Students Have Mixed Responses to SAC’s Fall Concert

BY LAUREN MORROW ’09 AND ZACH ADAMS’ 08
news staff writer and a&e editor

Although students have differing opinions on the content of the concert, the consensus seems to be that Palmer is not the best venue.

Junior Kyle Brett says, “In the future, having the concert outside would be best. Other than that in one of the large dance rooms in Cro or somewhere else, where people can move around unrestrictedly. Palmer is a terrible venue for concerts.”

Cassie Robertson had a better time, but agrees that Palmer is not the best locale for such an event.

“If I were further back I would have felt disconnected from the performance. A DJ isn’t the most exciting performer to watch during a live show,” says Langberg. He adds, “In a concert where dancing should be a main focus (like a DJ or hip-hop performance that has occurred at the past two shows) it should be in an open area. This being the case, I believe the concert should happen even earlier in the year while it is still warm and happen outside, maybe at the AE or the area where Floralia is. If this isn’t possible than a group that is more interesting to watch like a band playing instruments should be the performers. Lower energy music might be better too if the concert continues to be in Palmer.”

The Fall Concert was established last year after SAC received a sponsorship from the Simmons Student Life Enhancement Fund, which sets aside money for student events like Fall Weekend’s pep rally and the fall concert. Despite campus-wide rumors, the funds do not come with a stipulation saying Palmer must be used as a venue space.

SAC Chair Kaitlin O’Neil, spoke with The Voice regarding last weekend’s concert. While explaining the Fall Concert process, she says, “SAC bases the decision of the artist on a number of factors, including: the availability of the artist, the locale for such an event, the budget, and the appeal on campus. We try to balance these three issues.”

Writing Symposium Brings Two Exciting Authors to Campus

BY KASEY LUM ’11

The 14th Daniel Klagsbrun Symposium on Writing and Moral Vision last Friday brought Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Jhumpa Lahiri and fiction writer, Ben Fountain on campus to participate in discussions and readings surrounding their writing. As Professor of English Blanche Boyd mentioned, the Klagsbrun Symposium with its aim to promote writing, tries to choose a literary “risen star and a writer whose star is rising”. The Symposium was established by the parents of Daniel Klagsbrun to create a living memorial for their son, a 1986 graduate of Conn who died tragically within days of his 24th birthday.

It was obvious that the memorial for Daniel Klagsbrun was alive this past Friday. The audience anxiously gathered in Evans Hall to hear Fountain and Lahiri read from their latest works that evening. The ambience was inspiring and delightful, proving that the symposium was certainly living up to its goals.

For someone not familiar with Ben Fountain’s work, it might have been difficult to determine what he would bring to the evening. However, when he stepped up to the podium, one could almost sense the intensity and passion of his persona. Fountain evoked as much character and vivacity in real life, as in the words he puts to paper.

Pulling out a pair of glasses, Fountain read “Asian Tiger”, one of the short stories from his book, “Brief Encounters with Che Guevara: Stories”. The story focuses on an American golf pro, Sonny, at golf competition in Myanmar and ends up becoming a golf instructor for the country’s generals while discovering much...
EDITORIAL

It Was a Graveyard Smash!

When I was younger, my mom had a Halloween song, entitled "I Hate November 1st, my brother, sister, and I would torture her with costume concepts until Halloween rolled around again. There is no point to that story, except to show that my mom is pretty funny.

Halloween is the best "holiday" ever because it is the only one that requires imagination and externalized creativity. Halloween is a once-a-year fantasy: to be able to be something else entirely and then stuff your face with candy for the next couple of weeks. That fantasy fades usually when kids hit puberty, but one of the wonderful things about college is that Halloween pride comes back with a vengeance. And it even comes a week early!

Some of us use this opportunity to really get our creative juices flowing, but unfortunately, the imaginative spirit of Halloween tends to be disregarded since girls try to be as sexy as possible (think Mean Girls) and guys fall into the typical horror movie character stereotypes. Still, these costumes give the option of being "something-else-entirely," even if these disguises end up being the same.

The only true reason to hate on someone on Halloween is if they don't dress up at all. That proves you have absolutely zero imagination.

- Claire

If you're still struggling for costume ideas, let me dress you! Here are some of my favorite past outfits (it's okay if you copy me), some classics, and a few daring ones:

- Vampire and his Victim
- A Good Witch
- An Evil Witch
- Police Officer and Inmate
- Train (cardboard box costume!)
- Train Conductor
- Undead
- Mad Scientist
- Britney, Ew.
- Ghostbuster
- Subway Guy (carry huge shorts)
- Nickelodeon game show contestant
- Clinton & Stacey (What Not To Wear)
- Tim Gunn
- Monopoly Guy
- Edward Scissorhands
- Pirate or Pirate Ghost
- Bible Salesman
- Oscar Myer Wiener/Hot Dog
- Camel
- Nurse
- Mary Poppins
- Elton John
- Flapper
- Playboy Bunnies & Heff
- LOTR or Star Wars characters
- Doug, Patti Mayonnaise, Skeeter...
- Trick or Treating has never been so fashionable!

-Areti

John Swig's column is a true testament to our freedom of speech. I understand that ultimately John's column aims to be provocative and funny; and while his response to the "posed" question - "How do I pick up bitches at Conn?" - proved to be provocative, it was, I feel, distant from any fun. In his response to the question, it becomes clear that John does not know the meaning of an analogy for his conclusion is that women are like dogs. John should remember that as a public voice he has a responsibility to uphold certain values. And when John, or any member of our community, forgets these values we should not feel the need to suppress our disappointment, or even worse justify that it isn't wrong because it is "funny." Let us remember that The Voice is available to any prospective student, parent, or person who decides it's worth reading. More so, we should not forget what The Voice symbolizes: intellectual life at Conn. Articles such as this suggest to outsiders that there is none.

Although I feel the article should not have been printed, I respect John's decision to express his freedom of speech; first and foremost because freedom of speech is such a prevalent aspect of our society. Second, because as a friend of mine commented, "Dude, why are you even writing this, I feel bad for the kid, his real punishment is that he will never get a girl here after having written that."

W. K. M

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

P.S. Thanks SGA On The Can for the shoutout!

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Thanks for reading The College Voice!

P.S. Thanks SGA On The Can for the shoutout!
Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

Compiled by Dasha Lavrennikov '08 and Gozde Erdemiz '08

National:

White House global warming cover up

The White House significantly edited testimony prepared for a Senate hearing on the impact of climate change on health, deleting key portions citing diseases that could flourish in a warmer climate, according to documents obtained Wednesday.

The White House denied that it had "watered down" the congressional testimony, which Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had given the day before to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

But a draft of the testimony submitted for White House review shows that six pages of details about specific disease and other health problems that might flourish if the Earth warmed were not delivered at the hearing.

The deleted sections of the draft, covering more than half of the original text, included a list of specific impacts on which "climate change is likely to have a significant impact on health." The list included the effect of more frequent hot spells on vulnerable populations, the impact of extreme weather, more air pollution in drought areas and greater likelihood of vector-borne and water-borne diseases as well as mental health problems.

The Bush administration has been trying to defend itself for months from accusations that it has put political pressure on scientists to emphasize the uncertainties of global warming.

Sources: The Associated Press

Europe:
EU introduces “Blue Card” plan

The European Union unveiled a “blue card” plan Tuesday aimed at attracting highly skilled immigrants like doctors, nurses and engineers to Europe, even as policymakers across the 27-member bloc grappled with the problem of keeping unskilled migrants out.

Like the green cards that are issued to foreign workers in the United States, the EU cards would bring workers to the Union. The plan calls for admission of an additional 20 million Asian, African and Latin American workers in the next two decades. “To maintain and improve economic growth in the EU, it is essential for Europe to become a magnet for the highly skilled,” said Franco Frattini, the EU justice and home affairs commissioner. “Qualified and highly qualified migrants prefer the U.S.A., Canada and Australia.”

