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THE SPARK

April 12, '78

Skating rink- students out in the cold

RICHARD GOLDIN

Within the next two years a huge structure will be constructed on some portion of this campus. The building will stand as a monument to an administration which doesn't know how to order its priorities, and to a student body which is too lazy to care. The building will be called a skating rink.

We are being told that there has been a great deal of student input into the decision making process concerning the rink, and that there is broad based student support for it. But this is a deception. In actuality, it is really only certain members of the administration, and a handful of students who want this rink, and they are willing to manipulate student opinion in order to obtain their goal.

Trying to sort out how the decision was made that we needed a skating rink is a difficult process. The reason for this is that the way that decisions are actually made on this campus has very little to do with the process the administration would like us to believe is used. In reality, administration members decide

in advance what they want, and then they proceed to ask different groups how they feel about the issue. If a certain group disagrees with the administration's decision, then this group is told that their role is merely consultative and they thus have no decision making powers. If, however, a group agrees with the administration's decision, then the administration immediately declares that this group had a large impact on the decision, and thus the process is open. The result of all this is that the administration gets what it wants, and any sort of student input is reduced to a facade which functions only to placate the student body.

This is precisely what is happening with the skating rink. In discussing the decision making process for the rink President Ames was quick to point out that comments favorable to the rink had been put forth by the Student-Trustee Committee (which reports to the Board of Trustees) and that if one looked at past minutes one would undoubtedly find these comments. And, indeed, Mr. Ames was correct; in a report dated April 1975

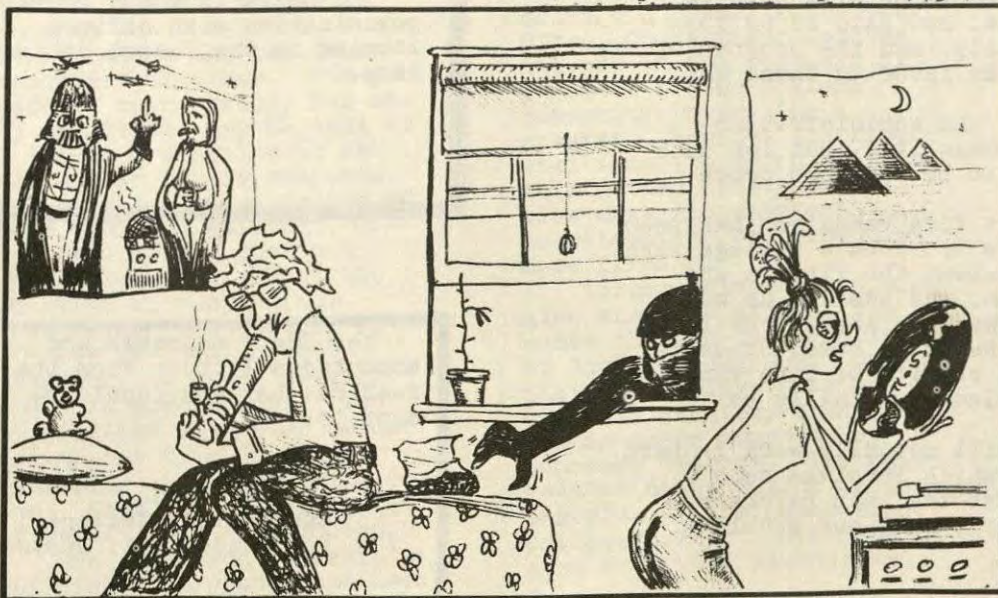
under the heading "Physical Education" the Committee made four recommendations, the last of which reads, "The construction of a skating rink which must operate on a self-sufficient or profit making basis". And so, Mr. Ames would claim, the decision favorable to the skating rink was made, in part, because students requested it.

But there is more here than meets the eye. If one continues on with the report, one finds some interesting reading. Under the heading "Facilities" the Committee recommended the following, "The Student Center should be moved to Palmer Library once the building (as a library) has been vacated." This plan, however, is no longer under consideration. Under the heading of "Dining Facilities" the Committee recommended the following, "... In order to facilitate payment by day students and other undergraduates, as well as professors and graduate students, a 21-14-10 day meal plan or a five lunch meal plan should be offered." We have yet to see such a plan.

Obviously, the administration chose to listen to certain portions of the Committee's recommendations and to ignore others. One of the biggest problems with the proposed skating rink is that it is so large that it really doesn't fit anywhere on this campus. The students who recommended a skating rink back in 1975 could have had no idea of the problems such a recommendation would entail. The Student Trustee Committee discusses issues which involve all areas of campus life. It is impossible for them to consider each recommendation in detail. And yet, Mr. Ames is quick to point to this committee as a major factor in the decision making process.

There is, however, a committee which has been

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Dorm thefts (story inside)

Fines

All of us, students, faculty, and administration, dread the possibility of a major fire occurring on this campus. The price that might have to be paid for such a disaster, in both building damage and human life, is staggering. But this doesn't mean that we should rush headlong into instituting some policy on fire vandalism just for the sake of having a program.

The main point of the fire vandalism program being pushed by the Administration revolves around the idea of floor fines. If an act of fire vandalism occurs, and the culprit cannot be found, then the whole floor will be fined one hundred and fifty dollars. The type of acts which fall under the heading of "fire vandalism", according to this program, have a wide range. They include such things as emptying fire extinguishers, removing the automatic pin from fire doors, and damaging exit signs. While it is a fine idea to attempt to do something about fire vandalism, this program is both unworkable and unfair.

The Administration is in such a rush to institute this policy that many details have been overlooked or left ambiguous. Because of this the Student Government Association has asked the Administration to delay the effective date of the program. The S.G.A. would like to see to it that all fire equipment is marked as to dorm and floor of origin in order to prevent the moving around of such items as fire extinguishers. In addition, the Judiciary Board is unsure of its role and would like its "place in the system" clarified.

