Conn Students Practicing Safe Sex

BY KATHERINE SHUSHTARI '11

Whether it is a drunken mistake from the night before, the prospect of contracting an STD, or sexual assault, people on college campuses across the country are talking about sex. With adulthood on the horizon, no supervision, and possibly alcohol, college students can easily find themselves in the high-risk situation of having unprotected sex with a stranger. By the age of twenty-four, one in three sexually active people will have contracted an STD. STDs are, in fact, most common in college students. Conn’s Health Services and Counseling Services are well aware of college culture and have made Conn’s campus well-equipped to handle many sexual issues.

To many, Health Services is the place to go when you have the flu or you need to pick up a prescription. However, Health Services at the College offers a plethora of options for people who are concerned about their sexual health. They offer the Morning After Pill, STD Testing, and various forms of birth control including free condoms. Cate Moffett, Director of Health Services, makes it clear that all of these services are one hundred percent confidential. On any bill a student receives, it will not specify what the student is actually being charged for, but read “Health Service charge.” For any student who feels uncomfortable using the facilities on campus, they should be aware that there is a Planned Parenthood less than two miles away from campus on Franklin Street.

Cate Moffett addressed the question of STDs on Conn’s campus. “By and large kids here are educated and self-aware. The cases documented at Conn are low.” She continues, “Worried students who come in to Health Services are both “pretty careful” and “pretty healthy.”

Sexual assault is another issue that plagues college campuses across the country. On Conn’s campus there have been nine reported cases of forced sexual assault since 2004. It is state law that any reported crime, with the exception of sexual assaults reported to Counseling Services, be listed by Campus Safety on the Conn College website. Students who face sexual assault on Conn’s campus are first instructed to contact their Health Services, Campus Safety, or Counseling Services. As the website and the pamphlet offered at the Health Center explain, “These contacts will offer support and explain options in clear terms and help in the decision-making process.”

Janet Spoltore, Director of Student Counseling Services states, “If a student has been assaulted, they need health care and support. The Counseling Services is a wonderful option.” She then goes on to talk about how the counselors at Conn talk to students, see what they need, and how they want to handle the assault. “They can report it to the College or the police. There are a number of options that Counseling Services will discuss with the student.” She concludes that each individual case is different and can be handled in various ways.

Students at Conn were incredibly surprised to hear that Conn students have a low number of STDs, but that Connecticutt College is well prepared to handle many sexual health problems students may have. Though they shouldn’t detract from people practicing safe sex. Low stats doesn’t mean disease-free sex. You just don’t know what’s out there.

Natalie Thayer ’08, whole-heartedly agreed, “In this day and age, I think it is vital for a college to offer ways that help young adults practice safe sex.”

Charlotte Oldsman ’08 said, “I think that both Counseling Services and Health Services offer wonderful resources for people who have been sexually assaulted, but these resources are not advertised well enough. I think it is really important that students be fully aware of their options.”

Seamus Joyce ’08 counters, “It’s refreshing to hear that Conn students have a low number of STDs, but that shouldn’t detract from people practicing safe sex. Low stats doesn’t mean disease-free sex. You just don’t know what’s out there.”

With sex, STDs and sexual assault on the minds of many young college students, it is nice to know that Connecticut College is well prepared to handle many sexual health problems students may have. Though having a low number of documented STD cases is uplifting, practicing safe sex is possible with the resources the College offers.
Letter from the Editors

What is teamwork? Certainly we know the expression “there is no I in team,” but I was thinking about the word itself. Together everyone achieves more. That’s what it stands for, and as the campus community gears up for the big push before Spring Break, perhaps keeping the idea of teamwork in mind will help us all go further.

You need not ask an athlete what a team is, but what is the difference between a team and a winning team? Leaders ponder the question and try to work out its implications all the time. But what about the members of the team? Have you thought about the cooperative efforts—or even friendship circles—you are a member of? What do you contribute? Are you satisfied? Do your efforts get the credit you feel entitled to? Could you do a better job? Could you make someone feel more invested?

The College presents a complex environment: we work and live with the same students. Transferring our working relationships to the personal sphere can happen within seconds, and you can neither escape the additional layering of relationships nor avoid their existence. Sure, we all have bad days or days we would prefer not to see particular individuals, but actively eschewing a person or situation so as to not handle it is actually a passive maneuver.

Humans get upset, angry, excited, jealous, unstable, stressed, anxious—you name it—but what happens if you start to deny or not address the way you feel? I notice patterns in my own behavior under certain conditions and try to think through why I feel and act in that way. It’s not fair to others if you hurt them because you are having difficulty understanding yourself and your behavior.

Today everyone is a paparazzo and you never know who you are encountering, granted we may know most of our fellow students, but on the grand scale of things, you can not expect everyone to treat you as you want to be treated. My camera-phone may be my ticket to YouTube stardom catching someone stumbling around and selling the story afterwards to Star. What I am getting at is, you need to accept complete ownership of your actions, words, and feelings.