Analysts said Europe had lagged in attracting foreign talent, in part because salaries in fields like information and technology were dwarfed by those paid in the United States. “Europeans are not afraid of competition,” said Luisa Greco, senior security analyst at the Netherlands Institute for International Relations. “The EU faces the same problems that the U.S. does.”

The Bush administration has been trying to defend itself for months from accusations that it has put political pressure on scientists to emphasize the uncertainties of global warming.

Sources: The Associated Press

Middle East:

New negotiator, same approach

Iran’s new chief nuclear negotiator made his international debut in Rome on Tuesday. Saeed Jalili, the negotiator, met with the European Union foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, who has been asked by the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany to find a formula to persuade Iran to suspend key nuclear activities. Unfortunately, there was no movement on the issue, said participants in the meeting: Iran’s refusal to suspend uranium enrichment as required by the United Nations Security Council.

And just hours before the talks, Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, repeated his vow to never give in on that issue.

“Iran will not retreat one iota,” he said on state-run television on a trip to Armenia, adding, “We are in favor of talks, but we will not negotiate with anyone about our right to nuclear technology.”

Sources: “Iran has New Negotiator but Similar Stance.” By Elaine Sciolino and Peter Kiefer. Published on October 24, 2007 in the New York Times.

Latin America

Students Protest Constitutional Change

Thousands of students have clashed with police and-government supporters in Caracas, Venezuela’s capital, in protest of constitutional changes. Students were demonstrating anger over plans to let President Hugo Chavez stand for indefinite re-election; Chavez would also be allowed to bypass legal controls on the executive during a state of emergency. They chanted “Reform, no democracy, yes” as they tried to reach parliament.

Police reacted by firing tear gas at students some of which suffered minor injuries. National Assembly while the authorities frequently allow Chavez supporters to

Among the students’ concerns about the erosion of civil liberties is the fear that the authorities will be allowed to detain civilians without charge during a state of emergency. Chavez has dismissed criticism of the constitutional changes arguing that they are necessary to accelerate Venezuela’s transition to socialism.

Source: BBC.com

Asia:

Demonstrations have been planned in 12 cities worldwide against Burma’s continuing detention of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners. Wednesday marks 12 years in detention for the Nobel Peace Prize winner, and the protests are being staged outside Chinese embassies. Rallies are due to be held in London, Paris, Berlin, Dublin, Vienna, Sydney, Washington, Toronto, New York, Brasilia, Bangkok and Cape Town.

Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy scored a convincing win in a general election in 1990 but the junta refused to hand over power. The regime offered talks with Suu Kyi but, yet their conditions are that she drop support for sanctions against Burma.

The UN says Burma has agreed to bring forward a return visit by its special envoy, Ibrahim Gambari, and this is now expected to take place in early November. Mr Gambari is seeking a united front among countries believed to have most potential influence with the Burmese leaders in pressing them to allow democratic reforms.

Campaigners say China holds the key to Aung San Suu Kyi’s release. China, one of Burma’s closest allies, has in the past said it is extremely concerned about the current situation there and has called on the Burmese government to exercise restraint. Yet as in the case of Sudan, China stressed that it will not interfere in its neighbor’s internal affairs which is a sign that Beijing is unwilling to push Burma too hard.

Africa:

U.N Slow to Act in D.R. of Congo Crisis

According to Human Rights Watch, all sides in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo are guilty of murder, rape and forcing children to fight. Furthermore the UN has been slow to react to the escalating crisis in the east which is developing into a Hutu-Tutsi war. United Nations peacekeepers, 17,600 serving in the region, have been powerless to intervene in the battles between government forces and three separate militias and protect the civilian population. The Congolese army has threatened an all-out offensive against both Tutsi and Hutu militias in the region.

Thousands of refugees have been moving across the border into Uganda. Observers predict that the fighting could develop into a proxy war between Hutus and Tutsis on Congolese soil. The HRW report - Renewed Crisis in North Kivu - documents the ongoing rapes and murders that are blamed on all sides. Members of both the pro Hutu Mai Mai militia and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) FDLR have claimed to be fighting alongside the government forces. Although the five-year war in DR Congo ended in 2003 instability continues to reign.
Smith-Burdick Gets Its First Win in Camelympics

BY LAUREN MORROW '09

A rainy Friday evening didn’t stop Camelympics from ending in success: after two days of grueling activities, the tag-team Burdick-Smith came out on top, with Hamilton in second place, and Branford and Blackstone tied for the third place slot.

Although Burdick-Smith had never won Camelympics in the 17 years of its history, they leapt into the games with an optimistic attitude. Housefellow of Burdick Kate Deconinck says, “Our mentality throughout Camelympics was mostly just to have fun and get people to participate. As long as everyone enjoyed themselves and stayed safe, we were happy.”

Unlike this year’s winning dorm, the second place dorm had won gold for two years running. Hamilton housefellow Jeff Postera was unavailable for comment.

“Two years ago we also tied for third place and we are one of the smallest houses on campus,” says Blackstone housefellow Matt Dyer. “We always go into camelympics with an underdog mentality. It’s us versus the world. We always have something to prove.”

Although Camelympics was successful overall, the long hours took their toll on House Council, who was responsible for refereeing the events. The task was especially debilitating in situations like “five super-competitive guys yelling at you, or a girls’ team who wants a redo.”

Some students have complained about the way the referees ran the events; one senior even called this year’s Camelympics, “the worst one since I’ve been here,” claiming that “the officiating for events was horrible.” Yet it is important to remember that the refs are students too—they may not be as alert at 4:30 in the morning as they would like to be, or that the teams playing might like them to be. Everyone worked hard to keep the events running as smoothly as possible.

In the end, though, Camelympics is not simply about winning. Laura Butkus, of fourth place dorm Morrison, won a bronze medal for Scavenger Hunt. “It was a great experience to meet people in the dorm,” she says. However, she feels the event as a whole might have been better if there was more student interest. “It was a little upset about how few people participated overall in the events,” she added. “I think Camelympics has huge potential, but people didn’t participate fully... therefore the people who did participate were worn thin by being in too many events.”

So, if you did not compete in Camelympics this year, don’t miss out next time around. It is a great way to meet the people you live with, regardless of the outcome. Go out there, give it your all, and who knows. You might just pull a Burdick-Smith.

It was not hard for anyone in the audience to immediately fall in love with Lahiri and her great literary feats. Lahiri's timid presence seemed to be masked by the graceful and eloquent writing she presented while the audience became fully enthralled and engaged in her reading.

Lahiri won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for her first book, Interpreter of Maladies and her novel The Namesake was a New York Times bestseller and adapted to a 2006 movie directed by Mira Nair. “Hell-Heaven” is narrated by Usha, a Bengali-American woman, who recounts her childhood concentrating on her family and a young man whom her family becomes very close with. The young Bengali man, Pranab Kaku, enters the family’s life by joining them for meals and other frequent occasions. Usha realizes her mother had fallen in love with Pranab Kaku and sees the impact and eventual downfall the relationship had on her mother’s life. Drawing on the culture, traditions and lives of East Asian peoples, Lahiri always succeeds in creating strong, detailed stories which readers find solace with relatable characters and experiences. Lahiri’s ease of eloquence and fluid storytelling shined through her presentation and it was apparent the audience was captivated by her inherent gift of writing.

The evening came to pleasant end as the authors signed books and spoke with fans that lined the entrance of the Cummings Arts Center where dessert and drinks were served. Fountain and Lahiri’s delightful presence at the symposium surely sparked inspired imagination, inspiration, and a refreshing newness to the audience of the Klagsburn Symposium.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Love The College Voice
Getting to Know the Housefellows: Part 4

BY CHRIS BUONINCONTRI ’08

After the familiar beeping of phone keys resolved in that satisfying click, Matt Dyer walked in the front door of his dorm, and then strolled up the short stairway to his housefellow suite. After introductions, he opened his door, and sat down to talk about his dorm.