But even with the clarification of these details, the S.G.A. has failed to "come to grips" with the inherent unfairness in the idea of floor fines. The Administration would like us to believe that by distributing a fine among all members of the floor everyone is equally sharing the burden. But this is simply not the case. To some students paying a ten dollar portion of the fine is a great hardship, while to others the amount means nothing. What this program ends up saying is that if you're poor and have to watch your pennies, then be careful. You'd better be on a constant lookout for potential vandals, and of course don't try any vandalism yourself.

But if you're "well-off" then the situation is completely different. Then "it's only ten dollars", so why bother to care. You can even feel free to commit fire vandalism yourself, as long as you don't get caught.

The fact is that most fire vandalism occurs at times when no one sees the actual incident. Thus the thrust of the program is not so much on catching the culprit, as it is on the idea that an individual will refrain from vandalizing fire equipment since he knows he will have to pay at least a portion of the fine. But each of us does not feel the monetary burden equally, and the program of floor fines is inherently biased in favor of those who are "well-off".

When discussing this program, the Administration speaks in lofty terms of saving human life. But for such a lofty goal, there always seems to be the same crude answer: money.

The Administration admits that fire vandalism has been abating this semester. Perhaps the Providence College fire has taught us something. We read about the fire in the news, heard about it on television, and some of us knew friends who were involved in it. What is needed now is an extensive dorm program to drive the point home. Students have now seen, up close, what the results of fire vandalism may be, and thus this problem may finally be ending.

Whether a true dorm program will actually work is hard to say. But it is a fair program which involves each student equally. We should at least try this before we resort to the dollar as the answer to all our problems.

THE SPARK

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

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Senior speaker selection

BARBARA FRIED

On Sunday, May 28, commencement exercises will be held for the Connecticut College Class of 1978. This year's graduation speaker will be Mr. Henry Steele Commager. Mr. Commager is an eminent historian and educator. He holds an impressive record of accomplishments and is highly regarded in his field. He has taught at various universities and has written several books. The class of 1978 shall be privileged to have him address them.

The process of choosing a graduation speaker is a long and involved one. Ideally, it begins in the spring of the prospective graduates' junior year. Lists of desired speakers are drawn up and distributed to the members of the class. The class then votes on which speakers it would most like to hear. Names which typically appear at the top of the long list are personalities which the school cannot pursue. For example, Woody Allen has occupied the number one slot for several years. Celebrities such as Mr. Allen simply demand too high a fee for their appearance to seriously warrant consideration of an invitation by this college.

For each name which the school seeks, an invitation signed by President Ames must be sent. This is the responsibility of Mrs. Jane Bredeson, Assistant to the President. Before any invitation is sent, she is to consult the President of the Senior class and the Commencement Chairman. The process is painstaking, for only one letter may be sent at a time. A deadline is set for the invitee's response, and then follows a period of nonaction and waiting. Often the invitee does not even extend the school the courtesy of responding. This delays the sending of another invitation, but there are no means of avoiding this predicament. Two invitations can never be out at any one time or an embarrassing situation could ensue. Thus, the final choice of speaker may take months.

Mrs. Bredeson appreciates the list of proposed speakers

as early as possible to give her maximum time to contact them. Famed personalities are engaged far in advance of the dates for which they are to speak. It is only unfortunate that at times, when the date finally comes, this personality may be otherwise occupied with something which they feel takes precedence. Finding a speaker later in the year may be unnerving, but could alleviate the problem. Either way, a speaker will be present at graduation.

Without fail, every year there are complaints about the choice of the speaker. Some students feel that if there were more administrative concern about the speaker selected, more notables might be obtained. Students wonder why other colleges are addressed by more prominent personages. There are several reasons.

"Year upon year the complaints are repeated and the administration continues with its established system."

Connecticut College offers a standard fee to each speaker. It is not an overwhelming sum, and is probably considerably less than larger schools pay. The money is set aside from the yearly budget and never exceeds this specified amount. The school incurs many expenses during the graduation exercises, and will not shift them in order to encourage a specific speaker. Often, Connecticut College depends on the contacts of a member of the college community in seeking a speaker. Besides the financial benefits accruing to this method, the personal ties make the speaker's commitment to be present more firm.

Larger universities are also known to attract big names through the granting of honorary degrees. Connecticut College does not use this strategy either. It has never awarded any honorary degrees. The only related dispensation is the awarding of the Connecticut College Medal. This goes to some deserving alumnus who

has become distinguished in his field or to someone who has given a great deal (not necessarily money) to Connecticut College.

It becomes obvious then, that Connecticut College cannot attract personalities in tune with those that frequent larger institutions. Students often complain that the administration doesn't care enough about who the graduation speaker is. Judging from the policies used in obtaining a speaker, it is clear that this allegation is not entirely false. Seniors feel that the administration might send out invitations earlier, and solicit (entreat) the invitee more persistently. They feel that the school could engage in the politics of the game more heavily to lure a personality. Year upon year the complaints are repeated and the administration con-

tinues with its established system.

Another side to this seeming obstinance should be uncovered. A fact most evident to members of the administration who annually attend graduation is the brief period of time for which the speaker talks. His remarks are necessarily short in that they are in the midst of an already interminable ceremony. He is being paid, therefore, an exorbitant sum for what may amount to twenty minutes of utterances.

