New London Public School's Psychiatric Unit. OCA volunteers have also been actively involved in providing health services at the Nutmeg Pavilion, a local convalescent hospital.

Those volunteers interested in legal careers have worked as legal aides for Legacy, an area legal assistance foundation. OCA had also placed Conn. students as assistants to the Public Defender in the New London Circuit Court. These students have performed legal research projects, conducted client interviews and legal investigations, participated in administrative hearings, and provided representation for clients in small claims courts.

These are only a few of the vital community services provided by Conn. students in OCA-sponsored programs. While most of the programs are extracurricular, some students do receive academic credit for their efforts. Each year, a number of volunteers arrange internships



SWEATERS FOR GUYS & GALS
 Irish and Scottish imports
 E.S. Deans
Captain's Quarters
 16w. main st. mystic, ct. 06355
 (203) 536-9416

which are coordinated with a faculty member and usually involve about ten hours of work per week. These internships must be proposed and approved prior to the semester in which the student will participate. According to Ms. Waterman, the majority of internships in recent years have been in the field of urban affairs. One student served as a special assistant to the City Manager of New London. Another student was an assistant to the Director of Housing Conservation.

OCA programs have also proved invaluable in helping students fulfill certain course requirements. For example, students taking Child Development III are expected to participate in some form of field work; many of these students work as OCA volunteers. At the beginning of this semester alone, Ms.

Waterman and her staff interviewed over 90 Child Development majors, most of whom were placed in programs.

In addition to its student volunteer programs, which are regarded as the finest in the state by the Connecticut Board of Higher Education, the OCA provides numerous other services. These special services include counseling for students and New London County area residents, technical consultant services for community organizations, maintenance of a speaker's bureau, and a wide variety of workshops and seminars. A workshop on consumerism resulted in the formation of the Community Consumer Committee for Southeastern Connecticut, an organization devoted to lobbying for consumer protection laws. Ms. Waterman notes that

nearly 90% of the OCA's special programs have served as models for other agencies. One of the workshops taking place this year involves a continuing education training program for bilingual paraprofessionals involved in vital areas such as government and education.

In the final analysis, Connecticut College's Office of Community Affairs is an ambitious and effective social service organization. The OCA student volunteers provide valuable community services and enhance their understanding of the world beyond Conn.'s campus, as well as the skills that will eventually be necessary to cope with the very real problems of that world. These are heartening signs of what can be accomplished when an educational institution makes a strong commitment to adopting the role of a community resource.

Outside the pearly gates

LINDA STAMM

This semester there have been incidents involving Connecticut College Day Students which have become increasingly difficult to deal with. Students living off campus have been recent victims of rape and robbery. There has been a lack of agreement about how these incidents should be handled, and who should be made aware of them.

Students often learn of these incidents through rumor only, but it is dangerous for students to remain unaware when there is a potential danger of becoming victims of similar crimes. The administration has been accused of trying to hush up information about the recent crimes. Dean Johnson maintains that the administration is not attempting to suppress news about these occurrences. She indicated that often the student victims of these crimes wish to avoid publicity. It is interesting to note that the two recent sexual assaults which occurred off campus were reported in The Day. Dean Watson believes that students living off campus should keep in touch with the community they have chosen to live in by reading one of its newspapers.

The administration has

tended to think of day students as independent of college authority when off campus grounds. Past college policy has required students to present a signed parental permission before moving off campus, regardless of the student's age. Once living off campus, students are regarded as having opted for independence and membership in their residential community.

Day students and others in the college community have become increasingly concerned with the late outbreak of crimes against day students. Their concern and pleas for more action by Connecticut College have resulted in new policies.

In the future, parents will be required to sign a form which gives their son or daughter permission to live in the specific housing he or she has obtained, not just a general okay.

Dean Watson will be creating a fact sheet listing what students should take into consideration when searching for adequate housing. Day students are being urged to check their present living quarters to determine whether or not locks on doors and windows are adequate. Certain precautions are being encouraged. Safety precautions advised are

not walking, biking, or hitching to and from campus alone, especially after dark. If you do expect to be out after dark, carry a flashlight or keep a whistle in order to sound an alarm. There is also hope that students living near one another will offer each other rides if cars are available.

Bulletin board space on the first floor of Crozier-Williams will be established where day students can organize rides and share other useful information. Ideally an interested day student should be found to attend Student Assemblies and keep other day students aware of any campus happenings which concern them. More effort will be made to include notices in the Campus Communicator that could benefit students living off campus.

In the past, day students have not maintained close ties with each other, nor has the administration maintained much contact with off campus students. The need for more communication among day students, and the request for more attention as members of the Conn College community hopefully will produce safer and happier conditions for those desiring to live off campus. Any further suggestions will be gladly received by Dean Watson or Dean Johnson.