"Blackstone's a very tight-knit dorm: I plan events, but other residents plan events too," he said, also noting that, after having lived in the dorm for all four years, he has gotten to know a number of the current residents. "The dorm has a very positive tone this year... we hosted the moonbounce in Cro this past Thursday... and tied for third in Camelympics, despite being one of the smallest dorms on campus."

He also mentioned that he is captain of the track team. "That, and this position [as housefellow] are fun for me—I get to motivate people to do their best, something I really enjoy doing."

Matt, an economics major from Westford, Mass., is currently contemplating becoming a teacher. "I hope everybody enjoys their time here," he added, "because, from a senior perspective, it goes by too quick."

Meanwhile, off next to the library, LazWar housefellow Mike Panoli moved around his living room, straightening up while he spoke. "The dorm’s doing great, there are a lot of really enthusiastic residents, which kind of threw me off at first... but now I’m embracing it, and... well, even feeding off of it."

In years past, the dorm's had somewhat of a "depressed" feel, given that "the rooms are smaller than legal jail cells;" this year, though, "everyone seems really into" Laz. "We use the kitchen a lot," Mike said, who has his own kitchenette in his suite. "Yeah, it's really necessary," he commented regarding his small stove and sink, which are just a few feet away from the much larger kitchen next door. Mike has a fish tank next to his window, populated with a brood of seven fish. He recounted the story: "I bought two fish, Laz and War, but War killed Laz... right after Laz impregnated his partner. A couple of weeks later, she gave birth to six kids, which are named after the governor, house diversity coordinator, me, and our three German exchange students."

"And... the guys in Warnshuis are great too."

Just past the chapel, Heather Munro was hanging out in her Knowlton housefellow suite. "Everyone’s been really cooperative and involved," she began, "we have our biggest event coming up; the Knowlton haunted house."

"Supposedly," she went on, "the house really is haunted. This is my first year here, and I haven’t personally seen anything... but people who’ve been here for a few years say it’s definitely haunted."

Knowlton, which used to be a hotel for boyfriends and other visitors back when the college was founded, has a different feel to it than the other dorms: the high vaulted ceilings and chandeliers definitely lend it a romantic tone. In recent times, the dorm is known as the international house on campus.

Heather, who studied in Morocco last fall, speaks French and hosts a "foreign language film night" every Friday in her room. "We started out with L’Aubergue Espafiol, which was appropriate because it has almost every European language in it," Heather explained. She also mentioned that an Italian resident is planning a dinner for the dorm in the near future, as part of an international-theme presentation. "He’s really into cooking, and I’m excited for it."

All the way at the southern end of campus, Neal lounged on his futon, watching TV while typing on his laptop. "It took a little bit for me to adjust; I just got back from Japan," he said. "I lived here in Freeman sophomore year... I love being south, love living on the green."

"Everyone down south has a good sense of community," he continued, "even eating at JA has more of a community feel than eating up at Harris."

Neal Gibeault, of Goffstown, NH, recently recovered from an injury which put him on crutches for three weeks. He admits that sometimes it can be difficult in Freeman: "you can get clashing personalities, which causes problems... luckily, though, that hasn’t been too much of a problem this year."

An occurrence that has been a problem, however, is the repeated "big congregations" outside of JA and Freeman. "People from other dorms have been coming down in large groups and trashing the area."

Towards the end of the evening, Eliza Cooper, housefellow of Smith, let out a sigh. "I had two papers due today, one due at five o’clock. I ended up mailing it in at 4:58... it’s been a stressful day," she said.

Eliza is originally from Pasadena, CA: one of seven housefellows from the golden state. Of the seven, however, only she can boast a gold medal for finishing first in Camelympics. "It’s the first time Smith/Burdick ever won... Kate and I are planning a celebration," she said proudly.

"People seem to like it here," she added, explaining that, unlike some years in the past, the dorm is completely full this semester. "Everyone’s respectful of each other, and each other’s space. They can party other places, and come back to a quiet room."

"Overall, I can’t think how to encapsulate Smith in a few words... it’s just a good place to be."

Eliza smiled, talking warmly about her house and the year ahead. "I want people to have positive memories of their experience here," she concluded.

And a great year it will be, with a set of housefellows as enthusiastic, industrious, and kind as she is at the helms of their respective dorms. Bravo to you all.
RJD2 takes the stage Saturday night in Palmer Auditorium (Khan)

“Having never seen RJD2 live, it was neat to watch someone spin that was truly talented at it. His songs are a great listen, and live they get just that little bit better,” said Judkins. She added, “The aisle-policing in Palmer got a little annoying, but understanding fire code regulations and all, SAC was just trying to do their job. I had fun regardless, overall it was thoroughly enjoyable.”

Sophomore Welbith Mota said, “It was the best social event I’ve attended at Conn during my time here.” He added, “Most people would agree that a bit of disorder would be great. Also, I think this is part of the reason why probably 60 percent of the students sitting in the back leave. They miss out on the fun. - Trust me, I was up front.”

The disorder at the Fall Concert did get out of hand, with many student volunteers commenting on a remarkable level of violence directed toward them. SGA President, Nick Sullivan, said, “When people get punched in the face or slapped because they are just doing their jobs, it’s very disconcerting. It’s going to effect student leaders’ attitudes toward future events if this behavior continues.”

Senior Jenna Petok feels that the venue could work for another type of concert. “I think it would be fun to see a band in Palmer,” she said. Yet, she agrees that it is not a proper venue for a DJ. Palmer seemed to be the only feasible option for SAC, although the council acknowledges its setbacks. O’Neil said, “Last year was a great start to what we hope will be a continuing event in the fall. The location is a concern, as it doesn’t provide students with ample dance space, if they wish to dance. However, we really don’t have another space on campus that has the necessary capacity and acoustics for this size of a concert.”

FALL CONCERT

Continued from page one

the limitations of the venue. I can’t say that we directly base our decision on whether or not an artist exhibits ‘less dance-orientated music’.”

Regarding the possibility of an outdoor venue for next year’s fall concert, O’Neil stated, “An outside venue has been discussed before. The problem would be containing the space so that the Fall Concert did not turn into an event resembling Floralia. When you consider an outside show there are a number of other factors that come into consideration, one being putting on a safe, alcohol-free event would be one of them. In addition, weather is a major consideration in the fall.”

Not all the opinions of the concert were negative; freshman Emma Judkins felt the concert was a success.

Orange Mocha Frappucinos!
Starbucks and Popular Culture

BY GABRIELLA GEISINGER ’11

Half the battle of making it in the music industry is advertisement. The different methods of getting an up-and-coming band name out there are many; in our technologically driven world of today, the use of blogs has become instrumental in bringing fringe bands into the limelight. However, a company slightly less obscure than blogspot.com has been working steadily behind the scenes for many years: Starbucks has been promoting music since its inception in the late 1980’s, and recently their desire to push music into the lives of its customers has become almost as prominent as their brand name coffee.

Although to the untrained eye it appears that Starbucks has only recently begun to promote music, they’ve been at it for many years. A former employee states that Starbucks has always played a vast collection of musical genres and compilations in their stores. In fact, one of the requirements for opening a new store is a good music selection consisting of local and unknown bands. Music must always be part of the Starbucks atmosphere, and the stores must do a good job of advertising an eclectic selection of music.

The motives behind Starbucks’ interest in promoting entertainment aren’t quite clear. On the one hand, there have been many anti-Starbucks movements. Organicconsumers.org states that “Starbucks storefronts tend to squeeze out independents... they contribute to increased parking and litter problems. The activist organization Global Exchange claims that Starbucks has been less than cooperative in the effort to implement Fair Trade policies in the struggling coffee market.”

It’s hard to imagine that Starbucks would work to promote unknown artists on their home front while their store is continually putting smaller cafes out of business and employing sweat-shop workers off our borders. However, Starbucks has always been affiliated with some sort of entertainment company, and worked to benefit those artists who attempt to tackle the music industry. Having Starbucks, a name synonymous with the word Empire, behind a small band is definitely as good word-of-mouth as one could get.