If the address is memorable, the expense seems justified. Yet what guarantee is there that any speaker will give such a presentation? A prestigious name, renowned personality, politician or performer may be incapable of speaking well. True, the presence of a distinguished figure lends a certain air to the occasion. Their name overshadows the remarks they have to make, but the import of this desired personage is probably less significant than many perceive. Insofar as there

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Visiting Directors

KIM LEWIS

The visiting directors on campus during the past academic year have been of great benefit to both students of theater and the Theater department as a whole. They have brought to Conn. their talents, ideas, and experiences. They have also brought diversity and change which can be seen in several different ways.

The Theater Studies department has only one full-time professor, Linda Herr. She, then, is responsible for most of the administrative work, a full load of classes, and the major production of the department each semester. In having found directors willing to visit and work on campus, she has eased her own work load and is better able to concentrate on her actual job as a teacher and head of the department. This is also to the students' advantage, for they, then, receive the full attention of both their professor and their director.

There have been three visiting directors this year. Richard Termine who directed The Birthday Party last fall and Ted Chapin who directed The Hostage just before spring vacation were paid by the Theater Studies department, acting only as directors and here only during rehearsals and performances. Morris Carnovsky has been here for the entire year with a Mellon grant. He is teaching an acting and directing class as well as directing The Merchant of Venice which will be performed in the beginning of May.

All three directors have brought a degree of professionalism from past experience to their work here. Exposure to professional standards is helpful and necessary to students both onstage and backstage. In a theater department as small as that at Conn. with many students working with student directors, a professional level is difficult to maintain. Richard Termine came to direct after having just completed his master's degree in theater at the University of Connecticut. Ted Chapin, a graduate of

Conn., has been working at the O'Neill theater, the National Theater Institute, in Waterford. Morris Carnovsky has had a great deal of experience and is well known in the theatrical field, particularly as a Shakespearean actor. Their backgrounds reflect differing degrees of professionalism as well as experience. Their presence has offered students a change not only in the regular college program, but also a change from one visitor to the next.

Diversity is also reflected in the different ideas, methods, and perspectives of these men. These include different acting and directing techniques, different personal priorities and expectations, different habits, and even differences in the types of plays chosen to be performed. Different learning experiences are of great value to the student who is then better able to choose his own direction. Later he or she is also better able to deal with the different views and methods of those in the professional theater. Many theater students at Conn. have found this experience and preparation the greatest advantage in having visiting directors.

The presence of new, visiting, and professional directors has also had a beneficial effect on the department as a whole. It has instigated a certain change among students as well as giving them the opportunity of change. Success in the theater business depends, of course, upon talent, but because theater is a world of close intense cooperation, it also depends, to a certain extent, upon friends and connections. Though Conn. has a small theater department, many students tend to fall into certain smaller groups of influence and remain within them during years spent here. The visiting directors, however, have no knowledge nor part in these groups. Their choices for student parts and positions in productions are uninfluenced by associations, and because of their visiting, professional status, their decisions are respected. This change creates greater opportunity for certain students and tends to put greater stress on the development of talent alone which is where the emphasis should be placed.

The visiting directors have been of benefit to

Letters from home

Letters from home tell me
They're still looking for the little Uxbridge boy
Lost in the blizzard, binding Winter to Horror.
Thousands, neighboring the small town gather
Fear pulling frantically through heavy drifts
for any trace of boy.

The mailman walks his route slower now.
The boy was his friend; the laughter
Running close to his side, from porch to porch.
Worry frowns his face, unrelenting --
Peering from place to place, going where the boy
would go.

There's no more looking now, letters from home
would write.
Today the mailman rested on the porch steps where
The boy lived; and suddenly, as if for no reason
His eyes took in a small silhouette emerging
Beneath patches of snow.
The sun passes over huge mounds glazed with ice.
Melting each morning comes closer to Spring.

kef

An inside job?

LISA PINES

Conn. in these ways and in many other general and specific instances. Some problems have arisen while they have been on campus, particularly with scheduling rehearsal space and time in accord with the directors' obligations and those of students. But their presence has created a more inspirational atmosphere for theater students. And the year's productions have been well appreciated by their audiences. The directors themselves have also benefitted from the opportunity to direct, to teach, and to work at Conn. with good student talent. Hopefully it will be possible to realize such advantages and to engage other visiting directors in the year to come.

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April 6, 1978

Upon the students' return to school on March twenty-sixth, no one reported to Campus Safety that any thefts had occurred over break. This would indeed seem to be good news for those of us who worry about valuable items left in our room over vacations. Actually, however, four known instances of theft occurred during Spring vacation, but were not reported.

Students in a South campus dorm and a Quad dorm experienced thefts of small items, none of great value. In the South campus dorm, where three of the four thefts took place, one student had an "old but very comfortable" jacket taken. The jacket had been left in a friend's room in the same dorm, for the duration of the break, but was not there when they returned. When another student, again a resident of this dorm, came back he noticed that at least one of his albums was missing.

Perhaps most disturbing is the third incident which again occurred in the same dormitory. A student returned to find her carefully alphabetized records out of order, and at least two of them missing. Someone had had the time to go through this student's record collection and select the albums of his/her choice. The same student also had a small quantity of marijuana taken, which had been kept in the back of her closet, in a tackle box. In addition to the length of time the thief must have been willing to spend in this student's room, one must also find it odd that nothing of great value was taken. A pocket sized cassette recorder and a pair of stereo headphones, both portable, valuable items were left on a dresser, untouched.

These incidents were not isolated to one dormitory. The theft of a "sentimental rum bottle" something again of little value to anyone but its owner occurred in a Quad dormitory. Obviously, the issue is not the value of the items that were taken, in fact, one must wonder that nothing of value was missed. Someone appropriated items probably for personal use and whose theft would most likely go unreported.