Pre-registration - A poor substitute

RICHARD GOLDIN

For many years, students on this campus have clamored for pre-registration to be instituted. We saw pre-registration as a means of avoiding the dilemma of having not enough sections for one course, while other courses went unfilled and unwanted. The type of pre-registration process we envisioned would have gone something like this; students would state, sometime in late October or early November, what courses they planned to take the following semester. Then, when the spring semester schedule was dispersed in its final form to the students, the quality and number of courses would be tailored to student wishes. And this is how it should be.

However, the pre-registration process which has been instituted this semester is a far cry from what we students originally envisioned. Instead, we have been subjected to the usual registration process, presented in a drawn-out and at times, incoherent form. Students are still shut out of some courses, while other classes remain virtually unheeded.

The argument has been presented that, under the present pre-registration process, if a student is shut out of a course, he is afforded more time in which to find alternatives. That's fine, except that there is virtually nothing to choose from. If one followed the rules strictly, and signed up at pre pre-registration for only those courses one intended to take, then what is there to do during pre-registration week? The only courses one can choose from, at this time, are those which are unsectioned, have unlimited enrollments, and don't need the permission of the instructor. Needless to say, courses fitting this description do not abound.

While it is undoubtedly true that the pre-registration process will be altered, somewhat, as time goes on,

the problem here is essentially philosophical. In an interview with Mr. Rhyne, the Registrar indicated that President Ames was against any sort of pre-registration system which included a statement of intentions, and thus, this type of process was never really considered. Why weren't we students told this? Why weren't we told that, after all these years, we were to get what we wanted, but in name only. The type of pre-registration system which the student body has indicated, over the years, that it wants to see, and the type that the Administration seems willing to give us, are worlds apart.

One of the arguments presented against a "statement of intentions" sort of pre-registration, is that students wouldn't be honest in choosing the course they want for the following semester. But until this type of pre-registration process is put into effect, we'll never know if the problem is a real one or not. It is ridiculous to condemn a system as infeasible, before even trying it. If students understand that if they are not honest in

faculty might be unwilling to teach extra sections of a course, should it be necessary. But certainly, a professor would rather teach a section of a course filled with thirty enthusiastic students, than another course in which there are four hapless people, who couldn't fit anything else into their schedules. This is exactly the type of trade-off that a "statement of intentions" sort of pre-registration would provide.

Any type of pre-registration system which is simply an alteration of the old registration process, is going to accomplish little. This year, as in the past, certain departments filled up rapidly, and others remained less filled. Students were still shut out of the more popular courses, and were forced to find unsuitable alternatives.

The very manner in which pre-registration was instituted brings a lot of questions to mind. After waiting years for pre-registration to be born, why did we suddenly get it so quickly? The announcement was made in October, and by November—there it was.

Any type of pre-registration system which is simply an alteration of the old registration process is going to accomplish little.

their statements of intention, pre-registration would be lost, the student body, as a whole, would take the process seriously. We students deserve at least a chance, before we are branded as too deceitful to have a "statement of intentions" type of pre-registration orientated.

In talking to various faculty members, the argument has been presented that an "intentions" pre-registration would not work because members of the

It would have been far more intelligent to have studied the process, devised a system, and then institute it next semester. In that way, students could have been better informed, and much of the chaos which resulted from student confusion this semester, would have been avoided. Whether the Administration instituted pre-registration so quickly in the hopes that it would fail, or whether it was done simply out of foolishness, is

Environmental Education

ANNE BIRDSALL

hard to say. But neither option fares well for the student body.

A "statement of intention" type of pre-registration may not be a panacea, in fact it may be unworkable. But it is what the student body wants, and thus it deserves at least a chance. If we students are going to be denied what we have fought so long and so hard for, then Mr. Ames, and the Administration, should, at least, have the decency to tell us so, and to explain the reasons for their decision. What we students have been given this semester is a tattered, shabby image of what we originally called for; and naming the process pre-registration won't cover up these basic differences.

If the student body truly made the decisions in this school, then the sort of pre-registration process we want would have been tried (successfully or not) a long time ago. Until students realize this basic fact, we may be running on the pre-registration treadmill for a long time to come.

The Thames Science Center is a private, non-profit organization located on Gallow's Lane in New London. It is an organization concerned with environmental education for people of all ages, and believes in the importance of stressing environmental and conservational awareness, beginning with young children. To do this, they have set up a variety of programs designed to involve the community.

First of all, for a nominal fee, one can become a member of the Center. For example, this fall, the Center is offering many courses for a variety of age levels. One of the courses is taught by Lori Mead, a Botany and Anthropology major here. Her course, in progress now, is geared toward fifth and sixth graders, and is entitled Lori's Time Machine II. It consists of six weeks of investigating the prehistoric world. Students will investigate continental drift, collect and identify rocks, find out what ancient plants lived here through pollen analyses, and do some work with microscopes. The course will also include a weekend trip to the Peabody Museum in New Haven.