By no means does this justify the way Starbucks runs their business, but it does shed light some of the goals Starbucks sets to better its community. Promoting musicians seems to humanize the corporate aura that Starbucks gives off. Maybe one day Starbucks will fold in on itself, as many great empires in the past have, but until then it continues to exploit and promote at the same time.

By no means does this justify the way Starbucks runs their business, but it does shed light on some of the goals Starbucks sets to better its community. Promoting musicians seems to humanize the corporate aura that Starbucks gives off. Maybe one day Starbucks will fold in on itself, as many great empires in the past have, but until then it continues to exploit and promote at the same time.
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

We Are Your Friends: Justice is Served

BY JACQUES SWARTZ '09

This weekend my friends and I decided, with roughly an evening’s notice, to visit New York to stand and dance before our heroes, the French DJ/Production duo Justice. Justice (pronounced by natives and snobs “zho-steece”) is comprised of two Parisian arch-hipsters named Gaspard Auge and Xavier de Rosnay, nicknamed "The Moustache" and "The China," whom currently occupy the pinnacle of Scene fame and adoration. They sound like Metallica supplemented cocaine with ecstasy, listened to Depeche Mode records and hallucinated instructional videos from Thriller-era Michael Jackson and a tribunal of twenty-something German house promoters. If "heartbeat" had a verbal form, they would be said to do that.

If there are only two Justice songs you have heard they are likely "D.A.N.C.E." and "We Are Your Friends," their elevating remix of the late-90s Simian song "Never Be Alone." Both songs invaded indie clubs everywhere from MTL to FLA all this summer, creating instant anthems. They've remixed everyone from MTL to FLA all this summer, and have recently released their epic dance/house/whatever album "(pronounced "Cross")" via Ed Banger records, their upwardly meteoric Parisian label. Live shows given in their North American tour were praised roundly in the Times. They are not the future of Electro or House so much as very definitively its present.

To go to a Justice show, then, is to experience all of this portentous cultural content in the most visceral, tangible way. The venue was the Upper West Side’s neo-swank Terminal 5, a place that seemed massive until it was wall-to-wall jammed with every flavor and genre of indie kid, artists adult and wealthy, time-killing Manhattanite mock. Dunks, Vandals, Air Maxes and Creative Recs abounded. Skinny legs wore skinny jeans, neon cotton and shiny tights. 80s and early 90s muscled out the mid-00s fashion-wise but it should be noted that the age demo was more diverse than you’d expect. Peoples’ parents were there; other peoples’ parents were there ostensibly without offspring. A row of audibly French kids in varying states of intoxication spilled in and out of formation just ahead of us. The male to female ratio seemed even, but I could be wrong. I fell in love four times in the two minutes between getting my ticket scanned and taking my spot before the stage. I gestured at the crowd to my friend, as if to say "How many are there of these in Illinois?"

It was, in short, a Scene Mecca. An peerlessly "In" band playing the most "In" city on Earth to hundreds and hundreds of drunk, high, wired, and direly loving fans. And the show did not disappoint. Midnight Juggernaut, the opener, blitzed its way through a forgettable over-packed set and was shuffled off promptly for the arrival of the prophets themselves. The whole worshiping feel of course greatly aided by Justice’s visual motifs. Their stage set was comprised of a large outward-facing panel of consoles (think Star Trek or Aliens) at the center of which was a giant neon, glowing cross, and behind which the magic was done by the leather-clad, cross-bearing men themselves. They were flanked on either side by twin towers of 9 Marshall amps each, the visual might of which was imposing, to say the least. Perched up behind the set, they surveyed from their altar and delivered the beat to the masses. Songs from the album were dis-assembled and re-woven, remixes, samples and allusions were dropped, blending in Uffe and the Klaxons. "D.A.N.C.E." was remade afresh, "Waters of Nazareth" was a revelation unto itself. Moods shifted from hardcore to disco to house and back again with the same freewheeling ease as on the album itself. By two songs in physical space all around was measurable just in cm’s. Everyone was basically dancing with everyone.

The undeniable climax was "Your Friends," the epic sing-along to end all. Participation was fixed at 100%, start to finish. The song as an anthem in and of itself was never more pertinent. Was the sweat I bore my own, or the sweat of my neighbor? Was it religious ecstasy or claustrophobic terror that widened their eyes so? None of this mattered. From the sweat of my neighbor to the sweat of my friend, as if to say "How many are there of these in Illinois?"

"Your Friends" was, in short, a tribulation of twenty-something vibe on the last frontier. The energy steadily builds and betrays the limit of living a life on the last frontier. The energy steadily builds and betrays the limit of living a life like the vampires. Yet the vampires are more mystical, more metaphysical, more unworldly way. The venue was the Upper West Side’s neo-swank Terminal 5, a place that seemed massive until it was wall-to-wall jammed with every flavor and genre of indie kid, artists adult and wealthy, time-killing Manhattanite mock. Dunks, Vandals, Air Maxes and Creative Recs abounded. Skinny legs wore skinny jeans, neon cotton and shiny tights. 80s and early 90s muscled out the mid-00s fashion-wise but it should be noted that the age demo was more diverse than you’d expect. Peoples’ parents were there; other peoples’ parents were there ostensibly without offspring. A row of audibly French kids in varying states of intoxication spilled in and out of formation just ahead of us. The male to female ratio seemed even, but I could be wrong. I fell in love four times in the two minutes between getting my ticket scanned and taking my spot before the stage. I gestured at the crowd to my friend, as if to say "How many are there of these in Illinois?"

Vampires Are Not Our Friends In 30 Days of Night

BY JACOB TISHER ’08

staff writer

I dislike horror films for the same reason I can’t stand baseball: they bore me to death. Ironically, I await the release of a new vampire film with an unwholesome intensity normally reserved for Red Sox fans. What accounts for this discrepancy?

Modern vampire films have always had a somewhat loose connection to the horror genre. You’ll notice that Blade and Underworld, are found in the action section of Blockbuster, as they tend to forgo most conventions of the horror genre; typically the victims get a flat tire, lost in the woods, or accidentally locked in an old house. Vampires seduce their victims, preying upon their heroic flaws. The victims of a vampire are not butchered but changed into their attacker, blessed and cured all in the same moment. If baseball is a horror film, soccer is a vampire film. Good or bad vampire films reveal the hidden fears and fetishes of our society.

If you take advantage of the free cable our college offers, you’ve undoubtedly seen the trailer for 30 Days of Night. It doesn’t do the film justice. By attempting to seduce the horror film market the trailer renders a good film unappealing. The gravely male voice proclaims “a new vision of the vampire,” and misses the point of the film entirely. 30 Days of Night is as derivative as any other modern film. Even the title, 30 Days of Night, is a blatant attempt at riding the coattails of 28 Days Later. Yet the film manages to be both original and brilliant.

In the Underworld films, the audience identifies with the Vampire protagonists, as humans are suddenly the outsiders — taking the normally perversive and unconscious sympathy for the vampire and reinterpreting it as both benevolent and conscious. In contrast to Blade and Underworld, 30 Days of Night is brilliantly derivative of Hitchcock’s The Birds. The vampires arrive in the small town in Alaska with little warning. They appear to have no purpose or origin. The first sign of the vampire’s presence is the brutal murder of the town’s ‘sled dogs. The killing of the victim’s pets the night before killing the victim is common in vampire mythology. 30 Days takes the convention and gives it a practical motivation. The vampires remove any means of escape before attacking a single person. It seems, in a post-911 world, we believe infrastructure can protect us from the vampires. Yet the vampires are more mysterious and capable than modern cinema has thus far imagined.

Until the very moment Josh Hartnett flashes the vampire with the sunlamp on his grandmother’s marijuana garden you do not know if it will work. Because the audience never entirely understands the vampires, the satisfaction becomes twofold. You are kept in suspense as to the actual possibility of destroying a vampire. And you are satisfied by man’s ability to triumph over something greater than themselves.