Essentially two possibilities exist as to whom might be responsible for these thefts. Either someone from outside the college broke into the dorms, or the thefts were the actions of a member of college personnel who was present over break and had access to the dormitories. Campus Safety has not indicated that they know of any instances where locks which are put on dorms over vacations were broken, and none of the thefts occurred in first floor rooms. In addition, the possibility of an outsider risking arrest to break in and steal a few albums, leaving behind valuable items, is rather unlikely.

Only Security and Physical Plant have access to the dorms during closure. They in turn let in custodial help to clean the dorms. They do not let anyone into individual rooms unless given permission by Dean Watson.

In the South campus dorm previously mentioned, all the doors in the entered room were locked when the students left for vacation. The sense of security this may give one is false, however. The other day in this dorm, where three of the four thefts took place, a student locked himself out of his room. Unable to find the Housefellow to let him in, he was subsequently able to open the door with a three by five index card.

The students at Connecticut College must ask themselves how secure their property really is during vacations. And perhaps more importantly, we must wonder at exactly who can be trusted.

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Equality in dining

BARBARA PRIEST

Are students ripping off the dining halls or are the dining halls ripping off students? Actually, both are taking place. Why are students sneaking their friends in to, and loaves of bread out of, the dining halls? M. Jay Alperen stated three reasons in his past letter to the editor: the claim that the cafeteria will never miss the food, that it is compensation for past meals that were skipped, and that everyone is doing it. These may be some of the reasons, but I would like to suggest another: students feel that the dining halls have been ripping them off and deserve to be ripped off in return. The validity of this reasoning may be determined by the individual reader, but we all should understand why this reasoning exists.

Some people on this campus feel that they are being cheated by the school's current meal plan. All students living on campus at Connecticut College paid \$810.00 this year for room and board. Is it fair that people who never eat breakfast or people who never eat meat should pay the same fee as those who do? Is it fair that people who go home each weekend should pay the same board fee as those who remain and eat meals? What about the constant dieters who eat only salads and cottage cheese; should they pay the same amounts for their meals as the students with hearty appetites who take second helpings of everything? Something should be done in a situation that appears to be this unfair to so many students.

Many colleges do provide their students with a choice of meal plans. The University of Bridgeport provides students with four choices: all meals during the week, lunch and dinner every day (14 meals a week), all meals from Monday through Friday (15 meals a week), or any ten meals per week. Bentley College and the College of William and Mary both offer their stu-



"Vegetarians have a legitimate gripe when they complain about paying for meat..."

dents three options: all meals (19 or 20 per week), 15 meals per week, or 10 meals per week. At the University of Connecticut there are different residence halls, serving different amounts of meals per week and charging different board fees. If these schools, along with many others, were able to find workable meal plans offering choices, it does not seem to be an unreasonable or impossible idea for Connecticut College.

It is impossible to produce a completely fair meal plan, but steps should be taken to make our present plan fairer. We could, for instance, have the option of paying for either every meal during the week, or for all meals excluding breakfasts. The two options could be distinguished by different color ID cards, which would be checked at meals as they currently are. The only time that a very close check would be necessary is at breakfast, because all students would have paid for lunch and dinner. Such a plan would still be unfair to students who leave on weekends or students who eat small portions, but

at least it is a step in the right direction. When considering such a plan, we should keep in mind that there would be a decrease in some students' board fees, but an increase in others'. Because this school now assumes that most people will miss an occasional meal, students planning to eat all meals would pay more than they currently do. Those eating the food would be paying for it, rather than being supported by other students' fees.

Vegetarians have a legitimate gripe when they complain about paying for meat, the most expensive type of food, that they do not eat. It would be impractical to charge vegetarians a cheaper board fee because of the difficulty of regulating who is and who is not eating meat during meals. But, vegetarians should be assured of nutritious, high-protein meals. This school has done well in providing vegetarians with cheese, eggs, yogurt, wheat germ, and whole wheat breads. But I would like to see additional items like: bean sprouts, chick peas, and sunflower seeds. Because these products are also expensive, it might be most

Springgames

MARTY JOHNSON

practical to serve them in one, centrally located dorm during lunch, dinner, or at both meals. A vegetarian dining room would assure all students that are not eating meat of a well balanced, high-protein meal, whether they be constant vegetarians or any student wishing to do without meat for a meal. Until such a dining hall could determine how many students attend its meals, an estimate of the amount of food to be prepared could be determined through a survey. I believe that there are enough vegetarians on this campus to justify the existence of a vegetarian dining room for one or two meals a day.

We need to acknowledge the fact that both the students and the current meal plan are ripping each other off. This process will continue to occur until each side is willing to compromise. Dining halls will not go out of their way for students who are stealing from them, and students will not stand for dining halls that install an unfair meal plan. ●

Lecture

On April 18th at 8:00 PM in Dana Hall, Professor Nadav Safran of Harvard University will be speaking about the current issues in the Middle East. This event is part of the Middle East Symposium sponsored by the Chapel Board.

Professor Safran is 52 years old and was born of Jewish parentage in Cairo. At the age of 21 he moved to Palestine and five years later he came to the United States for higher education. For the past twenty years he has been a professor of Government at Harvard University. Professor Safran has written two books. His first book "From War to War" is a discussion of the first twenty years of the Arab-Israeli conflict. His second book "The Embattled Ally", which is a discussion of Israeli history, the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Israeli-American relations has just been published.

Spring has descended on Connecticut College once again. How can you tell? Just look around and you'll find it very easy to spot some sure signs of spring. Take a short walk across Harkness Green and you'll find yourself bombarded by LaCrosse balls, softballs and frisbees. Right in the middle of it all stands Harkness House. On warm, sunny days, Harkness reminds one of a huge Victrola radio blasting out tunes to the frolicking crowds below. People have pulled the first remnants of their summer wardrobe out of mothballs in anticipation of the coming heat wave. Even members of the preparatory persuasion have been seen strolling about the campus in bermuda shorts and other vibrant garments - a reliable barometer of impending spring weather if there ever was one. People are out running in full force in what appears to be a vain effort at rolling off a few layers of winter insulation. And already the annual question of importance to most everyone on this campus has been uttered several times: "Where do you want to live next year?"