Another course being taught is Building a Weather Station, which emphasizes teaching the students how weather affects the environment. These courses are de-

signed in three and six week sessions, and meet after regular school hours. The Center also organizes various field trips, weekend camping retreats, and adult courses for its members.

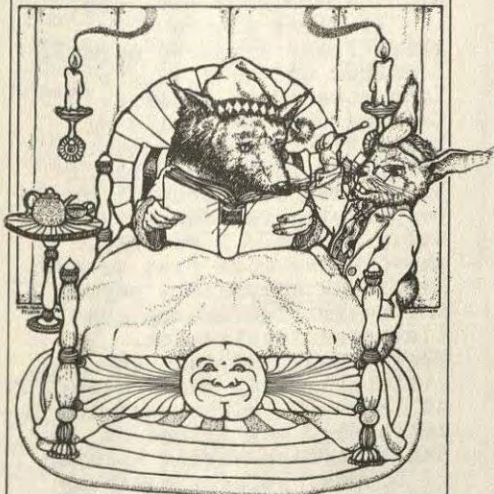
Besides their membership program, the Center attempts to reach the area schools by offering field trip programs to teachers in Environmental Awareness for their students. They also offer Environmental Education in workshops for teachers to help them become more creative in the use of the outdoors and a learning lab.

Many Conn. College students are involved at the TSC. Human Ecology 001 is a semester internship program offered here in which students participate actively in the programs and the running of the Center. There are also a number of interested students who do volunteer work there as teaching assistants, setting up exhibits, or generally helping out.

This is obviously a very important program in environmental education whose aim is to benefit the community and preserve the environment. The Center is open to the public, Mon - Sat 9:00 - 5:00 and Sun 12:00 - 5:00, and admission is free. It's a worthwhile place to visit, with books for sale and exhibits, and is a very short walk from anywhere on campus.

Other Book Store

20 W. MAIN ST. MYSTIC, CONN.



"A GOOD BOOK IS THE BEST
CURE!"



THAMES SCIENCE CENTER

Photo by Fishman

Sin among the stacks

MARTY JOHNSON

The following is an excerpt from an essay written by Brian Rogers, the College Librarian, in a pamphlet entitled Connecticut College Library.

The library provides an environment conducive to study, browsing, reflection and relaxation. Liberal learning does not take place without a judicious and personal amalgam of each. Within such an environment the library's resources of information, ideas and inspiration can be richly sampled by those in serious

just academic purposes.

My first stop in what was to be a very eye-opening journey, was the main desk. There was a large group of people gathered around the reserve area being less than silent. I asked someone in the crowd if there was one book in very popular demand because I couldn't quite understand why so much noise was necessary. "Oh gosh no," she bubbled, "we're just having a little get-together." "In the middle of the library?" I asked. "Why not? It's Sunday night and the bar is closed. Where else can we go?"

anyone on the first floor could tolerate all the noise these less-than-considerate morons were making.

I headed for the second floor thinking that a relative degree of peace and sanity existed there. On the way up the stairs I ran into a friend who advised me that if I got bored I should check out the third floor group study room. He said there was a keg up there, and to knock before I opened the door, so they could turn down the stereo. Realizing it was all a joke, I laughed and continued up the stairs.

The second floor was another world. Fatal quiet abounded and I soon discovered why. Nearly everyone was asleep! I passed one gentleman who was sprawled out on two lounge chairs and sleeping blissfully. Judging by his whiskers and several prominent cobwebs, I surmised that he had been there for quite some time. I passed carrel after carrel wondering if these people with their heads on their books were asleep, dead or extremely near-sighted. I did manage to find some signs of life on the second floor. As I passed a study room I discovered four girls playing a rousing game of canasta. My first inclination was to laugh hysterically, but I refrained, not wishing to disturb the slumber of all the diligent studiers.

At first glance the third floor appeared normal. I walked up and down the long rows of bookshelves feeling somewhat relieved knowing there was actually one place in the entire library that was occupied by people with reasonably sane study habits. I strolled ahead a few more feet to see something completely beyond the realm of even the most distorted imagination. There, impacted into one miniscule study room, were at least 30 people partying intensely. My friend on the staircase wasn't kidding. Of course, being the adventurous type, I wanted to go in and find out how this bash got together. I opened the door and was immediately



Photo by Pines

pursuit of liberal education.

Somehow I have a difficult time perceiving the library in such sugar-coated terms. Isn't it that big cement and glass IBM card that people stay away from as much as possible? And from what I've seen, some people who frequent the library tend to pursue their liberal education a little less seriously than others.