30 Days of Night begins with a barren and unsheltered portrait of life on the last frontier. The energy steadily builds and climaxes in the most stimulating urban warfare imaginable. In the midst of the chaos, the film never loses the exquisite contrast between landscape and narrative that makes 30 Days better than it needs to be. The action changes from frenzied blood bath to a month-long survival narrative without dissipating the energy of the beginning. In short, 30 Days of Night, is brilliantly choreographed entertainment, with an ending that lives up to the film’s ultimate potential.
Men’s Water Polo Overcomes Obstacles

BY STEVE BLOOM ’10

Conn’s men water polo program is often overlooked and underappreciated. Despite its low profile on campus, the team has dedicated players and a devoted coach. Currently the team is enjoying an exciting fall season.

Over fall break, the team took a trip to California in order to experience some West Coast water polo. Captain Wright Scott-Kern ’09 and Coach J.J. Addison lead the Camels on their short trip. “It’s a completely different game on the West Coast. Water polo is to Southern California as ice hockey is to New England—the level of play is higher, the competition is fiercer and the guys are bigger. I think that it was important for our team to be exposed to this kind of game and learn from it because a similarly built small D III team in California can show us how to use what we’ve got as a team,” says Scott-Kern.

While the team failed to pick up a win while on the west coast, the trip proved to be a worthwhile learning experience. Scott-Kern reports that “[w]e did have some competitive games while in California, and I feel that many were in our grasp to win, overall I think we could have converted at least a couple wins, but there is always next year I guess.”

When not across the country, the Camels regularly play D I schools like Harvard, Brown, St. Francis College, and Iona College. They also occasionally compete against large D III schools such as MIT, which, according to Scott-Kem, is often challenging. “It is hard to compete with schools that employ full-time coaches and have much more developed programs and more students to choose from.”

Addison, who is in his sixth season as men’s water polo coach, has single handedly planned the team’s schedule. After graduating from the University of Colorado in 2001 and briefly coaching at his alma mater, Addison came to Connecticut where he now lives with his wife and daughter. While in the midst of starting a family, Addison is the heart and soul of the water polo team. “He is the inspiration and a friend to all of his players. JJ loves this team more than anyone and persevered through changing relationships with the swim-team to make sure that we all had a team to come back to every year even if we only have just enough guys to play,” recalls Scott-Kem.

The squad welcomed four new freshman players this year along with one new sophomore. One of the new players, Connor O’Brien ’11, is playing water polo for the first time in his life. “Each of our new players has brought something positive to the team in the pool and out of it even if they don’t have much water polo experience,” adds Scott-Kem.

With a core crop of young men, the future looks good for the water polo team, assuming that they continue to gain support from the athletic department and have enough players to fill a team. “Primarily what we need is to just continue to have a program is a full-time coach. We need a coach that has the time and resources to recruit players that have a grasp on the game and experience.”

In addition, Scott-Kem believes the relationship between water polo and the swim team needs to improve. “Swimmers can no longer participate on the water polo team without catching flack from the swim coach and therefore in the last couple years I think the water polo program has suffered. The water polo program is losing steam as the years go on because of the lack of support from the swim team.”

Hopefully the water polo program will remain a staple in Conn’s athletics. In the meantime, the players continue to play with energy. Says Scott-Kem, “I remembered why I love water polo, it’s not about winning, if that were the case I wouldn’t be here, it’s about having fun in the pool with your friends.”
Coach’s Corner: Field Hockey’s Debbie Lavigne

BY ABIGAIL MAYER ’10

As head coach Debbie Lavigne settles into her seventh season of leading the varsity field hockey program, she reflects upon what seems to have been a quick transition from the last stage of her life to this one.

A former therapeutic recreational specialist in an adult inpatient rehab center, Lavigne worked in health care for patients with severe injuries for four years before joining the Camel community. The Cheshire, Connecticut native learned about the position while coaching in the Futures US program.

Initially hired as the head field hockey coach and women’s assistant lacrosse coach, Lavigne ultimately concentrated all of her energy into her passion, field hockey. “I followed in my sister’s footsteps, I guess,” says Lavigne. Like her sister, Lavigne pursued her D1 career and found great success at the University of Iowa. “I got to play against my sister in college, which was cool.”

Having had no previous coaching experience, Lavigne had to derive a style of her own from those of her former coaches. “I never had a coach who yelled at me. I guess in that way, I am a product of my environment. All of my coaches were Olympians, and they focused on technique and skill,” says Lavigne.

With this in mind, Lavigne runs her practices around the notion of preparation. “I provide the tools to succeed. The girls—they have to be willing put it together.”

The girls’ season has seen its ups and downs. Lavigne notes “we’ve lost four starters this season due to injury.” Led by captains Courtney Mayer ’08 and Lucy Gotta ’09, the team continues to strive for success in the face of adversity. “People are stepping in where they need to, and they are doing a good job,” says Lavigne.

Among the highlights of her time here as Conn, Lavigne comments that the one thing that keeps her here is the players, saying, “I love them. I say it every season—but I always mean it. I don’t want it to ever end.”

She acknowledges the challenge to sustain a winning program—especially when facing an extremely tough schedule. “Struggles make you stronger,” she underscores. “You don’t learn as much when things become easy.” Her goal is to succeed in recruiting and continue to advance the program.

“My number one thing is that they have a good experience,” explains Lavigne. “I’m a competitive person, and I love to win, and that is important. But what I’ve found through this program is that winning is certainly not the only thing.”

Lavigne also admires the student-athletes at Conn. “Their college experience will be much more fulfilling [for] they can take advantage of so many opportunities here. They are here because they want to be at Connecticut College. They are here to build something. My ultimate goal is to have them look back and see field hockey as a great part of this college experience.”

Player of the Week: Sharon Katz

BY STEVE BLOOM ’10

Sharon Katz ’10 currently is a forward on the Women’s soccer team. She was named NESCAC player of the week during the week of October 1st. The Voice’s sports section picked Sharon as the player of the week, and we asked her the following questions.

Q: Thank you for answering these questions, where are you from?
A: Barrington, Rhode Island
Q: How long have you been playing soccer?
A: I have been playing since I was 5 years old
Q: Did you play soccer in high school, and if so, how has that experience helped you as a player?
A: Yeah I played for Barrington High School. The experience has helped me because I was able to play tough competition and improve my game a lot.
Q: Did you come to Conn to play soccer, and if so, why did you pick CC over other schools?
A: I came to Conn for many reasons but it was important to me that I would be able to play soccer at Conn. But the atmosphere at Conn and the academics also influenced my decision.
Q: You were recently named the women’s soccer NESCAC player of the week. How does it feel to be honored with this award? Were you surprised?
A: It is a great honor to be named NESCAC player of the week and I was extremely surprised when I found out about the award. I think that the award was important because it recognized the entire team for a great week of play where we went 2-0 beating Mt. Holyoke and then Wesleyan.
Q: Is there anyone in particular who has greatly influenced your soccer career?
A: Ironically, I think that the person who influenced my soccer career the most was my high school basketball coach because he taught me many lessons about competition, hard work, and winning that I have been able to translate onto the soccer field.
Q: How do you feel about the women’s team this year?
A: I feel like we had a great season this year. Our main goal was to make it to the NESCAC tournament and today we are in a very good position to make the tournament but we will not know for sure until this Saturday. We were able to improve throughout the season and had great contributions from our seniors down to our freshman. We have great team chemistry and have a lot of fun together which I think you can see as we play the game. Overall, I think that it was a successful season for our program.
Price of Birth Control Increases

BY ANGELICA SGOUROS '09 contributing writer

Birth control is getting more expensive at the health center! Surprised? A federal law passed by Congress now means that Conn students are paying more for birth control. In 2005 the passing of the Deficit Reduction Act prevented student health centers from purchasing hormonal birth control at reduced prices. The DRA excluded college health centers from the definition of “support network providers” and removed incentive for pharmaceutical companies to sell contraceptives to colleges at a nominal cost. When this law went into effect in January of 2007, prices increased for students.