Spring continually seems to be a time of rejuvenation and innovation. Some new fad always seems to peak around springtime, and the whole campus, willfully or not, participates. The other evening I was assured by a supposedly reliable source that a new game would sweep the campus this spring, and would be, as she ebulliently stated, "All the rage!"

Naturally I decided to pry a bit and discover what the new "rage" was. My informer willfully divulged the secret with very little prodding.

"It's very easy to play," she said. "You can play it all the time. Suppose you are walking back from the library. About 150 feet ahead of you is your opponent heading towards you. Regardless if you know this person or not, your objective is to pass without recognizing this person at all. A good technique is to begin looking the other way at least 25 feet before you

pass, thus avoiding eye contact all together. Another is to suddenly find interest in the area immediately around your feet. However, the popular style seems to be a continuous forward gaze while totally ignoring the existence of the passing person. No verbal exchange can be made. A score of ten points is awarded if no verbal or gestural greeting is made, thus successfully ignoring and alienating your opponent. You must deduct ten points if any verbal exchange is attempted - even if you say nothing, but your opponent does. There are certain bonus tactics you can use, such as jumping in bushes, hiding between cars or doing a complete about face and heading in the opposite direction. These moves must not be blatant, but performed nonchalantly. The bonus tactics, if performed properly, will net you five points! You see how easy it is," she giggled. "And the wonderful thing is you can play it anywhere. In the bar, in hallways or even parties!"

"It sounds like a hell of a lot of fun, but clearly you must be joking. Who in their right mind would play such an idiotic game?"

"Why, everybody will," she said assertively. "I think it's a great idea!"

As I walked back to my room that evening (feeling very sorry for that somewhat crazed young lady) some very odd things happened. As I passed Branford, a gentleman heading in my general direction suddenly disappeared between some parked cars. I thought it was rather odd, but strange things have been known to occur in the vicinity of Branford. As I approached J.A., I spied a young lady heading in my direction. About 15 feet in front of me she darted and sprang head first into some near-by shrubbery. "15 points!" I yelled. I believe the game is catching on. ●

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The brotherhood

SCOTT CALAMAR

It comes and it goes. At some times it's very strong, I can tell what every one around me is going to say before they say it. There are even times when I can tell what people are thinking. Not deep thoughts or hidden secrets, but what they honestly think when I'm with them. I call out to them, too, in my head, but they never seem to hear me. They never answer.

Some days my esp doesn't work at all. It's just like it used to be. There was quiet inside my head, only one voice - my own. Now I hear all these voices and it's confusing. I'm starting to get used to it; I can focus in on one mind or block everything out but my own thoughts. But it still comes and goes as it pleases. I get it a lot more now than I used to.

In the last year my hair has fallen out. Every strand of it. My scalp hair, my beard, arm, leg and all body hair. I think I must have been exposed to radiation. Went to the doctor when it first started falling out; he said that there was nothing much that he could do about it. Gave me some vitamins which didn't help. He told me what I had wasn't really that exotic; he had a few patients with it. There were no other symptoms or effects then, just baldness. I got myself a wig and some fake brows and lashes so nobody notices when I'm dressed. But stripped, I look like a martian. I haven't been to bed with a woman for a year now.

There are a few other things, too. I've lost two toes and gained two fingers. I know it sounds bizarre, but it's true. I noticed the fingers early. I thought that my hands were swelling up. Then I got a bump at the bottom and to the outside of each little finger. It progressed to a stump and within four months, I developed another small finger on each hand. They work nicely, and will probably come in handy when my coordination develops. I must confess that I didn't notice that my little toes were going until they were almost gone. They just

shrunk and disappeared. Almost like hemorrhoids.

I look like a freak, I'm too ashamed to go to the beach or anyplace where I must bare my body. I saw this specialist about two weeks ago and showed him my hands, feet and hairless body. His advice was that I should take up the piano, stop climbing trees and refrain from going out naked on a cold day. He also told me that I wasn't anything special. He's had eight cases of the same thing in the last six months.

However, the interesting thing was not what the doctor said, but what he thought. He was disturbed by my presence. He was intimidated, almost scared by me. He could not read my mind, and made it a point to ask if I was reading his at the time. Of course I said no. He didn't believe me. He was wishing I would leave.

But this is where my power fails me. I tried to delve into his deeper thoughts, in hopes of extricating the true nature of my malady, if he knew it; but I couldn't. I couldn't tell if I am a terminal case of radiation-poisoning or something else. What else, I didn't know and was almost afraid to find out.

"A lone human is nothing. The days of the lone human are coming to an end."

I have found that the best way to bring a thought to the surface is to ask a question that should elicit that thought as an answer. I asked the doctor if I was a mutation of evolution. It was a success. BANG. I had almost hit it on the head, but I didn't realize it. His thoughts gave mild agreement and a few other disjointed images. The strongest one was a word: BROTHERHOOD. I usually receive thoughts, images, abstracts, the picture worth a thousand words. Sometimes disjointed phrases even. But there was one very prominent word in his mind. BROTHERHOOD.

I waited a couple of minutes, making small talk about

diet and exercise. Then I asked him what brotherhood is. "I thought you said you weren't reading my mind now," the doctor accused, like so many others.

"It came back. I want to know what's wrong with me. What does brotherhood mean?"

"If you want to know, why don't you pick it out of my brain?" replied the doctor testily.

"Because I can't pick your brain. Doctor, I'm paying a consulting fee for this visit, and now I'm consulting you. What is the brotherhood?"