Last Sunday I decided to ramble through the library in an effort to discover the study habits of those who use the library, and see if they maximize their utilization of the "library's resources of information, ideas and inspiration." What I discovered was that people maximize their use of the library for more than

"That," I said, "is a loaded question. Don't you realize how much noise you're making?"

"Well, no one ever complains so I guess we're not bothering anyone."

I found that very hard to believe and walked off in amazement as the 'get-together' rumbled behind me.

As I passed the Xerox equipment I heard a nasal-voiced librarian lecturing to a group of New London housewives on the finer points of Xerox machine operation. She kept repeating "Now can all you gals hear me?" This lady's voice could wake the dead, so I'm sure everyone on the first floor now knows the finer points of Xerox machine operation. As I walked away, I was wondering how

Carnovsky on campus

ANNE BIRDSALL

engulfed by a huge cloud of beer vapor and smoke. I attempted to open the door wider in order to get in, but the mass of people inside prevented the door from opening more than a few inches. Fortunately I was able to communicate with an anonymous partier through the opening in the door. "Why, of all places, are you partying on the third floor of the library?" "Well," quipped the toastie, "we wanted to have it on the first floor but they said we might stain the carpeting." "That's not what I meant! What I'm trying to imply is that there are far better places to party than the library." "Oh, I get it!" he said defiantly, "We feel it's a very prestigious spot to party. How many people do you know who party in the library? We consider ourselves a very select group." With that he slammed the door. I don't know if those 'select' people ever got out of that room. They could be stranded there right now.

As I walked down the stairs, I tried to convince myself that this was just a very atypical evening at the library. Maybe there was a full moon?

I returned to the first floor and headed for the door. I didn't bother to go to the basement. Who knows what sort of Pandora's box I could have opened? I passed through the lobby which was literally humming with 'social energy.' If that energy could be harnessed for power production, Connecticut College would make a fortune.

As I left the building the inside door slammed behind me. Within seconds a library official had apprehended me. "Please!" she growled, "Be quiet!"

This year, Connecticut College is privileged to have the eminent Shakespearean actor, Morris Carnovsky, as a guest instructor in the theater department. Carnovsky, who is 80 years old, has a long and impressive history in American theater. He was one founder of the famous 1930's "Group Theater" which consisted of well-known actors and directors who employed the Stanislavsky method of acting in America. Some famous members of this group were Elia Kazan, Lee Strassburg, Luther and Stella Adler, and John Garfield. A playwright who evolved out of the "Group Theater" was Clifford Odets. The company's production of his play, "Awake and Sing," was a landmark production in American theater.

After this period, Carnovsky went to Hollywood, where he played in a number of films, including "Dead Reckoning," the 1947 film with Humphrey Bogart. The movie was shown at Conn this semester by the Film Society. During the 50's and into the 60's, he began to work with the American Shakespeare Festival Theater in Stratford, Conn. It was here that Carnovsky made his great mark as one of the most outstanding actors of Shakespearean roles. His two great roles were Shylock ("Merchant of Venice") and King Lear. His role as King Lear has been referred to as the first great American in-

terpretation of this generation. It was universally acclaimed by the critics.

This semester, Carnovsky is teaching a course on Shakespearean Acting. This course concentrates on the individual scenes and characters from various Shakespearean plays. He has the students focus on monologues and soliloquies, which teaches them how to merge themselves with the character. His approach to his material is full of insight and fervor. Carnovsky often applies Stanislavsky's method into the plays, while adding his own interpretations of them. He brings both technical and creative insights into his classes by teaching the students the Stanislavsky method.

Everyone who has heard Carnovsky this semester delights in his unrelenting enthusiasm and energy. Along with teaching the theater course, he occasionally attends the Shakespeare course offered by the English department, and reads for them. The Theater department is indeed fortunate to be able to keep Carnovsky on through the spring semester, when he will be teaching a continuation of his present course. It will deal with the complexities of Shakespearean language, character, and plot structure. Take the opportunity to see this man in action, for his presence here is truly a rare privilege for Conn College and its students.

After Listening To Charlie Parker's "Embraceable You"

J.J.C.

You know, I played your song again,
that old, cruel song by Gershwin,
and you I see those raw bruised arms,
curved back, grasping a soon to be pawned
aureate Selmer, damp clamped head,
draughting tones of Kansas City slums,
deserting friends, cheap gin, father dead,
Play On! Blow Loud! mask the abstruse screams
of the cover's ludicrous smiling drug fiend.

QUALITY JEWELRY!

turquoise, m.o.p.,
tiger eye, tory,
malachite, tory,
black onyx, red coral etc.
Handcrafted in sterling silver.
Check us out, you'll be pleased
with our super low prices on
quality jewelry.

