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THE SPARK

Senior Staff - will communication increase?

Vol. I, Issue 7
April 26, 1978

AMY WILSON

Early this semester, seven administrators were assigned to a group labeled Senior Staff. The Senior Staff is comprised of President Ames, Dean of the College - Alice Johnson, Dean of the Faculty - Frank Johnson, Treasurer - Leroy Knight, Director of Development - Roy Welsch, Assistant to the President - Jane Bredeson, and Dean of Admissions - Jeanette Hersey. The Senior Staff was formed to ensure representation of all parts of campus in the administration.

President Ames stated that Senior Staff was created because he felt it "was the most sensible and logical way to divide administrative responsibilities." The President asserts that each major area of college operations is represented on the staff. There are less people reporting directly back to him under the new system, and one administrator has stated that she believes this was the President's intention in order that he would be able to allow himself more time for fund-raising activities.

"If all major components of the campus are represented on Senior Staff, there should be no lack of communication between the administration and the rest of the campus. However, the creation of Senior Staff has most certainly not increased communication, and it may have in fact hindered it.

There is a danger in having seven people represent all college operations. By the time information reaches the top of the hierarchy, it has become so sifted down that it has lost some of its importance. Ever Ames stated "it is a danger that you get too many layers in the process between whoever it is that has the problem and the place where the solutions are going to be determined." President Ames, when asked to suggest a more direct line of communication between the student body and the administration, pointed towards College Council. However the proposed restructuring of College Council lessens the importance and decision-making power of this body and therefore lessens its communicative ability.

Student Government leaders feel very strongly that their liason to the administration is Dean Watson. One member of Student Government stated that the S.G.A. would lose much of its effectiveness if Dean Watson was absent from Senior Staff. However, Watson is not on the staff and therefore much student representation has been lost. She was excluded from Senior Staff because technically she works under Dean Alice Johnson, and if they were both on Senior Staff supposedly there would be a replication of input. However, even Dean Watson has stated that she feels that Johnson has so many people reporting back to her that it is impossible to devote sufficient time to student interests. President Ames, though, does not feel that Dean Johnson is overloaded, and asserts that "Watson has a great deal of decision-making power on her own."

Mr. Ames stated that controversial issues and disagreements are "ironed out by discussion until a compromise can be reached." But if Dean Watson cannot be present during these discussions, how will student opinions be represented?

One recent example of this enadequacy of Senior Staff was the fire vandalism issue. The administration asked Student Assembly to propose a system to extinguish fire vandalism. After Student Assembly submitted their proposal, no word was heard from the administration for seven weeks. (One administrator stated the time lag was due to great disagreement on Senior Staff.) At this point, the Senior Staff handed down a system of fining for vandalism that was quite different from the original Assembly proposal in many respects. It was stated that the fining system would go into effect in one week. Student Assembly



Shifting priorities (story p. 4)

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Changes

Much has been said about the fact that Connecticut College must grow if it is to survive, and to a certain extent this is true. But it is extremely important that we "move a step back" and take a hard look at exactly what changes are being wrought upon this institution in the name of survival. By emphasizing certain areas over others, we may be helping to insure our continued existence, but will we have a sense of pride in what is left? For if we lose that dream upon which this college was founded, if ideals and liberal education no longer mean anything to us, and if our goal is to be "just like everyone else", then the struggle for survival is worthless, and we will have forfeited the basic reasons for our existence.

The administration of Connecticut College has made a calculated decision that the type of students this school has been attracting in the past are not economically helpful enough to warrant their presence. Simply because a student is creative, artistically inclined, or academically oriented does not mean that he is wealthy, and thus the administration has decided that these students cannot give the school what we "truly need"-money.

Seen from this perspective, it becomes evident that the furor over the proposed skating rink is only a visible sign of a much more deep-rooted problem. Connecticut College is now in the midst of a transition period, with poorer academically oriented students being replaced by wealthier, athletically inclined, preparatory educated individuals who will supposedly enhance the school's reputation and bankroll. The administration will attempt to deny this but the numbers speak for themselves. By expanding athletic facilities in such areas as hockey, and at the same time predicting a decreasing enrollment for the near future, the administration is obviously making a trade off. We are not simply adding athletically oriented students, instead we will be choosing them over other types of applicants.

This trend is disturbing for a variety of reasons. If you ask presently enrolled students why they chose to come to this school, two answers (besides academics) are invariably given-the people and the physical environment. But the administration has decided that it is impossible to put a dollar value on having such things as a student body composed of interesting, well-rounded creative individuals, or the fact that our campus is among the most beautiful of any college on the east coast. What the administration fails to understand is that these things are invaluable and must be preserved at all costs.

It is ironic that the "leaders" of this educational institution have somehow decided that strengthening academics is not the key to our survival. All creative outlets-media, dance, and art are in a state of turmoil and decline.

For those of us who care about this college and are saddened by the direction in which this school is headed, two alternatives are offered. Either we fight for what we believe this school can be, or we give up and let the college move further down the road into the abyss of mediocrity.

As difficult as it is to face, the decision seems obvious-a change of leadership is necessary. This is not something which can be decided lightly, but it is the only answer to the present dilemma. This school, under the "direction" of Oakes Ames has suffered from an increasing lack of coherency. To a great extent, the reigns of power have been gathered in by Treasurer E. Leroy Knight, and it is he who charts the course the school will take.

It is imperative that President Ames and Treasurer Knight be replaced by men who possess a wider vision. Men who will be concerned not only with the issue of survival, but who will look further into the question of exactly what it is that will be surviving.