"It is an organization for people like you. That's where I suggest you go now. I can do nothing for you. You're better off to go to your own kind. I will give you their local address. They will tell you all you need to know. I will refund your consulting fee, Mr. Branstrom."

I did not go to the address the doctor gave me that day, even though it was only one-o'clock when I left his office. I was afraid of what I'd find - some half-way house for mutants probably. I decided to go back to my office instead. If I processed twice my quota of credit ratings today, I could do three times my

quota - easy - if I had to.

I allowed myself the luxury of doing two narco-reefers before going to bed that night, so I didn't wake up until almost noon the next day. I had a quick lunch, and took the Transystem downtown to 1801 Aroja Street. 1801 was a renovated twentieth century store front. The window and door glass was reflective, so I could not see inside. Hand painted on both window and door was the word, Brotherhood. I took a deep breath and opened the door. A rush of air conditioning met me on the threshold.

Entering that store, that room, was like emerging from a dark prison cell to a

Goodbye Columbus

DONALD GOLDBERG

courtyard filled with sunshine. Walls broke down in my head, spaces were created and filled in my mind. Hands of thought reached out to caress the tender grey matter of my brain. I was no longer alone.

It was like finding love, meeting that perfect mate. I was expanded, there is more of me, there is more purpose, more pride in life. A lone human is nothing. The days of the lone human are coming to an end.

They reached out to touch me, assure me, comfort me - but there was no one in the room. All at once I knew their names: Gefray, Denid, Magia, Peter, Orien and Toff. There would be more. They knew my name and why I had come. They greeted me, they welcomed me. They directed me to the room they were in. They blessed me and told me I had found my home.

The six were seated on cushions on a lichen-carpeted floor. One of them, I believe it was Gefray, gave me the courtesy of addressing me verbally. "Sit down, Aurrie. Have some tea and sympathy." I sat and scanned them, as they requested I do. They were hairless and each of their hands had the extra finger. Most of them had a matching ring on that finger. As repulsive and alien as these beings would have seemed to me at one time, a year of looking in the mirror had conditioned me to accept them as friends - as brothers.

The information flow in my head had slowed down - almost to a halt. There were little things planted, glimpses of something that I must not fear, for it is the destiny I share with these people. Slowly, deliberately, the thoughts of Gefray explained what I had now guessed to be true.

"Rest and contemplate, Brother Aurrie, for you have had a very difficult year. The maturation is the hardest thing you will probably ever experience. The first time you ever heard another voice in your own head, the anxiety of losing your hair and toes, the birth of your new fingers. Growing pains. And the wondering; always conscious of the fact that you are undergoing a transition.

The now settled coal strike has recently brought to the attention of the nation the recurring problem of energy resources and their limitations. But will this be another "oil crisis" of a few years back, which for a short time actually had people conserving gasoline - it slipped everyone's mind, as if the problem had been solved?

Columbus, Ohio, my home town, spent this past winter with virtually no electricity. Like many cities of its size which depend primarily on coal for power, the coal strike had devastating effects on its residents and industries. With no usable alternate resources for energy, my parents and about a million other residents of Columbus lived their winter in one room of their house, with a fireplace, towels stuffed under the doors to keep the heat in, and the thermostats mandatorily turned to the fifties. All unnecessary lights were turned off, including street lights and freeway lights. (Remarkably, there was no significant increase in crime; imagine New York City without any street lights.) All businesses were ordered to cut their electrical consumption by 50% or they would be closed down.

But this article is not about Columbus, or the coal strike, or about the energy crisis; everybody knows about these problems. The problem here is about attitude. Why do we ignore the need for alternate forms of power as the present ones run out, just as we ignored the oil problem of a few years ago? We no longer directly feel the effects of the situation, so we assume that the problem is solved. We have been aware of the energy shortage for years, but it takes something as minor as a coal workers strike to point out to us that we have not been developing alternate resources as we should. In areas such as Chicago and Cleveland, where nuclear energy accounts for nearly half of the power consumed, the coal strike

had had little effect. Perhaps then, the development of nuclear reactors is a viable solution, although it still takes from six to twelve years from conception to operation of a nuclear facility. But until we can be sure that such power is safe, other sources, such as solar, should be developed. I doubt, however, that many people would be against nuclear energy in Columbus right now, if it is the only alternative. We should be pressing government for other safe means instead of protesting the already existing plants. For, as Columbus epitomizes, the energy problem is here and now. People are cold and places are dark, and it will remain this way forever, unless we show some involvement in developing a reasonable alternative, and not sit back expecting some impotent government agency to handle the entire problem. For when the actual shortages reach the East Coast, as they will soon do, people will not care where their heat comes from. And it will probably be nuclear generators, which so many are so against, that will supply it.

People, however, can tolerate a little cold and dark here and there. But when the industries don't have enough electricity to keep open, and they must lay off their workers, the situation becomes dangerous. Unemployment is high enough, and the economy will suffer greatly. This is about to happen in Columbus.

The answer is obviously to quit ignoring the problem just because we have not felt it here yet. It is inevitable; coal and oil are limited. People must push for the development of alternate resources, or expect the crisis to happen. And as the situation becomes critical, we cannot afford to treat it as we have treated the oil shortage. ●

April 14

Loudon Wainwright at the
Shaboo - Willimantic, CT
Call 423-0078

Continued on p.12

Let me out!

MICHAEL HETSKO

This is the time of year when many questions concerning next years dorm assignments arise. Generally speaking, students understand the lottery process as it is quite thoroughly explained in the information issued by Dean Watson's office. Where the many questions originate is in the petition for room changes.