As a result, the price for birth control went up at Conn. When women were paying $10 and $15 a month for pills two years ago, the price of birth control pills steadily rose to $25 per month. For college students on tight budgets, this is a really important issue!

Angelica Sgouros is an intern for Planned Parenthood

Across
1. She played Gretchen on “Benson”
2. Military alert status
3. One of a one-two
4. Oil or gas
5. Cacophony
6. Kasbah setting
7. Senator Dodd and Representative Delauro. Make yourself heard! If this affects you, your girlfriend, your friends, or if you want to keep birth control affordable for college students, make yourself heard!
8. Otherwise, your birth control is about to get a lot more expensive.

Angelica Sgouros is an intern for Planned Parenthood

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CAMEL SPORTS

Why Americans Aren’t Ready to Drop the Puck
BY JASON STARR ’09

sports editor

The Red Sox are playing in the World Series, and the Patriots are undefeated, so I have to admit that I haven’t been anxiously waiting for the hockey season to begin. Oh wait, it already did. The NHL season started on October 3rd, but it seems as though no one has noticed.

To be fair, there have been other events in sports right now that deserve more attention than the first three weeks of the NHL season. The World Series and the MLB playoffs certainly take precedence. The NHL’s halfway mark does not occur until December, and the playoffs don’t begin until April. Thus, it is acceptable for people not to follow hockey in October because baseball and football games have much greater implications.

But this general apathy towards hockey is both unacceptable and surprising. The NHL was more popular before the strike in 2004, and hockey should still be a popular sport in America today because of its intense physical nature as well as its extremely fast pace.

Aside from boxing, hockey is the only professional sport that encourages fighting. Referees will not break up the fights, and both fighters receive a five minute penalty which rarely affects the outcome of the game.

The excitement of a fight will pump up the crowd as well as revitalize a team. If Americans love violence, why don’t they love hockey? Even those who cannot understand the sport or simply have no interest in it will definitely enjoy this aspect of the game.

Many casual sports fans complain that baseball is too slow, but a hockey game moves at an incredibly fast pace. Players skate hard up and down the ice for sixty minutes, and they slam into each other at full speed. A legal, hard hit will only stop play if it causes the glass boards to shatter.

Despite its fast-paced nature, hockey games are usually low scoring affairs; final scores are typically 1-0, 2-0, or 2-1. Like Major League Soccer, the NHL does not generate much interest in America because we want to watch high-scoring games. Why do you think basketball is so popular here?

The NHL continues to sputter because the best teams over the past few seasons tend to be small-market franchises from rather low key sports cities that do not generate much national appeal. The five top teams in the NHL last year were the Buffalo Sabres, Detroit Red Wings, The Nashville Predators, the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, and the San Jose Sharks. Aside from The Red Wings, it is difficult for fans as well as the media to get excited about these teams.

In order for the NHL’s ratings to go up, the teams from vibrant sports cities need to shine during the regular season and make the playoffs. If the Boston Bruins, Detroit Red Wings, Los Angeles Kings, Montreal Canadians, New Jersey Devils, Philadelphia Flyers, and the New York Rangers consistently perform at a high level, sports fans would regain interest in the NHL, and hockey could reestablish itself as a popular sport.

Does it really matter if teams with national appeal miss the playoffs? The answer, unfortunately, is yes because TV stations worry that showing hockey games will detract from its ratings.

Just look back to the May 19th, double overtime Eastern Championship Finals game between Buffalo and Ottawa. Instead of showing the overtime, NBC switched over to the pre-race coverage of the Preakness at the end of regulation because its rating indicated that more viewers would rather get an extended preview of the horse race than see which team would advance to the Stanley Cup.

This year, however, seems to be shaping up differently. The Bruins, Flyers, Canadians, and Red Wings are playing well right now and are more competitive now than they were last year. Sports fans should embrace the NHL, because if they don’t, the eight-week void that begins in February after the Super Bowl and lasts until baseball season starts in April will feel like an eternity.

Sources: ESPN.com

Tearing Down a Legend
BY JAKE STOLAR ’08

contributing writer

I went to Yankee Stadium for the first time in 1994 when I was eight—the year of the strike. I believe we were playing the Texas Rangers that night, and Jimmy Key was the starting pitcher. I don’t remember the result of the game, but I do remember the fantastic sight line that my parents and I had from our seats in the second deck in right field. We weren’t that close to the field, but we could still see Don Mattingly’s mustache.

I have attended countless games at the Stadium since then, and I have sat in all sections of the park. I’ve been close enough to hear the umpire tell Tony La Russa that a pitch was high. Even when I was in the far reaches of the upper deck, however, I was able to have a fantastic view of the field thanks to the angle of the seats. It’s quite a hike to reach Row X, but you can see just about everything from there, and you don’t feel removed from the action at all. $20 seats are also quite a bargain by Yankee Stadium standards.

As most baseball fans know, the Yankees plan to move into a new Yankee Stadium at the beginning of the 2009 season. Next season will be a last hurrah for a grand old house that’s hosted so many special events—from baseball to boxing to football. The new Stadium is being touted as the best of both worlds; it supposedly contains all the charm and magic of the old place and also incorporates modern design features such as broad concourses and open-air areas.

The Yankees PR people, however, have neglected to tell the fans that the $20 bargain seat is about to become a thing of the past. Ticket prices tend to skyrocket in the opening years of a new stadium, and the Yankees will be moving the upper deck thirty feet further from the field, and reducing the angle, for the sole purpose of taking club seats out of the shadows. Seats that used to be high enough to provide a great view now prevent you from seeing the action.

The bargain part of the deal likely won’t stick around either. Ticket prices tend to skyrocket in the opening years of a new stadium. The middle-class fan may be priced out if the Yankees follow this trend, since the $20 “bargain” would get a much better seat in almost any other ballpark. In the end, the Yankees will likely wind up charging more money for a worse seat.

There is in reality a lot to like about the new Stadium, and the current one is certainly not perfect. Bobbing and weaving around so many other fans in the narrow concourses is a horrible experience for fans, and I look forward to being able to get to my seat much faster in 2009. However, I’m concerned about how much ticket prices will increase. Even if I can afford to see a game, I may be further from the action than ever. New stadiums should improve the experience for fans not detract from it.

Sources: Ballparks.com SI.com

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THE COLLEGE VOICE • OCTOBER 26, 2007 • 11
**God Bless The Role Models**

By Ian Barnes '09

"I got married, and I'm not married. Not everything works out like you might hope, and I'm not the first person to have disappointment in my life."

What a delightfully blinding burst of useless insight. Let us all shed a tear or two for Renée Zellweger.

Renée - allow me be the first to welcome you to the real world. It's a lot different than the fantasy land of lollipops and rainbows that you're used to. You are now just another statistic in the increasingly unsanctified institution that is marriage. Please, take a number and a seat, someone will be along shortly to mock and deride your trite existence.

When the celebrities we idolize convince themselves that the world cares about their suffering, I die a little on the inside. They're only normal people. Their veins don't pump some strange, viscous, alien fluid, yet we've elevated them to otherworldly status anyway. Oprah is not a saint: she's an obnoxious nuisance who deludes herself that her money somehow makes her opinions matter.

Simply because you are worth an exorbitant amount of money does not mean you are worth a damned thing. You are not better than us and you are not special. The weakness of running to a magazine to discuss a failed marriage is terribly upsetting. When I get dumped I have the humility to realize that no one cares. Are you really that meek?

However, what makes me even more upset is that even though we don't care, we're addicted to the things we hate. Our celebrities have the power they do because we gave it to them. Their lavish lives of luxury and decadence that we love to envy exist solely because we mandated it. I'm not sure what's more depressing: that it doesn't matter anymore. Hell, we might actually create a meaningful contest.
OPINION

Wait, What Did You Just Say?