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

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Changes continued

Much of the responsibility for affecting the personnel rests on the shoulders of the faculty. Talk of the need for new leadership and new direction must emerge from the hidden recesses of faculty offices, and be brought out into the open to be discussed and worked upon.

Those students who are concerned about the educational environment of the school must work with the faculty to actuate the necessary changes. If nothing else, the skating rink issue should teach us that talk is not enough. As long as the "men at the top" are misguided, the rest of us will continue to suffer.

Letters

To the Editor:

After attending the meeting of Wednesday, April 19, I have come to the conclusion that we, the Connecticut College community are trying to spread ourselves too thinly. I like the idea of an ice rink being built on campus. We do need to offer more extra-curricular activities. I also understand that the rink would not necessarily cut into funds for educational purposes, although I am not convinced that money for other areas would not get rerouted into it. But, at this time, an ice rink is not the answer to the Saturday night "blahs".

As with any new project, people must support it. I do not think that ice skating is a serious enough interest to justify so large an investment. Numerous examples in the history of our country and of society have shown that people are the most important factor in any project. Without popular support, demand, and concern, and no matter how much money is spent, no campaign can succeed. It would certainly be a shame to have such a beautiful, expensive facility get relatively little use. We need to strengthen our already existing and faltering facilities.

As a student at Connecticut College and as an ice-skater on the Arboreteum pond, I oppose the acceptance of the gift, and the building of a rink.

SUSAN H. TWEEDY

(A copy of this letter has been sent to the Long Range Planning and Development Committee.)

To the Editor,

The issue of a possible skating rink is not only a question of whether or not we want or need one, it is a question of how the major decisions on this campus are made. Are these decisions made through a consensus among the administration, faculty, and students, or are they made by a select few in Fanning? At times, it is necessary for Mr. Ames to make an immediate decision without consulting the campus population, but if that decision affects the very atmosphere of this campus, the decision should be postponed and the consequences of that postponement faced.

What was the purpose of the forum held on April 19th? I optimistically went to the forum believing that we were there to voice our opinions, and Mr. Ames was there to listen, answer questions, and seriously consider our remarks. But it was merely the masque of a forum: a decision had already been made, and anything we were to say would not change that decision. I cannot begin to understand how people can spend many weeks debating whether they should dole out an additional \$1,000 per semester for a second newspaper, but do not think twice about spending \$700,000 for a skating rink. Where are people's priorities?! Having lost my optimism somewhere in Dana Hall, I left the forum a frustrated and disgusted student.

TODD POSTOL

Participate in the area's premier live call-in talk show: "Late Night New London". Call 447-2523 or campus extension 314. Wednesday nights 11pm-1am, on WCNI 91.5 FM. Host: Scott Calamar.

Sun-Day

LORI MEAD

On May 3, 1978, there will be a national celebration of the world's only inexhaustible, predictable, egalitarian, non-polluting, safe, terrorist-resistant, and free energy source. It will be called Sun Day.

Activities are being organized in Southeastern Connecticut to support International Sun Day. President Oakes Ames invites the community to participate in and sponsor programs of solar energy education and sun celebration on May 3 at the college. Solar displays, speakers and demonstrations, environmental legislation workshop available for organization and club meetings, environmental educators available for classroom presentations, school field trips hosted by the Thames Science Center, cookout using solar ovens, sunrise and sunset services and dance/music performances. All these are being planned and more.

The sun has been shining for several billion years, and scientists expect it to keep doing so for several billion more. The sun rises every morning and sets every evening, delivering energy to your doorstep (or rooftop) without powerlines, pipes, or a hose. It is the most predictable and egalitarian energy source. Since the sun does not foul the air, land, or water, it is safe and non-polluting. And there is not a thing that a terrorist, hijacker, multinational company or international cartel can do to prevent sunpower from reaching you.

Even when the sun is not shining, its immense energy is at work making the winds blow, clouds form, rain fall, and trees and crops grow. Since the sun transfers power into everything it touches, the proper technology can harness that energy and put it to work for you. Sunlight becomes hot water through a solar panel. It becomes electricity through a solar cell. Wind becomes a water pump through a windmill. Rainfall becomes electricity through a small hydroelectric dam. Wood becomes warmth through a wood stove. Our planet will

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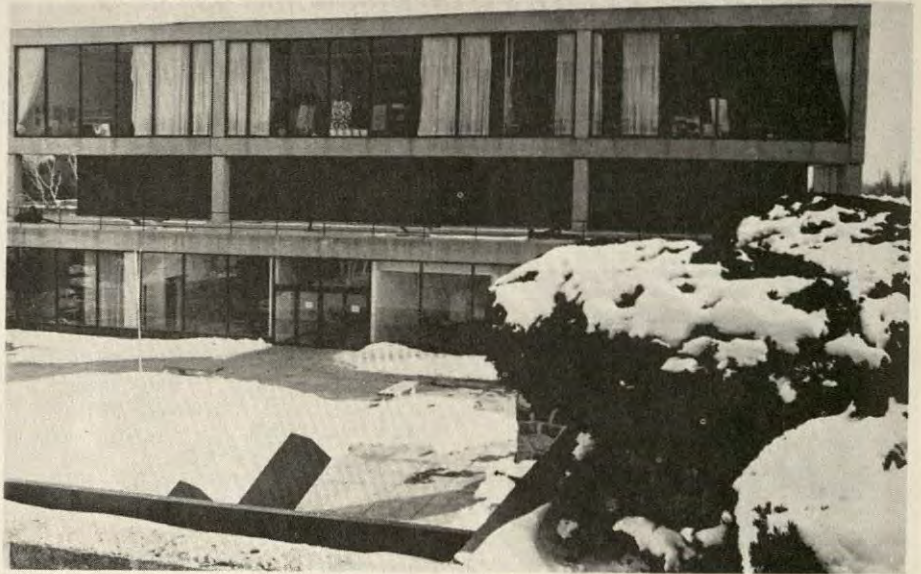
Decline of the arts