Many students have the assumption that their petitions for a room change will be automatically granted if they suffer through three years either in the complex or in some other undesirable dorm. While it is true that some petitions may be granted to such students, it should be remembered that there are no guarantees that any students will be granted a room change.

Dean Watson, when questioned as to the process involved in deciding who will or will not receive a room change, explained that in reality very few changes can be granted. This is due to several factors. Last year fewer than thirty changes were made.

First of all, there is a quota system which states roughly the number of students, based on sex and standing, to be placed in each dorm. For most dorms, this includes 30% freshmen, 30% sophomores, 20% juniors, and 20% seniors. For the most part, the dorms meet three requirements after the lottery. To start moving students around wholesale might strip the complex of all seniors.

Secondly, there are just not many rooms available for moving students into after the lottery. All one can hope for is that someone in a desirable dorm will drop out of school or take a semester off.

Third, and most importantly, Dean Watson explained that she is obliged only to make sure that each resident student has a room. The petition process only exists to give a student a chance to move if all other conditions have been met.

Many students believe that the granting of room changes are not made fairly and that some "undeserving" students have been moved

while other students who have been in the complex for three years have had their requests ignored. They also believe that students who have avoided the lottery (due to being at another school during the spring semester) often receive choice rooms simply by calling in late in the summer. They believe that these students are receiving preference over more deserving students. To cite an example, last spring a certain student who was not here due to health reasons, and was thus not in the lottery, called in during the summer and received a choice south campus room. Another student who was in Lambdin his freshman year, Larrabee his sophomore year, Wright his junior year, and again Wright his senior year, was denied a room change. It would seem that this student would be the logical choice for a room change, but under the current system this is not the case.



Moving south?

When asked about this particular instance, Dean Watson stated that in this case a room in south campus became available shortly before the student called in. As stated previously, she filled the room with the student who had no room, rather than move a petitioning student into this available space. When asked if she thought it fairer to move the complex ridden

senior down south and put the other student in the complex, she replied that frankly it would be. But she went on to explain that if she did she would be faced with changing the fire and infirmity lists that must be kept accurate for each dorm.

After interviewing Dean Watson, I come away feeling fairly secure that any charge of personal favoritism is exaggerated. But I do believe that something can be done to perhaps increase the chances of a deserving petitioning student to move into a more personally desirable dorm. I cannot believe that it would be that much trouble to consult the list of petitioners when a room becomes available rather than automatically putting in a student who was not in the lottery with no regard to his previous housing placements.

Dean Watson claims that she is overworked and does not have the time to figure out how she can move around the students whenever a room becomes available as she now stands in the housing department.

A solution to this seemingly unfair situation might be to increase the staff that handles housing. By doing this it would seem that the petitioning process would become a fairer instrument in the room selection process.

The crux of the whole issue involves student frustrations. Many students who have been unlucky in the lottery feel that they are entitled in their senior year to have that choice to live where they want. The petitioning process, it would seem, should be a compliment to the lottery, taking care of those students who have not been placed in a desirable location. Unfortunately, even under ideal circumstances this would be impossible as there simply are not enough rooms available on south campus to accommodate everyone who deserves to be placed there. But more can be done to place those who are deserving in rooms when they become available rather than filling them with the first person who comes along.

Skating rink, continued

considering the skating rink (and just the skating rink) for over a month now-The Long Range Planning and Development Committee. When this matter was brought to the attention of the committee early this semester the decision was already made that we would have the rink, and the committee was only to make recommendations concerning site. In its consideration, though, some members of the committee have brought up the question of whether or not we really need the skating rink. Mr. Ames has made it clear, however, that this is not what the committee should be considering, as the decision is already made. Undoubtedly though if the committee had been less hostile, or even favorable, to the rink, Mr. Ames would have pointed to the Long Range Planning and Development Committee as a major factor in his decision.

The Committee has even been thwarted in its attempts to truly decide what site the skating rink will occupy. From the beginning Mr. Ames and Mr. Knight have favored the South site (south of the tennis courts) and this is the location they have stuck with. The committee is put in a precarious position because it depends on Mr. Knight for all information concerning utilities, costs, etc. Thus the committee must try to obtain objective information from a source who has already indicated his bias concerning site selection.

Recently, the committee held a meeting in which interested parties were invited to offer their opinions concerning the location of the rink. William McCloy, professor of Art, who helped site the Cummings Art Center, indicated that he believed that building the rink at the south site would be ecologically disturbing. Edgar Mayhew, director of the Lyman Allyn Museum was vehement in his condemnation of the South site, and George Kasperek, professor of chemistry, who lives across from the proposed site also indicated his, and his neighbors' great displeasure.

The administration's answer has been to alter the number of hours the rink will be used (8:00 AM -

11:00 PM), and the ages of who, from the community, may rent ice time (under 14). But the administration has stuck with the South site against all opposition. In addition, no guarantee can possibly be given as to how long the time limits or age limitations will remain, or whether they will fall victim to the need for increased revenue.

The administration has been forced to "push" the south site because, undesirable as it is, other possible sites would be even worse. Placing the rink on college-owned property by the river would necessitate the hazardous crossing of Route 32. And placing it north of Marshall (where the old rifle range presently sits) would create vehicular traffic in an extremely dangerous area.

President Ames claims, however, that one of the primary reasons for having the rink located on the campus (and in fact for having the rink at all) is that ultimately it will be a multi-purpose building. The President talks of using it for dances, parties, basketball games and a host of other activities.

But, in actuality, the skating rink will never achieve this potential. In order to finance this project the rink must be rented for Youth Hockey, Monday through Friday 7:30 PM-11:00 PM. Saturdays 6:00 PM-11:00 PM. Charles Luce, Director of Athletics, has indicated that this rental schedule could not be disrupted more than four or five times a month. This is hardly the multi-purpose usage that Mr. Ames is talking about.