THE LIGHTHOUSE 11 W. main st.
mystic, ct.
(203) 536-8383 06355



Innuendo—out the other

SCOTT CALAMAR
WITH
JACK WADE

Of all the cases I have been involved in with Sherloakes Holmes, there are many that come to mind as being some of the most devious crimes ever perpetrated upon mankind. There are too many to mention: The Scarlet Pimp of O'Hara, the Justin Case involving an ex-Prime Minister and the Queen of a large European closet. But few match the infamous case of the Jeweled Cobb in sheer ingeniousness and magnitude.

It was a cold and foggy day as I ascended the familiar steps of 221B Williams Street. I was greeted by Holmes instantly; he was in an extremely agitated mood. "Dr. Dean Watson, you are just in time," he exclaimed. "Why my dear Holmes, what scent are you on now?" "I smell a rat, Watson. A huge rat. A rat large enough to devour the whole of our arboretum. A rat vicious enough to claim money from central services which it never lost. A rat so amoral and vulgar it would go to a semi-formal party just to get laid. A rat so disgusting that..." "But Holmes, rats got you so infuriated? You seem to be in a terrible state!" "You are quite rat, Watson. But if you wait just one moment, you will find out."

"He had a glass-cutter in one hand, a cro-bar in the other, and in his mouth he was holding the Jeweled Cobb."

Just then there came a knock on the door. "Ah," said Holmes, "obviously, Watson, the knock on the door is one of a man in a business suit and quite young. He is between five foot eight and five foot ten. He weighs approximately 142 pounds and has a problem with excess water weight. He spells relief R-O-L-A-I-D-S. Come in!" The door opened. "Hello, my name is Major Meyers and I am a security officer, as you can deduce from my uniform. As you can also see, I am between sixty and seventy years of age. My weight has last been mea-

sured at 200 pounds. I am here because I have a problem."

"Ah, my dear man," I consoled him, "You are not the only one afflicted with excess water weight." "What are you talking about? I have come to see Sherloakes Holmes because he has a reputation for being the greatest dick around." "I'd prefer it if you would call me the greatest 'detective' around." "Very well. I have come for the solution of a baffling mystery. I was on the job at the Lime'n'Lemon Museum." (I could tell that whatever the mystery was, it was bothering the man. He was in a sour mood.)

"I was just strolling the Lime'n'Lemon premises when I noticed the back door had been propped open. On closer observation, I noticed that the lock had been broken. Our major exhibit, a beautiful piece of workmanship, was no longer in its protective glass case. The Jeweled Cobb had been stolen! Mr. Holmes, this work of art must be retrieved and the criminal brought to justice. It was my duty to protect it. If it is not found, I will lose my job. I'll have to go on relief. Relief. R-O-L-A-I-D-S! Help me Holmes. Please." "Amazing, Holmes!" "Elementary my dear Watson. Let me see, my good man,

where shall I begin? What is the Jeweled Cobb worth in monetary terms?" "About sixty thousand pounds, I should say." "Heavy little bugger, isn't it Holmes?" "Indeed, Watson. Now Meyers, do you suspect anyone in particular - that is to say, was there anyone at the scene of the crime?" "Yes, Holmes. A solitary figure, that of Professor Morrihennepe." "Morrihennepe! I knew it, Watson. My arch rival. I suspected he had to be involved in this affair." "Indeed, Holmes. I should say I suspected it myself.

But you have never told me why he is your arch enemy." "It is too fiendish a tale to tell at this time, but I will tell you that our greatest run-in was at a Shoe Emporium. Now, Meyers, tell me about Morrihennepe!" "Well, Mr. Holmes, I saw him fleeing from the crime, I did. He had a glass-cutter in one hand, a cro-bar in the other, and in his mouth he was holding the Jeweled Cobb. He ran out of the Lime'n'Lemon, then hopped onto a bicycle."

"Then the case is solved, Holmes!" "Not so quick, Watson. If this case were solved, Major Meyers would not be here now. There is something else, is there not, Meyers?" "You are indeed a great dick, Mr. Holmes..." "That's detective, Meyers!" "Yes, yes. But you are correct. There is something else. I stopped Morrihennepe and he swore he was innocent. I could not help but believe him, he was speaking so strangely!" "Crafty little devil, that Morrihennepe. Watson, you and I will have to pay a visit to this chap."

It took Holmes and I four days to track down Morrihennepe. When we found him, he was drinking heavily at his favorite place of patronage, the Hersey Bar, and he was, by his own admission, slightly intoxicated.

"Ah, Sherloakes Holmes. To what do I owe this meeting of the minds?"

"Confess, Morrihennepe. Come clean. What have you done with the Jeweled Cobb?"

"Relax, Holmes. This is one crime that you can't pin on me. I'm innocent!"

"Morrihennepe, you were seen at the scene of the crime by a guard."