SARAH RABINOWITZ

In the course of one academic year, the President of Connecticut College has sent the American Dance Festival packing and welcomed the construction of an ice hockey rink. Our firm grip on artistic and academic excellence is loosening fast; corroded not from the outside, but, alarmingly, from the inside. In our fight to reestablish collegiate prestige and identity, we seem to be willing to sacrifice high intellectual principles in order to achieve mediocrity in athletics. This venture is obviously not worth its cost - financially or philosophically.

Undeniably, as members of a liberal arts community, we must examine the core of our communal identity from time to time to reaffirm our belief in ourselves, thereby justifying our existence to the outside world. Who are we? Where are we going? What would we like to be? Identify is a difficult thing to define, but it has an immediate and tangible effect on admissions, on finance, and above all on general educational standards. We are right to question - but too many of us at Connecticut College are wrong in our answers. Instead of improving and enhancing the identity we have justly struggled to maintain, we apparently have discarded it altogether, and have opted for a slicker, glossier identity which will look fine on the pages of trustee reports and admission catalogues, but will wear badly on serious students and faculty.

The construction of an ice hockey rink would be perfectly acceptable as the final phase of an overall improvement plan which would start with the addition of faculty positions where they are needed and the maintenance of positions where they are being dropped. The second priority of such a program would be the addition of sections and new course offerings in academic and artistic disciplines and the enlargement of departments (such as



"... the Admissions Office has come to the conclusion that a second-rate hockey team would be more attractive to a prospective student than first-rate academics."

dance and theatre) which are desperately in need of improved facilities. It is criminal to even suggest that money be directed towards the rink when, for instance, senior Child Development majors are denied admission to the Children's Literature course because the college "can't afford" to support another section of the course. The Studio Art Department is forced to "replace" a full-time professor with a part-time instructor and will lose another full-time position altogether in the next couple of years. The Dance Department, obviously, has suffered an incalculable loss through the death of its association with the American Dance Festival. We need better facilities for the media, truly professional journalism courses, more money for student organizations, money to provide consistent transportation to and from Yale, Wesleyan, Trinity, Brown and other local schools. We have an academic wellspring in the combined resources of local colleges and universities, and to direct money towards the improvement of relations between Connecticut College and those schools would be

of inestimable value to our educational environment (and drawing power for prospective students). It hardly seems necessary to point out, finally, that paying off the debt on the beleaguered new library should be of greater importance to the community than beginning construction on a low-priority high-risk project like the hockey rink. The forty-odd students on the hockey team may have to practice elsewhere, but that would seem like an eminently fair trade-off so long as students continue to come here to take courses in the arts and in academic disciplines.

Ultimately, the saddest aspect of the hockey rink controversy is the realization that the administration of Connecticut College has indeed made a more serious commitment to recruiting athletic males than to maintaining and improving our educational standards. Absurdly, the Admissions Office has come to the conclusion that a second-rate hockey team would be more attractive to a prospective student than first-rate academics. Certainly the kind of student who has, in the past, made our community the

Senior staff cont.

educational haven that it should be, would care more about courses than hockey games, and it is terrible to imagine the consequences if he or she is not the kind of student the Admission staff wishes to attract. In that case, we need, more than the hockey rink, a new Admission staff.

At the very least, construction of the rink must be postponed long enough to allow a full school-wide re-examination of its effects, financial and otherwise, on the college community. If the cost of construction goes up in that time, perhaps that would be sufficient discouragement to President Ames to force him to direct his money raising campaign towards more necessary projects. Hopefully, his decision regarding the rink came from inexperience and careless eagerness, rather than ignorance. If so, then it is the responsibility of the students and faculty to provide a check to his hasty action. There is more at stake here than a pair of ice skates, and the sooner we realize that, the more likely we are to emerge from the Seventies with academics, art and principles intact.

May 2: Bonnie Raitt, Woolsey Hall, New Haven.

May 5: David Bowie, Providence Civic Center.

Gulls

Lifting their wings
 in syncopation
 They call out one
 by one, though
 We cannot see
 their echoes reaching
 Each other, too
 secure in never
 Being alone,
 completely, they melt
 Into darkness
 of night, wings beating
 Wind in symmetry--
 ours, longing to
 Come home again.

K.E.F.

stated its objections to Dean Watson who was able to delay the initiation of the fining program, but because of her position, she appeared to be caught in the middle between student interests and Senior Staff.

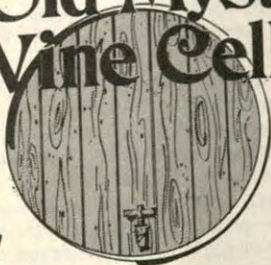
Perhaps this inefficiency of communication on Senior Staff was best demonstrated when it became apparent that President Ames was not aware that Student Assembly had submitted a proposal for fire vandalism (he believed it had originated within Senior Staff). He also believed the administration's proposal had been handed down as "an idea to get the ball rolling, and by no means was it intended to be a statement of policy." However, this is all rather confusing considering the proposal was read at Student Assembly as policy, and announced that it was to go into effect the next week. If Dean Watson was placed on Senior Staff perhaps some of these discrepancies could be reduced.