There are other examples of how the administration has contorted arguments put forth by students in order to support its own position. In a draft of a letter to the faculty the President puts forth the following argument for the skating rink, "If we fail to provide a sufficiently broad range of extracurricular opportunities, prospective students are more likely to choose those colleges that combine academic excellence with a fuller measure of other activity". It is amazing that for all these years that Crozier Williams

has remained a "joke" of a student center, this never seemed to bother Mr. Ames. Now he has suddenly "seen the light" and the skating rink will solve the problem.

Another argument that President Ames puts forth in this letter is that, "Expanded opportunities in athletics, as in other areas, by enabling Connecticut to be more selective in admissions, will bring more highly qualified students to the College". This is precisely the argument that has been put forth by a number of students who favor expanded media programs, but their requests have fallen on deaf ears.

President Ames claims that the skating rink is vigorously supported by the Athletic Department and the Athletic Advisory Committee. But these two groups are hardly objective when it comes to the question of expanding athletic facilities. Furthermore, the President says that the Admissions Office claims that expanded athletic facilities are necessary, but Mr. Ames couldn't really remember if the need for a skating rink was specifically mentioned.

And this is precisely where we must draw a distinction. We do need expanded athletic facilities, but must a huge skating rink be part of that expansion? Another playing field, and perhaps a track are priorities, but the number of people who are interested in hockey and skating does not seem to warrant such a building. Mr. Ames claims that by building the skating rink more people will then become interested in hockey and ice-skating. But this is a matter of putting the cart before the horse. We shouldn't be crowding another building onto this campus in the hopes that by its construction it will attract enough people to warrant its existence.

But there is a sad note to this story. And that is, that the skating rink will be built, because no one on this campus gives a damn enough to try and stop it. And as our verdant campus turns into concrete and steel we will have no one to blame but ourselves. ●

Brotherhood cont.

but not recognizing it for what it is.

"The doctors, none of them helping you or easing your burden. You even thought you were going to die. You've had a long hard year, Aurrie, but it's over now. You can come to terms with yourself, now. We will help you. We are your brothers; we are the future of the human race. Open your mind and take what we have to offer."

Senior speaker cont.

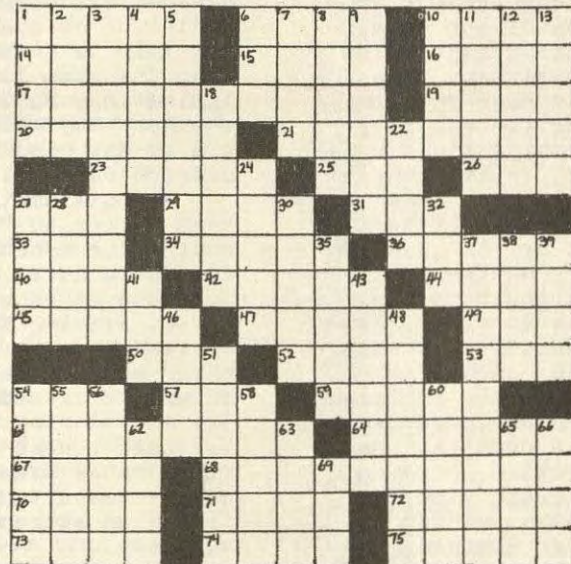
will undoubtedly be those discontent with the choice of speaker, no matter who he might be, the spending of extra monies on any speaker would appear to be illegitimate.

The graduation speaker is traditionally someone from outside the college. The prospect of a speaker who is a member of the Connecticut College faculty or administration would probably not occur to a graduating senior. However, there are numerous advantages to this route.

There are many distinguished professors within the Connecticut College faculty. Their ability to make a short, but effective address is relatively unquestionable. A faculty member may be able to make remarks more directly relevant and closer to the graduates than an outsider. He will have contacts with individuals in the class, and general knowledge of the entire body. Because this professor has a distinct affiliation with the students, he may be more generous and liberal in considering the fee. If money is saved, even only in travel expenses, it can be appropriated for other uses.

Future graduating classes might contemplate their choice of graduation speaker more fully before making a myopic decision. Graduation is the last activity one takes part in as a student. Commencement is the beginning. An insider will be more sensitive, experienced and aware of this phenomenon.

Crossword puzzle



Kim Lewis 3/1/78

ACROSS

1. deep breaths
6. store
10. city of Taj Mahal
14. Let's Make — —
15. fete
16. crustacean
17. moves in
19. forbidden
20. island in S. Pacific
21. give up; slang
23. drive back
25. ocean
26. Sullivan; pl.
27. perceive
29. send out
31. French salt
33. mountain on Crete
34. helicopter part
36. Boston airport
40. totals
42. cover with metal again
44. trailer truck
45. Mexican Indian
47. stormed
49. — we meet...
50. noise
52. adore
53. bishop's office
54. — — carte
57. dove sound
59. label again
61. — — - not; flower
64. fly again
67. three of a kind
68. moves on pay scale
70. Gaelic
71. American novelist
72. man's name
73. grains
74. measurement
75. royal

DOWN

1. herb
2. concept
3. prepares
4. hurry
5. one who naps
6. officer; abbr.
7. — time; intermission
8. margarine
9. Spanish priests
10. French play part
11. grill
12. fanatical
13. is adjacent
18. vibration
22. Irishman
24. metric liquid unit
27. Asian country
28. Norse poems
30. entire
32. — Alamos
35. severity
38. French friend
39. African river
41. melancholy
43. — — dull moment
46. city in France
48. preventer
51. unhappy; 2 words
54. following
55. British truck
56. get up
58. Greek letter
60. come — you —
62. proceeds
63. ending for perim
65. continent
66. spool
69. but in Latin