"Nonsense, Holmes. I have a lullabye."

"That's an alibi."

"Thank you for vouching for me, Dr. Watson. Anyway, Holmes, I was nowhere near the Lime'n'Lemon at the time of the crime. I was on a nature hike up at the marsha pond."

"If this is true, then you must have witnesses, eh, Morrihennepe?"

"Yes, of course I do. But only one. I was with a fine

Letters continued

To the Editor:

upstanding citizen by the name of Frank Haas. We were seated around marsha pond, soaking our feet, eating a picnic lunch and drinking financial-ade; a rich golden punch that Haas supplied. I swear Holmes, I have no recollection of it. I did not steal the Jeweled Cobb!"

"Very well, Morrihennepe. I will leave you now, but we will meet again. Adieu."

"Holmes, you have a very cruel job indeed."

I was not sure as to what Holmes had up his sleeve, so I asked him later on.

"Why, my arm, of course, dear Dr. Watson. However, this time I believe Morrihennepe. You see, Morrihennepe has no tolerance for drink - he cannot lie while under the influence of alcohol. He was telling the truth this afternoon at the Hersey Bar."

"Then who committed the crime, Holmes?"

"Well, Watson, Morrihennepe actually committed the crime, but unknowingly. You listen but you do not hear, Watson. The actual mastermind was that chap, Frank Haas. He forced the financial-ade, which is slightly alcoholic and intoxicating, on Morrihennepe. Then he hypnotized him. The Professor was an unwilling accessory. He was sent by Haas to Lime'n'Lemon to break in and steal the Jeweled Cobb. Under the spell, he returned to marsha pond and gave the Cobb to Haas. You will find the glass cutter and the cro-bar at the bottom of the pond, as well as the Jeweled Cobb, which Haas hid there until the heat dies down."

"Holmes, you astound me!"

Because of the ingenuity of Sherloakes Holmes, the criminal mastermind was apprehended and punished.

"Well, Holmes. I am glad to see another case closed.

Another fine job."

"Yes, Watson. We caught our man and Frank Haas was not only hung, but well hung at that. But it was a jeweled cobb. I mean a cruel job. I mean...Zounds, Watson! I think perhaps I've made a slight miscalculation..."

"Holmes, you are indeed the greatest dick who ever lived!"

"That's 'detective,' my dear Watson."

In reference to the article written by Linda Stamm entitled Safety Precautions, I would like to make a few comments, if I may. Her article was an idealistic view of how Safety should be run, but what Linda neglected to discuss was how Safety actually operates. Linda mentioned that Safety, aside from giving parking tickets, "had to deal with an attempted sexual assault" that occurred last month. What Ms. Stamm ignored to do, was to inform the students of what occurred in that night, therefore I feel it is my duty to do so.

It seems that when Safety was called to come to the victim's aid, one of the Safety Guards had a heart seizure because of all the excitement. You might ask, why should I condemn the Guard for this, it could happen to anyone. I agree wholeheartedly, but when you look at the facts more closely, you will discover that this Guard had a record of heart attacks, and he has also had open-heart surgery. Now you tell me, do you (the students) feel safe knowing that this man is protecting you? I surely do not!! I firmly maintain that Safety should at least be capable, in the event of a serious emergency, of handling any problem that arises without any physical hindrances. It is not fair to the students, they should have the assurance that someone is protecting them.

Another aspect of Campus

Safety that I am afraid I do not quite understand, is that Safety will check all cars once the gates are installed. What is to happen in the meantime? Why do they need gates to check cars coming in the front entrance. As of late Safety does not stop any cars. After a certain hour, all cars should be stopped and checked for I.D.'s (as done at the Coast Guard Academy), consequently making it more difficult for intruders to trespass.

I must applaud the job Safety is doing in locking the "plex" doors on the weekend. Unfortunately, they seem to neglect to unlock them during the day, making it quite impossible for a non-plex resident to visit their friends, get classwork, etc. There should be someone in charge of unlocking the doors, so that there is access to the dorms.

In closing, I would like to add that I am not totally condemning Campus Safety; but just the contrary. I wrote this letter to give helpful hints and constructive criticisms for improvement in the system. This problem concerns everyone. Let us try to make Conn. a safer and more relaxed place to be, instead of a place of fear, where one is afraid to walk down the hall without locking his door.

JILL EISNER

Tune in and turn on to WCNI
91.5 F.M. in New London

SPENDING PARTY & CHRISTMAS
HANDS ALL AROUND 203-536-6912

The best selection of sports-wear in South Eastern Connecticut, soft, pretty, chic.



HANDS ALL AROUND

24 WEST MAIN ST. MYSTIC CT. 06355 * OPEN DAILY 9-5

Gifts and party accessories are stylish and fun.