Another example of lack of communication is the proposed skating rink. Regardless of whether the majority of students on this campus wants the rink or not, there are many students who feel that they weren't given an opportunity to express their views until after the decision was made (it is always nice to be able to express ones' opinion at a forum when the final decision has

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Promises, promises

MICHAEL HETSKO

Now that this year's Student Government Association elections are over, this would seem to be a good time to look back at the record of the 1977-1978 S.G.A., and to look forward to see what we can expect from next year's officers. This article will examine the campaign platforms of last year's elected representatives and try to ascertain what successes have been acquired and what failures have been noted. In addition, it is important that we consider the platforms for next year's representatives to see whether or not we, the students, can expect that the shortfalls which marked this year's S.G.A. will be addressed in the coming year.

The 1977-1978 S.G.A. has been marked with several notable successes and similarly several unfortunate failures.

"The 1977-1978 S.G.A. has been marked with several notable successes and similarly several unfortunate failures."

To look at a few of the successes, first we can see that in spite of severe budgetary problems, and considerable concern about the future of WCNI and the newspapers' funding, money was eventually found to fund these organizations in a manner that allowed them to exist at modest levels. Another concern that was handled well was the Student Government's part in preregistration. While both of these concerns still have a few problem areas, it would have to be said that most of the problems were overcome for at least this year. Also to the credit of the S.G.A., again considering the budgetary problems, is the area of handling requests for club budgets. While this year will not be noted for any tremendous growth in this field, at least there was little lost of existing programs.

On the Judiciary Board we saw tremendous efforts on by the J.B. Chairman, Jerry Carrington, to ensure absolute fairness to the students and notable improvements in the vote of confidence process. It is no longer possi-

ble for a House President or Social Chairman to be voted out of office without previous warning that a vote is going to be held. Another achievement to the credit of Mr. Carrington and the J.B. has been the removal of the "fink clause" of the honor code.

Socially this year there were many parties, a couple of concerts and several other events sponsored by the Social Board that were at least enjoyable, and showed that Social Board Chairman Bill Davis was attempting to do a good job.

On the negative side of this year's S.G.A. performance, there is one outstanding item that was mentioned in last year's platforms that was reiterated by this year's candidates. This is that students still feel that the S.G.A. is an aloof group that shuts itself off from the

college community as a whole, and is consequently not responsive to students' desires. Nancy Heaton, in the closing paragraph of her campaign platform that was published in last year's Pundit, stated, "My priority, therefore, is to do everything I can to improve communication between students and their government, in an attempt to revive a failing government which was originally created to be the organized voice of the student majority." It appears, in reading the remarks of this year's candidates and listening to general student comment, that this high priority of the S.G.A. has not been met. While Ms. Heaton's intentions were good, somehow she was unable to reach out to the general student population to elicit their viewpoints and command their respect.

Perhaps one of the reasons for this lack of student confidence in the S.G.A. has been the reluctance of the organization to take tough stands or to discuss the major problems of the campus. There was little or no discussion of the ice

skating rink proposal, a minimal amount of effort ex-

pected on the question of improper room entries, and little positive steps taken in the handling of the vandalism problems that have plagued campus life this year.

While, as mentioned previously, Mr. Carrington has done a good job as J.B. Chairman, he hasn't kept the promise he made to keep students aware of J.B. action through the publishing of decisions. It was done once in the fall, but we have seen little since.

As far as the Social Board goes, the biggest complaint that seems to be circulating is one of lack of imagination in planning events. In a concession to Mr. Davis on this point, it must be mentioned that he has tried to seek out student suggestions for events, but he reports that few practical suggestions have been forthcoming.

All in all, the most serious complaint about the performance of this year's S.G.A. would have to be one of lack of creativity in the handling of student problems. This, coupled with a certain reluctance on the part of leaders to take bold action, has left this year's S.G.A. with the stigma of a certain listlessness.

Looking ahead to next year, according to the campaign platforms, we can look forward to improvements in already successful programs and to the solving of the failures that marked this year's S.G.A.

Janice Mayer, President, promises us that she will encourage "campus unity, initiate and encourage a variety of programs..". She also foresees a more active role for the individual classes in determining student actions and activities, and increased opportunities for student-faculty interaction.

Vuyo Ntshona, Vice President, promises pretty much the same thing, stressing the importance of removing the aloofness of the S.G.A. and bringing the organization down to a grass-roots level. Due to a list of impressive accomplishments to his credit, he seems to have experience

Sun-Day continued

in doing these things, and we can only hope for the best.

Joel Mishkin, J.B. Chairman, states in his platform that the image of the J.B., which has been significantly improved during the past year, could still stand further improvement. He states several times that he believes that J.B. actions have lacked a certain human quality and that he will strive for fairness, and present the J.B. as an aid to the student, rather than it being something the student should fear.

John Azarow, Social Board Chairman, in his platform and his campaign sheets, presented himself as a person determined to improve the social activities of the school. He states that he will make an all-out effort to have Palmer Auditorium more available for concerts, and that he will make an attempt for a major concert in October. Much to the delight of non-drinking students, he promises to place "less emphasis on alcohol dependent events," hopefully meaning that at least water will be available at all campus parties.