By Alex Frecon '09

Sometimes I’m afraid to write about serious issues, things that actually matter. It’s so easy to write about the inconsequential things at this school that really piss me off, because I really never have to pay those subjects any justice with my writing. But there is, by some obscure alignment of the stars and moons, some sentiment inside me that is compelling me to try and address an issue—an issue that pertains to Connecticut College and our American society: the use of the N word.

I’m sure I’m beating a dead horse here. No, no, no, I know I am. I’ve read countless articles about this issue, regarding its use in hip-hop/entertainment, and how that translates to its abuse in real life. But, it wasn’t until I sat back and thought about how much I actually hear that word here at Connecticut College, specifically by white, wealthy suburbanites, that I decided I would put my foot down.

So shut up already.

I think to begin with, saying the N word (in whatever pretext, joking or not) has unfortunately become an impulse that all white suburban boys and girls secretly wish to act on. They grow up in their respective neighborhoods where racial equality is explained, not understood. They are told they should never use that word, but they never know why. So, just like a curse word, they grow up secretly wishing to use it, in order to produce one of the biggest malices of our society: Shock Value.

Then suburbanites start listening to rap, and they love it. Because now, since other people are using the word, it finally gives them an excuse to say it as they recite the lyrics trying to...I don’t know, be cool? To think they are a part of some “exclusive club”?

The use of the N word should not be treated as a global issue that everyone should be involved in. Rather, it should just be left alone by the people who have no ties to it whatsoever. And I’m sorry, Connecticut College, but that goes for about 95% of you. Don’t say it when you recite rap lyrics because you look like an idiot who is trying to impress people by the command of your lack of integrity. Don’t use it in jest when saying “whats up” to someone because well...you simply look and sound ignorant. You, like me, have no personal understanding of what the word actually means and the history of bigotry that is packed into it because you, like I, grew up in a little bubble with lots of money and lots of privileges.

I think Nas put it best. In a recent interview about his controversial new record title (which is just the N word), he explained, “I’m a street disciple. I’m talking to the streets. Stay out of our business. You ain’t got no business worrying about what the word ‘explicative’ is or acting like you know what my album is about without talking to me.”

So you see, children, people don’t actually think you’re cool for saying it. They’d rather you didn’t say it at all.

Right Strokes For Conn Folks

By John Swig '08

Note: I need to answer the first question using metaphors due to complaints about the language last week and decency laws in general, so bear with me.

A girl said that she wants to burglarize me. Is that anything like being “gobbled”? -Dane

When a girl says she wants to “gobble” you she actually means that she wants to “cook” your “rooster.” But this isn’t a normal form of being “cooked.” In this case, she likes her “rooster” well done so she will “cook” this “rooster” in “an oven” as vigorously as possible. It is advisable to use a “meat thermometer” to make sure the “rooster” is being properly “cooked” at the “right temperature.”

Cake will be served afterwards.

Wanting to “gobble” you just means that she is going to “hang your brains out” or steal all of your “shit,” which are not mutually exclusive activities.

Is it ok to masturbate using your roommate’s computer? -Jim

Yes, it is. Be sure to clean up, though. Also, be sure to talk to your roommate about it. Having a roommate is much like being married to someone. You live together all year unless you go through the lengthy process of getting rid of them (switching rooms) or killing them (murder). Good communication is required for all healthy relationships.

As such, it is better to ask if you can whack it using their computer before to make sure they are ok with it. If they aren’t, you don’t have to have the awkward conversation about why you asked using past tense.

Does Harris count as a first date? -Edna

No. Even such romantic moves as the “Double swipe my card. One for me and one for the lady,” or the “Here, let me laugh at the potato for you,” don’t make it a date. Take them to Coffee Grounds, Casanova.

Where is a good place to go on a first date at Conn? -Edna

At Conn, a first date usually involves a keg followed by dancing in Cro. If that goes well, there is also a nice walk of shame you can go on later. If that doesn’t appeal to you, going out for coffee can be a great informal first date. It’s like a litmus test; it gives you a first glimpse of what they are like, and if they turn out to be crazy or things get awkward you can excuse yourself at anytime. And excuses to leave don’t have to involve explaining that the phone call you just got was from your dad saying Grandpa Steve overdosed on Viagra again. Unless you enjoy doing that.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Starkey: A Gentleman and Scholar

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08
editor-in-chief

The Beatles are not the heaviest of rockers, but as the albums became more experimental, Ringo tracks provided a well-appreciated contrast to the more sophisticated, complex structures and subject matter of the Lennon-McCartney and Harrison tracks. His songs are never the greatest or most inspiring; they are either ironically serious ("Honey Don’t"); "Act Naturally"; "Don’t Pass Me By") or outright silly ("Octopus’s Garden"); "With A Little Help From My Friends").

Where Ringo really shone was in his original role, the drummer. He is often criticized for being too simple, and usually, the technical talent of the individual members of The Beatles pales in comparison to their songwriting skills and experimentation in the studio. But The Beatles were formidable musicians. George Harrison had an incredibly distinctive style of playing guitar. Some of his solos are some of the best. Paul McCartney has abundant musical talent, able to play drums, guitar, piano, and he developed a template for rock ‘n’ roll bass playing, turning it into a melodic, sonically diverse instrument. John Lennon had guitar chops of his own and played several other instruments.

And although Ringo only had one drum solo in the entire Beatles repertoire (on "The End"), his drumming was nuanced and varied. He kept perfect time, and as any good percussionist, his beats were the backbone of each song. I wouldn’t go so far as saying he played each song differently, but as the Beatles developed into a revolutionary powerhouse, Ringo kept up. As Beatles’ songs assumed different styles, his drumming adapted—filling in around strings, horns, loops, and sound effects. From Revolver on, and especially during Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band, his beats changed the landscape of what rock ‘n’ roll could sound like. He proved that the drummer didn’t have to be a Keith Moon or a John Bonham in order to be effective and awe-inspiring.

It takes time to get past the Ringo stereotype. He isn’t an overt genius or a lyrical virtuoso. His songs aren’t "works of art." He does not demand to be taken seriously as an artist, like the other Beatles. But, Ringo once said that all he ever wanted to do was keep the beat, and he did his job impeccably.

Radiohead Returns With A New Way To Listen to a Familiar Sound

BY RACEINE OXTOBY ’11
staff writer

For their seventh album, In Rainbows, Radiohead harkens back to the electronic, post-rock Kid A days for a fluid, keyboard-laden sound, much like what Pink Floyd would have sounded like if their music was made fifty years too late. Fans have been waiting four long years since Radiohead’s last experiment in the music world, Hail to the Thief, and it seems as though they’ve come back with a punch. The music is captivating, and the marketing for the album is sure to set a landmark for how music is to be sold over the Internet: customers online can set their own price, which includes getting the album for free, and a disc-box edition, complete with vinyl records, additional tracks, and artwork, will become available sometime within the next few months.

Songs like "House of Cards" and "Nude" succeed in capturing the ethereal sound that has allowed Radiohead to make a name for themselves, and the opening track, "15 Step," is at once in your face, with its fast, crunching beats and swooning guitar. The band has thrown away its natural, acoustic sounds, made popular in such past songs as "High and Dry," instead opting for a blusy and more fluid tone. Lead singer Thom Yorke’s vocals are at work again, reaching an ever-present falsetto, although he never seems to reach the pleading screech that made tracks like "Climbing Up The Walls," off their ’97 album OK Computer so powerful; Yorke seems to be riding the top layer of his safety zone, not quite managing to best Jeff Buckley, one of the band’s biggest influences. Still, the sounds heard—Yorke’s vocals, the sorrowful electric guitar, and the heart attack drum beats—create a soulful, melancholy mix of music rarely heard nowadays. One can easily fall asleep to In Rainbows, not because it’s boring, but because it’s hypnotic, almost like a lullaby. It is easy to draw comparisons to other Radiohead songs throughout the album: "Bodysnatchers" borrows the raw, grinding guitar sounds from the middle section of "Paranoid Android," while "Weird Fishes/Arpeggi" seems to snatch the liquid beauty from "Subterranean Homesick Alien."