In addition to our regular hours, we are open Sunday, December 4, 11, 18

The fate of flag football

BOB ADLER

This year, as in the past, the future of the Flag Football League is in question. For a time there was talk of disbanding the League. Now the emphasis seems to have shifted towards the creation of a more stringent organization. Recently I spoke to a member of the Executive Board of the Student Government. It is his impression that the Administration wished to: 1) engage impartial, non-student refs, 2) improve the playing field, and 3) require ankle taping prior to every game - which would necessitate the employment of a trainer. Yet these suggestions carry little weight. Proposals are bandied about and responsibilities are assigned but few changes are actually implemented - with the exception of those initiatives taken by the League itself.

Tom Kadzis, League Commissioner, is also in favor of provisions which lend a more serious tone to the League. T.K. was upset with the Administration's treatment of the League this year. Though past dealings were satisfactory, he spoke of several specific incidents which indicated the Administration's present disregard for the needs of the League. It was T.K.'s contention that either the League and its requests be taken in earnest or that the League be dissolved. No more League in limbo with plenty of Administrative lip-service and little real cooperation.

Undoubtedly, the potential for serious injury is the vital consideration for those concerned with the football situation here on campus. Though it's true that football is inherently dangerous, the League has introduced several safeguards which have successfully reduced the incidence of severe damage. Representative of this trend is the decrease in knee injuries, from 4 in 1975, to the single injury of 1976 and this year's absence of cartilage or ligament damage.

There are several reasons for this reduction. Decline of the traditional dorm rivalries has eliminated many of the more vicious contents. But unquestionably, it is the League's own preventions which

are primarily responsible for the relative safety of League games. In 1974, 1) direct hand-offs were abolished, thereby eliminating most of those bone-crunching dives up the middle. 2) Running backs are now prohibited from lowering their heads, limiting attempts to run over would be flag-yankers. Punts (and kick-offs) are particularly risky. The result: 3) no rushing the punter. Also, 4) all kicking game fumbles are dead, avoiding the problems which accompany the mad scramble for the precious pigskin. In 1977

violations. The League also stressed - thru the team captains - the importance of warm-ups and stretching. There is no denying that over-all body conditioning is the crucial factor in avoiding or reducing injury. Unfortunately, a realistic means of enforcing conditioning requirements does not exist.

Certainly, having a trainer made available is desirable. In fact, he/she should be present at all games. A good trainer has a direct effect on the prevention and treatment of injuries. Man-



First you slow 'em down, then you get the flag!

5) three point stances were abolished. Consequently this limits hard acceleration off the line of scrimmage, where the constant contact takes a heavy toll.

Ostensibly, the quality of the officiating was also upgraded this year. Professional officials were consulted for the first time. The head of the naval base's football officiating corp instructed student refs at a pre-season clinic sponsored by the League. In addition, League officials are now required to attend weekly meetings.

The proposed introduction of professional refs would insure impartial officiating. Undoubtedly, it would also enable tighter control of the action on the field. Whether stricter supervision will significantly reduce mental or physical anguish is questionable. For that matter, so is the value of the added expenses entailed.

As a general deterrent to abusive play, stiff penalties are assessed for flagrant rule

violation. Mandatory ankle taping would demand better team organization than presently exists. Team members will be forced to meet with the trainer for a designated time period. If this practice could be instituted, I see no reason why mandatory warm-ups should not be required. It would be easy for the assembled team to proceed to the playing field as a unit and engage in an organized warm-up.

There has been a general decline of interest in flag football games both among spectators and participants. Last year there were 12 teams, this year 9 teams. No one knows exactly why this has happened but certainly this year's field location is a detraction. Nestled at the far end of the campus, Fitzmourice's plot is riddled with pot-holes and suffers from a general concavity rivaling many of the moon's best craters. Play is made unnecessarily hazardous and is removed from the mainstream of student flow around campus.

Sports quiz

Use of Murvey's meadow (between Fanning and Knowlton) is an obvious remedy to this situation. The field is attractively located in a region of heavy student traffic and contains few booby-traps. Unfortunately, this clashes with the Administration's desire for a verdant South Green. Either the games should be restored to the Murvey location or another field should be provided which meets reasonable standards of uniformity and accessibility.

Press coverage, or the lack of it, has also had a negative effect on attendance and interest. Adequate coverage would surely increase awareness of League games and needs. This in turn, enables maximum participation among both the fans and players. And modesty to the contrary, seeing the ole name in print must provide an added incentive to perform heroically on the playing field.

The League serves a valuable purpose. Not only are 125 people engaged in an activity of their own choosing, they are also given an opportunity for acceptable outlet of normal hostilities and aggressions. It is also evident, after talking to a variety of students, that flag football games are a source of enjoyment. They enrich campus social life and afford the kind of common experience which create feelings of unity and community. The League is worth maintaining and is deserving of serious support. Improvements are possible and current League proposals, such as an alumni/allstar game, merit proper consideration.