Presented above is a brief recap of the major problems and glories of the S.G.A. for the past year, and the hopes for next year. The platforms for the two years in many respects seem identical, but the cure for this paradox would seem to lie in the central theme contained in the platforms themselves; that is, nothing can be accomplished without student support of the S.G.A. and a closer communication between the students and the Student Government. However, this essential rapport will not be achieved unless the S.G.A. begins to assert itself more effectively in the problems that confront the student body at Connecticut College. The Student Government Association must go beyond this year's practice of merely sending letters to the Administration expressing student concern. Instead, student officers must be willing to speak out loudly, and "step on Administrative toes" if it is necessary, on behalf of the students they represent.



never have an energy crisis as long as there is a sun if we begin to harness the sun's power.

Solar technologies are not "exotic." Many of them predate the oil, gas, and nuclear technologies that surround us today. Windmills, solar panels, wood stoves and small hydro dams have been with us for centuries. Now they are just waiting to be put to widespread use.

Solar technology in the form of solar hot water systems are now used in 2.7 million Japanese homes, 200,000 Israeli homes, and 20,000 buildings in the U.S. A basic unit consists of an array of solar collectors, typically located on the roof of the building, a hot water storage tank, and associated plumbing. The most commonly used collector is the flat-plate, essentially a box, painted black with a glazing material (usually glass) resting above it, and coils or tubing running underneath the box. The blackened surface absorbs the heat from the sun while the glazing material prevents the heat from escaping, thereby retaining maximum heat. A fluid, often an anti-freeze solution, is circulated through the collector where it is heated and pumped into a storage tank. Water is run through a second

coil in the tank, heated and drawn off for use. Solar hot water systems now compete economically with electricity in most parts of the U.S. and could compete within a few years with oil and gas, depending upon government price regulations, when compared on a life/cost basis.

Wind power is generated by the uneven heating of our planet's land and water.. plains and mountains, equatorial regions and poles. In the early 1900's, wind power was a major source of electrical power on farms and homesteads across the U.S. These small-scale generators served well for years, providing cheap, clean electrical power to thousands of rural and farm homes. However, the establishment of the Rural Electrical Administration in 1930 made federally-subsidized, centrally generated electrical power available to farms.

Interest remained in the potential of large-scale wind generators, however, and between 1935-1955, a number of machines ranging in power from 90 kw to 1.25 megawatts were built. One of the largest and most well-known, the 1.25 mw Smith-Putnum generator, was built on "Grandpa's Knob" in the mountains of central Vermont. While the success of that experiment was short

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Athletic expansion marches on

DONALD GOLDBERG

Connecticut College President Oakes Ames, recently announced that an anonymous gift of five dollars had been given towards the construction on an indoor-outdoor, multi purpose Rod Hockey arena. President Ames said that the donor had read the college's Case Statement, saw Rod Hockey as one of the school's priorities, and remembering his/her own college association with Rod Hockey, decided to give towards this goal. A Rod Hockey arena is listed as the college's 97th priority for new facilities.

President Ames stated in a letter to the college community his feelings that a Rod Hockey complex would be very beneficial for the college in many respects. For one, the center could be rented out to local pre-school age Rod Hockey clubs which would have leagues throughout the winter, and thus pay annual maintenance cost. (Athletic Director Charles Luce stated that Wesleyan University found that vandalism and hoodlums on campus were greatly reduced by limiting the age usage.)

The second benefit is the facility's multi purpose usage; when not in use as a Rod Hockey arena, a backgammon board can be placed over the floor for backgammon recreation. Other possibilities include usage as a poker table, a chess board, a stereo holder for concerts in the spring, and a bar for parties.

The third and perhaps most important reason for the acceptance of the generous gift, according to President Ames, is its potential draw for prospective students. The mentality of student the school feels it is now looking for would be greatly attracted to a center of this sort. When questioned whether the school should not concentrate on academic facilities with which to draw students, President Ames replied that the trend for small eastern liberal arts colleges of this type is to attract athletes first, and then hope for a few academically inclined students out of those.

The rod hockey facility will come completely equipped upon completion with full-action, spring loaded players, seating capacity for six, an advanced scoreboard with instant replay, and a converting top for its other various uses. The building will be completed in three stages. The first will consist of the roof and floor of the facility. When enough money is donated, the walls will be built, and finally, if enough money is ever donated, the locker room and concessions area for spectators will be added.