However, the album has its flaws. There never seems to be that one definitive song that singles itself from the rest. The flow between tracks is so good that sometimes it’s hard to differentiate what separates one song from the next. This is a great album for the band to jam on, but sometimes it’d be nice to hear that standout guitar or drum solo. The closing song, "Videotape," grows on you after repeated listening, with its haunting piano chords and heartbeat drumming—but it’s not much of a climax to the album. I’ve read that in concert, the band plays "Videotape" with frantic drumming and a guitar solo near the end; but here all guitar within the song has been scrapped, giving it a more tempered and melancholy feel.

No matter what the album sounds like, it’s good to hear the band back in full form. New Radiohead listeners might want to check out The Bends or OK Computer first in order to get a full grasp on the Radiohead sound, but the marketing approach, whether a gimmick or not, is certainly intriguing, and it might allow a newer generation of fans to gain easy access to Radiohead’s music. A must-listen!
you like! But you can never leave” became the band’s defining line). Lead singer Don Henley’s vocals are excellent, and the last two minutes consist of a sprawling and lyrical guitar solo courtesy of Don Felder (ranked seventh best of all time by Guitar World magazine) that set a new precedent in rock elegance.

The rest of the album doesn’t even approach the greatness of its opening, but of course, it’s hard to measure up to one of the all-time best rock songs. Still, the other eight tracks on Hotel California offer their own charms and cement the record’s place as a '70s classic. The chugging, crackling “Life In the Fast Lane” is another highlight (and another song everyone knows). “The Last Resort” closes the album on a negative note (“You call some place paradise! Kiss it goodbye”), but the melody is so lovely and the arrangement so brazenly grand that it hardly matters. In between, “Wasted Time” and “Try to Love Again,” capture that soft-focus, crestfallen vibe so associated with the jadedness of the mid-'70s.

The Eagles were middle-class Midwesterners caught up in the excess and sleaze that became unavoidably linked to music biz success in the “Me Decade.” Hotel California was their response to the whirlwind of glittering depravity in which Los Angeles immersed them once they’d staked their claim as country rock kings. The resulting album gets its universal appeal from this concept; because who hasn’t at one point or another felt overwhelmed by the constant rush of modern life?

Music scholars love to designate Hotel California as the Eagles’ transition to tough, straight-up rock and roll, but it doesn’t take away from the tune’s organic overall feel.

The lyrics are vivid and memorable, a first-person descent into temptation and indulgence (“You can check out any time whole isn’t rock, these three numbers are more robust and propulsive than the band had ever demonstrated before, and stand today as must-haves for any fan of the genre."

The enriched sound and a fixation on California as metaphor for American culture proved a legendary turn for the Eagles. To date, Hotel California has sold 17 million copies and continues to end up on “all time best” lists. But really, it all comes back to the shimmering heights of that title cut, which will probably still be making the rounds on mainstream rock radio in another 30 years.

**Caucasians Only: How Racism Thrives in Fashion Industry**

**BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS ’08**

“Always get a callback saying, ‘You didn’t tell me she was black,’” laments Kyle Hagler, casting agent at IMG. Of the 101 New York runway shows, “more than a third employed no black models,” reports the N.Y.T. Chanel Iman Robinson is the only black model to walk as many catwalks as her white peers during this round of shows. Robinson is both black and Korean. However, she is the only black girl that walked the Paris and Milan runways.

Rihanna is the cover girl of the November issue of Teen Vogue, which may seem to undermine racism in fashion magazines. She is featured in a two page spread; Mischa Barton, the cover girl of the October issue, is featured in a whopping six page spread shot on location in Russia. Furthermore, the covers of Vogue, W and Teen Vogue do not feature any non-white cover girls for recent issues dated August through November 2007—except for that two-pager on Rihanna.

More outrageous, in the N.Y.T article that sparked this column, author Guy Trebay called upon the September issue of Italian Vogue as evidence to prove that blacks are omitted. In a 17 page photo spread of a “glacial blond” as an “indolent, overdressed Park Avenue princess with a gilded apartment, a couture wardrobe...[and] a collection of heavy rocks” there is only one black woman. She is in a maid’s uniform. Trebay ended his article there, but a correction ran the following week. The photographer, Miles Aldridge, clarified that the black woman was not a model, but was actually a maid at the hotel. He decided to include her because of her “attractiveness” and so she could discred the trope of a white woman hiring black domestics. Who knew?

Asian-Americans are increasingly included in runway shows, but how much of that is because they are stereotyped as model-Americans, playing their instruments and excelling in academics? Plus, they are lighter-skinned. Does that make them more acceptable in the eyes of designers and agents? These are trying questions and there is no easy answer, but for every one of us that watches television, goes shopping and reads magazines, the message beneath the glossiness is unsettling.

**Sources:** nytimes.com

August-October issues of Vogue
August-November issues of W
August-November issues of Teen Vogue
**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Saturday, October 27th:**
- New York Bus Trip, bus departs from campus at 8 am and leaves New York at 8 pm, $30 general, $25 for students
- Women's Volleyball vs. Williams, 11 am, Luce Fieldhouse
- Women's Soccer vs. Tufts, 11 am, Harkness Green
- Field Hockey vs. Tufts, noon, Silfen Field
- Men's Soccer vs. Tufts, 1:30 pm, Harkness Green
- Women's Volleyball vs. Hamilton, 4 pm, Luce Fieldhouse
- Roman Catholic Vigil Mass, 5 pm, Harkness Chapel
- "Ulness," a Department of Psychology Colloquium Series lecture by Laurence Tecott, professor of molecular biology and genetics in psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, 4:30 pm, Bill Hall, Room 106.
- CELS Recruitment: Greenwich Country Day School Information Session, 6 pm, Alice Johnson Room, Cro.
- Free Kickboxing Classes, 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Cro's Nest
- Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble Autumn Concert, 7 pm, Evans Hall
- Writing Center After Hours tutoring in Main Street East (sign up in front of Harris), 9 – 11 pm, Main Street East

**Sunday, October 28th:**
- Arboretum Afternoon Tour, 2 pm, meet in front of Olin
- Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry led by the Rev. Carolyn Patiero, 6 pm, Harkness Chapel, room 12
- College Republicans Meeting, 8 pm, Alice Johnson Room. x3577
- Pumpkin Carving Event, 8 pm, Chapel Library. x2450

**Monday, October 29th:**
- Personal Trainer, noon, Athletic Center, $12.50
- "The Mouse on the Couch: The Interplay of Nature and Nurture in Mental Illness," a Department of Psychology Colloquium Series lecture by Laurence Tecott, professor of molecular biology and genetics in psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, 4:30 pm, Bill Hall, Room 106.
- CELS Recruitment: Greenwich Country Day School Information Session, 6 pm, Alice Johnson Room, Cro.
- Free Kickboxing Classes, 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Cro's Nest
- Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble Autumn Concert, 7 pm, Evans Hall
- Writing Center After Hours tutoring in Main Street East (sign up in front of Harris), 9 – 11 pm, Main Street East

**Tuesday, October 30th:**
- Personal Trainer, noon, Athletic Center, $12.50 x2793
- "How to Be an Ally," an LGBTQ Workshop led by David Dorfman, professor of dance, 4:30 pm, LGBTQ Resource Center
- Chemistry seminar by Lynne Regan, 4:30 pm, Hale, Brown Auditorium
- Personal Trainer, 5 pm, Cro's Nest, $12.50
- Community Yoga, open to all levels, 5:30 pm, 1941 Room, Cro
- "Women and Politics Panel," hosted by CC Dems, 7 pm, Ernst Common Room
- Writing Center After Hours tutoring in the Smith common room (sign up in front of Smith Hall), 9 – 11 pm, Smith common room