- 1) Who holds the record for career points in the National Football League, and how many points did he score?
- 2) Who was the last Major League Baseball player to win the Rookie of the Year award by a unanimous vote?
- 3) What woman tennis player finished second in the U.S. Open tennis tournament, for four years in a row (1973-1976)?
- 4) What horse won the 1975 Kentucky Derby?
- 5) Which one individual player holds the National Hockey League record for most seasons, most games, most goals, assists and points?

answers

- 1) George Blanda 2,002 points
- 2) Carlton Fisk, Boston Red Sox, 1972
- 3) Evonne Coolidge
- 4) Polish Pleasure
- 5) Gordie Howe, Detroit Red Wings.

art lovers!

High quality art prints imported from Europe:

Picasso, and many more. Matisse
Van Gogh, Marini, Why pay more?
Mucha, Dali, quality posters too
Klee, Renoir

Our Price: \$2.99

 **THE LIGHTHOUSE** 11 west main street
mystic, ct. 06355 (203) 536-3363

TYPING

manuscripts, reports,
resumes, any kind of typing
call: Debbi 535-0608

*The staff of the Spark
wishes its readers a
happy holiday season*



jazz
blue grass
folk
NIGHTLY

**ANNA
CHRISTIES**
bank st. new london

Housefellows continued

group of approximately thirty people have been selected. A cut of about ten people is still necessary. My proposal is to submit this list of names to the student body, for the election of the final twenty. Dean Watson, and the existing Housefellows could then assign these people to the various dorms. Those not voted in, could serve as alternates and/or substitutes.

This election process would open up the possibility of having a vote of confidence on the Housefellows. At present, there is no formal procedure by which students in a dorm can oust their Housefellow for poor performance. Doug Haynes, Housefellow of Windham indicated that, "There are a lot of bullshitters around, and some of them slip through....I have seen instances in my three years here, where Housefellows should have been removed. There have been blatant instances of people not fulfilling what a Housefellow is." Only one Housefellow has ever been removed from "office", and that was five years ago.

The position of Housefellow is a fellowship and, as Dean Watson pointed out, it is virtually impossible to retract a fellowship. If this is the case, then, in my opinion, the system is wrong. The lives of too many students is being effected. It is far better to change the existing structure, then adhere rigidly to a faulty system, simply because it is easier not to act.

In the meantime, I feel that the student body has the responsibility to give constructive criticism to their Housefellows. Rindy Regan, Housefellow of Plant affirmed this, in saying, "I wish people would come in and give me constructive criticism, and I think other Housefellows do too, even though it hurts a bit." Student input is obviously needed.

The position of Housefellow is considered to be an administrative one, although it is filled by students. Thus they are appointed by the administration, and are ultimately responsible to them.

However, Housefellows must be equally responsible to the student body. It is

imperative that students be given an increased role in every aspect of the administration if this college, and especially in those areas which affect them on a daily basis. In the present system of Housefellow selection, the only student input comes from Housefellows previously chosen by the flawed system presently being used.

The belief by Housefellows that they must "get along" with the administration became obvious when, in the course of researching this article, some Housefellows expressed concern that certain things they said should not be attributed to them. This fear of the Administration is absurd. Housefellows must remember that they are students too. This ridiculous notion that they are merely an extension of the administration, must be changed.

Unfortunately, the move for change must come from the students themselves, at a time when student apathy is at a peak. Don't be so accepting of "the system". It is not a gift from God. People made it, and people can change it.

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

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

The Spark is in need of people who can write articles, take photographs, or do layouts.

If you care about what The Spark has been doing this semester, and if you would like to help us, contact:
Rich Goldin Box# 618

Kites make great Christmas gifts!

Third largest selection of kites in the USA



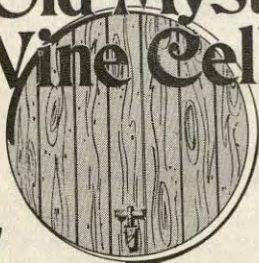
THE BEN FRANKLIN KITE SHOPPE

Open 7 days year round

One half Pearl Street
Mystic, Connecticut
06355
(203) 536-0220

Tel. 203-536-1000

Old Mystic Wine Cellar



Rt. 27

Old Mystic, Ct. 06372

Specializing in Domestic & Imported Wines
Complete Line of Beers, Imported Scotches
& Whiskeys

WINE & LIQUOR PRICES DRASTICALLY REDUCED

Delivery Service in a complete area
We cater all Parties, Weddings, etc.

COME IN AND SEE OUR NEW INDIVIDUAL WINE PACKAGES COMPLETE WITH A FREE WINE GLASS. ONLY 89¢!