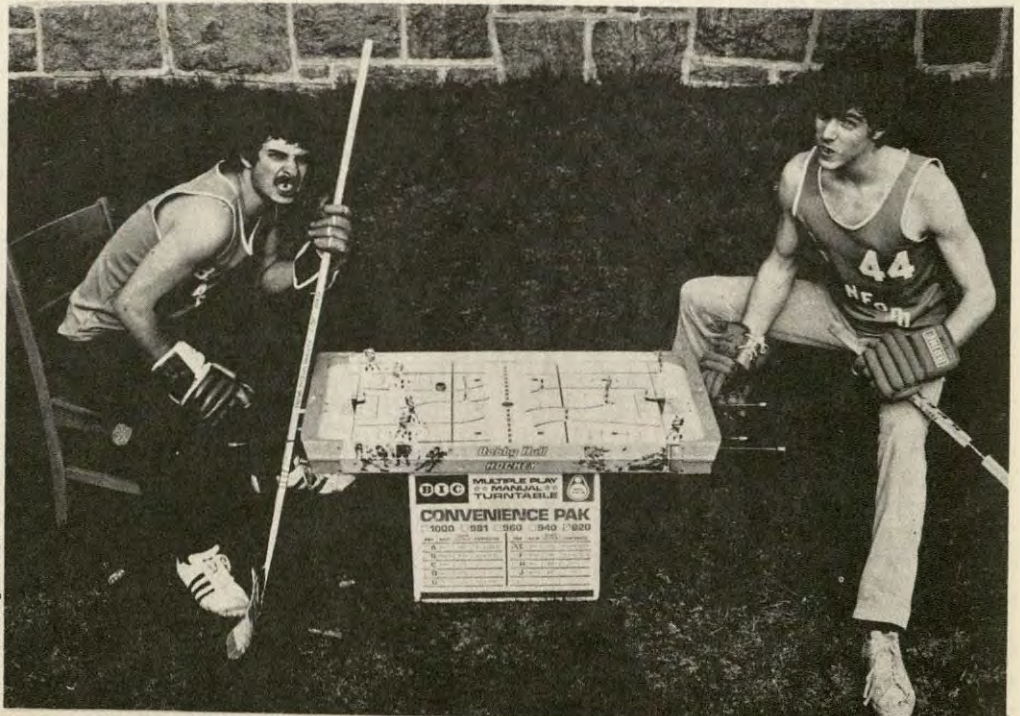
When asked about the funding for this arena, President Ames said that the donor had given enough money for the rod hockey pucks, but that the balance of the 1.5 million dollar facility would be paid for by further donations the President hopes to secure. When questioned whether he could guarantee that these gifts would be obtained, President Ames stated that he would be a fool to do so. However, he added that he was sure that the faculty would not mind a salary decrease to pay off the remaining costs, and that the students would gladly accept further class cutbacks in the interest of all those who would use this exciting facility. When asked about

whether adding to the outstanding library debt was a good idea, the President suggested that those students who would use a building such as a library were no longer the caliber student the school wanted to attract.

The President states that he immediately accepted the anonymous donor's gift without consulting either the students or the faculty because he felt that the addition would be in the school's best long range interest. Questioned about not giving the faculty any voice in this decision, President Ames insisted that they were too academically inclined to make a decision of this sort; and when asked about the student's voice, he replied simply that they had no say in the matter at all, for it was none of their business, and students should stick to problems more in their area, such as class elections.

Regardless of the student or faculty opinion in this decision, the Rod Hockey rink will be built. We should just be thankful that we have a President who is so thoughtful in acting in everyone's best interest, and that we can put so much faith in our President's decisions that he need not ask us about them at all. •

Photo by Gottlieb



Hockey is serious business at Conn.

Committees

Joshua Lyons

There are numerous committees here at Connecticut College. They are all divided into three categories: Student-Faculty Committees, College Committees, and Student Committees. All committees, except for Student Committees and special committees (e.g. Faculty Steering and Conference Committee) have joint membership between administrators, faculty, and students. There is, however, some question as to what these committees do, if they are effective, and how in the world people become members of them.

Two of the more important committees are the Joint Student-Faculty Budget Committee and the Long Range Planning and Development Committee. The Joint Student-Faculty Budget Committee (JSFBC) discusses budget and fiscal data in conjunction with Mr. Knight. The JSFBC discussed and suggested the raising of the Student Activities Fee for next year. The Long Range Planning and Development Committee (LRPDC) discusses plans about physical change of the campus and the need for new facilities. The LRPDC has been discussing Palmer Library and just recently has begun discussion about the proposed skating rink. Both of these committees also act as a liaison between the different factions represented.

The membership of these committees is divided equally between students and faculty with members of the administration filling ex-officio positions. Faculty members are elected by the faculty as a whole, and student members are chosen by the entire student body. Terms vary with the committee and the class of the student.

Some of the more conservative student members of these committees feel that they have considerable input in discussion and votes. However, other students who are more concerned with the issue of student power feel that students do not have much of a voice in these

committees. For the record, the LRPDC has had at least two meetings over vacation periods this year which students were thus unable to attend.

There is also a conflict as to whether these committees are effective. Some members feel they are and others feel that they are not. The fact is that these committees have no power. They may have a voice in what happens, but no authority. They are consultative to the administration of the college and can make suggestions. At times these suggestions are received and favorable action is taken as a result of them. At other times, these suggestions are seemingly ignored.

There is one other problem with committees. Many students are elected to committees and attend two or three meetings until they become bored, at which time they simply cease attending. By the time they officially resign, half of the year has passed without adequate student representation. Students need to know more about these committees before they decide to run for them, and if they should desire to resign from a committee they must do so immediately.

Due to the fact that these committees have no real power, some student members tend to become bored and/or frustrated. This feeling adds to the ineffectiveness of some committees.

While there are, of course some committees which have proven to be effective (such as the Student Designed General Education and Student Designed Interdisciplinary Majors Committees) the problems are great. Perhaps, the present system needs to be overhauled or modified to help make committees stronger and more effective, and to help them to assume their proper role in the college community. But above all, the decisions which committees make must be taken seriously by the administration, or else the whole committee system is reduced to the status of a meaningless charade.

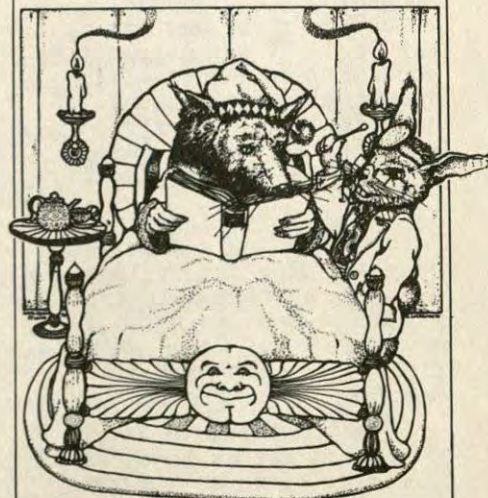
Cycle

Club

The Cycle Club meets every Wednesday at 12:30, for lunch, in Smith dining hall, in order to discuss that weekend's trip. We usually bike a total of about twenty miles. So far we've been to Harkness Memorial Park, Bluff Point State Park, and Lake Konomac in Montville. We leave from Lasrus Saturday mornings, have lunch, and are back by early afternoon. Come join us!

Other Book Store

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Eviction

SCOTT CALAMAR

The music. There is nothing like the music. Loud, full, spinning around, it takes me. Full, far, the undercurrents. Take me, take me. TAKE ME!

I gazed into her eyes. Their yellowness pierced me. Her taut blue skin almost glimmered in the phosphorescence of the glow lights. My legs were still a bit stiff from the nine hour flight. Those temporal transport ships are fast, but not exactly the ultimate in comfort. I was glad to be on the ground. I was glad not to be alone.

"Peace and salutations. It's been a long time, Koreish, how have you been?"

"Fine. You're looking well, Lenya. When they assigned me this mission, I thought about you. It's good to see you again."

"Thank you. And you too. When I heard that you were coming in, I thought I'd come to greet you. Alien worlds can be so lonely." Lenya's last sentence seemed to be built upon experience.

"Fortunately, I'm no stranger to this world. I'm surprised that you're alone!" She looked down, almost answering the question I didn't ask.

"Alien worlds can be so lonely."

"Yes, well, circumstances have changed. Masgro is on Symphthon. This is his second year there. He'll be a changed man...if he returns."

Is he helping with the Reconstruction, then?"

"Yes, their war was a bad one. It was a primitive nuclear war, devastating Symphthon's environment. I understand that they're keeping Masgro very busy."

"Has he written much?"

"No."

"I'm sorry, Lenya."

The two hours that we spent waiting for my luggage passed very quickly, we had so much to catch up on. As we got into Lenya's pick-up, I felt that old familiar feeling returning.

"I'd appreciate it if you could get me to my hotel quickly. I think all this traveling is catching up to me."

She giggled softly. "What a hero you'd make! Space sickness! I've got some Phartnon back at the apartment."

"My stomach would love you for that, but I do have a reservation at the Sheraton."

"Nonsense, I wouldn't hear of letting you do that right now. You're coming with me. I'll fix you up, you weary traveler. Then we'll eat. I've already programmed something special."

"You still remember that the way to this man's heart is through his stomach, I see. Reservations are made to be broken, they say. Can I use your phone?"

"Go ahead," she replied with a smile.

As we drove back to her pad, I noticed that Lenya's knuckles were very pale, almost white. She was very nervous and I hoped it was because she wanted me here. It took almost two hours to get to her place, but it was quicker than going to my hotel, which was five miles away from the airport. She really looked beautiful, more beautiful than I ever remember her being.

"I must tell you, Koreish, you cannot stay on this

world for long."

I smiled at her before I realized what she had said.

"What's the matter, Lenya?"

"Everything, but let's save it for dinner. That's my complex."

"Oh, you've moved."

She parked her pick-up and we took the tube up to her apartment. It was luxuriously decorated, the walls were black velvet, and the furnishings were white, chrome or transparent. The couch was soft and rippling, almost as if it were filled with liquid. We both sat stiffly.

"Now what were you saying before? What's the problem?"

"Koreish, please, I'll let you know on my own time. Give me a chance. Would you like some Phartnon?"

"It's okay, thanks. It's gone away. The ride

was pretty smooth. Seems like the roads have been improved."

"Naw, it's my new pick-up. It rides on a cushion of air."

"Hmm. I didn't even notice. That's one solution to the pothole problem, I guess."

We both had a social drink in her living room without saying a word. As the drink reached my brain, it triggered memories of the days when I was much younger, and the days before Lenya was caught up in Masgro's charm. She was mine once, but that was long ago. Being away from her did me worlds of good. I hoped that seeing her again wouldn't revive old feelings. But I wasn't too sure about that.

She looked at me with very steady eyes. She took a sip of what remained of her drink and licked her lips. "Koreish, you must leave this planet as soon as possible. For your own sake, it would be best to leave. Call the airport, get a reservation on the first rocket out of here that's got empty seats. Take me with you. Oh, god, Koreish, take me with you. After dinner. We'll go. This planet is occupied."

I suppressed a chuckle. She was being so melodramatic about the whole thing.

"Don't you think I know that, Lenya? That's why I was sent here. We'll help your planet shake the occupation. That's what you're so worried about? It doesn't look bad at all. I haven't seen one trace of outright occupation."

Her expression did not change. "That's exactly the problem. You can't see the occupation. The aliens, they have no physical form. They're parasites. They have no physical presence in this dimension, so they take over the bodies of those who live on our world. They steal our bodies! They go right through our skulls into our brains and take over. Throw the old mind out - or maybe they kill it. No bombs, no guns. Very neat, very simple. There are thousands of people, people who once spoke Tibrian, who now speak some absurd language

Bicycling

and avoid natives who are not occupied. Of course we avoid those who are now in the aliens' control, for we can't prevent the occupation. It's a frightening thing and the only way to avoid it is to leave this planet and hope that they cannot follow."

I was not told of any of this before. I thought that it would be a cut-and-dried physical battle. This was no job for a mercenary. But if I was sent here, the prospect could not be hopeless.

"Don't worry, Lenya. Something will be done. Is that why Masgro left this planet?"

"No, he didn't have any idea of this. He most likely still doesn't know what's going on. They aren't letting the news out for security reasons."

"Well, I guess I can understand that. It would cause a galactic panic."

"Yes, but I think perhaps other planets should be warned. And it would be nice if they would help us."

I thought for a few moments. "Yes, I can see your point. We'll see what can be done." There was a beat. A definite beat. Like a marching band. First the beat, the bass drums. Coming closer, getting louder. Now the horns, an entire orchestra getting closer to us, filling my head with music, sound, noise. A beat.

"Koreish, are you alright? You don't look very well. Do you want me to get that Phartnon?"

"Qytrdzn lhhyfcsrew gtxvrontpn."

"What?"

"Pbbodrtn. Fryzssertud mfkooyst lakiudratex."

"no. No! Don't do this to me, Koreish. Please. You're my only hope. STOP THIS!!!"

"Wrtnomjplh dnat. Wrtnomjplh knat."



SUSAN TWEEDY

Dogs, cars, pedestrians, and kids on bikes; all of these make a bicyclist tense, anxious, and at the same time, alert, observant and, yes, analytical. A bicyclist must distinguish between "normal" cars, cars out to run him off the road, drivers who think that bicycles have no right to be on the roads and obnoxiously display it, and plain old incapable or nervous drivers who might follow one for miles before attempting to pass. Traffic riding requires planning the unplannable. (Will you really have to run over that dead opossum in the road in order to avoid a collision?)

All this thought and observation can be quite unpleasant. But it also leads to a heightened sensitivity of self and environment. And being tuned to one's body and surroundings is an important part of living. Bicycling sensitizes a person in a way that no other sport can. It offers rewards that require more energy and hard work than can ever be imagined. When one finally does discover them-wow! It's a lifetime of enjoyment.

What have people found so special about bicycling? What drove some bicycling friends of mine to cross the United States from San Diego to Rehobeth, Delaware in three weeks, averaging one hundred and fifty miles a day? Or Ian Hibbel, a well-known tourist, to spend three

days in the Amazon jungle wading through thigh deep water with his bicycle on one shoulder and equipment on the other, when he found that the road was flooded? Or this writer, to spend numerous soggy days cycling through downpours in Wales and Ireland?

The best answer has to come from yourself. Mount a bike and experience. Feel the satisfaction of reaching your destination under your own power, and finding a fast but comfortable pace. Feel the sun on your face, the slightly chilly breeze on your hands, and the wind through your hair. Hear the birds claiming their territory, the farmer plowing his fields, the train passing in the distance. Taste the sharp, cool air. Smell the pines, or the ocean, or the earthy new smell of a spring day.

Bicycles are versatile too. They can be used for commuting, or touring with or without companions. They can take you through cities as fast, or faster, than a car. They open the country to discovery. And, on the practical side, they work on very simple principles, making repairs easy.

Your whole body and all of your senses are employed while bicycling. Sense perceptions are how we receive and learn about the world. That is why you should recover that old rusty bike and leave campus for a day to find new visions.

Tune in and turn on ...

to WCNI

91.5 FM

Senior Staff continued

already been made). President Ames stated that he "felt the students were consulted through the Long Range Planning and Development Committee." Mr. Ames does not blame the set-up of the administration for the lack of communication. Rather, he suggests that "perhaps the committee system isn't working at optimum; maybe they should be reporting back more regularly to Assembly and their constituents." It is perplexing that Mr. Ames blames the lack of communication on the Long Range Planning Committee when the Committee is in fact unfavorable to the rink, but had minimal say in the situation.

Mr. Ames stated that he was surprised at the amount of interest in the rink. He said, "I didn't expect back then that there would be this much interest in it." When asked how he could have been unaware of the amount of interest in the rink if he had communicated sufficiently with the student body, as he believes he had, Mr. Ames stated "I knew there was interest; it was the number of people I was surprised at." President Ames did admit that it would have been better to have held a forum about the rink in January, or even last spring, so that communication could have been increased. He said that his reason for delaying the forum was a lack of specific information on location and structure. However, many of the objections raised at the forum had nothing to do with the structure or location.

It is interesting that the students believe that a lack of communication is caused by administrative neglect, while at the same time, those in Farming believe the problem is student-caused. President Ames stated that he thought that obtaining student views was very important, but he disagreed on the extent or the form it ought to take.

Creating a balance between student and administrative initiative on issues is very difficult. But the initiative must start at the

top, and President Ames agreed with this. However, the administration must be careful not to use their knowledge as a device to suppress student initiative. If Senior Staff is to facilitate the necessary communication, then it is important that student interests be considered. Placing Dean Watson on Senior Staff would, at least, be a partial solution to the problem. ●

Sun-day

continued

lived due to mechanical failure and the complication and expense of war-time materials supply, it did demonstrate the feasibility of capturing wind power for electrical generation on the large scale. The wind power system suffers because it is at full capacity only 25 percent of the time. However, the low load factor is compensated for by low maintenance and zero fuel costs. The total cost of its electric energy is projected at 2 to 2½ cents per kw-hr, about the present average of electricity produced by conventional power plants. ●

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