We all face drama, some of us more than others, but it’s part of our everyday lives. Learn to deal with it. Practice being a listener. Figure out what’s important to you, and hold yourself accountable. Live the honor code. When you join your team, group, clubs, or friends, you are a member of a team. Teams need everyone to move ahead; one single person does not carry a team. Everyone here is a college student, and that role comes with a myriad of academic, social, financial, familial, and mental complexities. You can spend your whole life pushing things or people to the background, but if you feel invested in a team—your community—that sense of belonging to something bigger than your individual self separates you as a valued, contributing member from the person standing in the background.

-Areti

PS: If you want to join our team, turn to page 5 to find out what positions are available.

Letters to the Editor

For those readers who may have not had their fill of scientific data from my letters of last semester, I’m presenting here an update on the global temperature.

This new data is from satellite observations, so is not subject to some of the criticisms which plague ground-based temperature measurements. The data set is from the respected Hadley Climate Centre of the U.K. The University of Alabama also has published a similar analysis of the data, but theirs shows a larger drop in temperature than the U.K. analysis. Two things to pay attention to: 2007 has turned in a very large decrease in global temperature; anywhere from about 0.6 (U.K.) to 0.75 (U.A.) degrees C.

Also, we are now seeing almost a decade of global temperature data since the 1998 high temperature mark that appears to have been the peak of a decade (1988-1998) of increasing global temperatures. However, as you will note, the global temperature has remained flat since 1998. It is too early to tell if the temperature will continue the downward trend started in 2007. Most climatologists are placing much of the blame on the current strong La Nina as part of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation. I would also note that during the time period of 1998-2007 the CO2 levels have increased from about 365 ppm to 380 ppm as measured at the Mauna Loa observatory.

Solar update: the Sun has yet to show evidence it is coming out of its current minimum in the 11-year cycle. It’s about a year overdue. The last occurrence of the Sun staying in a minimum was the Maunder Minimum of about 300 years ago which correlates with the Little Ice Age as I showed last semester.

-Michael Monte
Professor of Physics
Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

Compiled by Gozde Erdeniz '08 and Dasha Lavrennikov '08

National:
Higher Ed. Gap in U.S. Slows Economic Mobility
Economic mobility, the chance that children of the poor or middle class will climb up the income ladder, has not changed significantly over the last three decades, says a study released today by scholars at the Brookings Institution in Washington and sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

The authors of the study warned that widening gaps in higher education between rich and poor, whites and minorities, could soon lead to a downturn in opportunities for the poorest families.

The researchers found that Hispanic and black Americans were falling behind whites and Asians in earning college degrees, making it harder for them to enter the middle class or higher levels in society.

“A growing difference in education levels between income and racial groups, especially in college degrees, implies that mobility will be lower in the future than it is today,” said Ron Haskins, a former Republican official and welfare expert who wrote the education section of the report.

“The American dream of opportunity is alive, but frayed,” said Isabel Sawhill, another author of the report, “Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Mobility in America.” The report is at economicmobility.org

Europe:
Serbs Protest Kosovo’s Independence
For three days, Serbs in Kosovo have shown their anger over the February 17th declaration of independence by ethnic Albanians by destroying U.N. and NATO property, setting off small bombs, and staging noisy rallies.

Chanting “We won’t give up Kosovo,” some 3,000 demonstrators marched to a bridge in the tense Serb stronghold of Kosovska Mitrovica, which divides the two communities. U.N. policemen sealed off the bridge and NATO helicopters hovered overhead.

Protesters expressed their anger over the swift recognition of Kosovo’s independence by world powers including the United States, France, Britain — and now Germany. Some carried the flag of Spain, one EU nation that refused to recognize Kosovo for fear it will encourage Spain’s own pro-independence movements.

Kosovo, which is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, has not been under Belgrade’s control since 1999, when NATO launched airstrikes to halt a Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists. A U.N. mission has governed Kosovo since, with more than 16,000 NATO troops and KFOR, a multinational force, policing the province.

But Serbia — and Kosovo’s Serbs, who make up less than 10 percent of Kosovo’s population — refuse to give up Kosovo, a territory considered the ancient cradle of Serbia’s state and religion.

Some nations — including Russia, China and Spain — back Serbia in rejecting the move as a violation of international law and a dangerous precedent that could encourage separatists elsewhere.

But “Kosovo’s independence was an inevitable outcome” after years of U.N. administration, said Massimo D’Alema, foreign minister of Italy, one of the countries that announced its intention to recognize Kosovo as a state.

Middle East:
Iran Sentences Journalist to Death on Terrorism Charge

Yaghoub Mimehad, a journalist who also ran a charity apparently focused on improving childhood education in Iran, was sentenced to death. Ali Reza Jamshidi, spokesman for Iran’s judiciary, told reporters on February 19th it was “because of his membership in the terrorist Jundallah group as well as for crimes against national security.”

Earlier this month, local Web sites reported that Mimehad had been sentenced to death, but Jamshidi’s comments were the first official confirmation from the Iranian government.

Jamshidi said Mimehad could appeal his sentence to Iran’s Supreme Court. He did not give details on Mimehad’s alleged terrorism activity, nor whether his charity was involved.

Africa:
U.N. chief sounds new alert on Darfur
The U.N. secretary general told the Security Council on February 20th that the situation in the Sudanese region of West Darfur was deteriorating and that more peacekeepers were urgently needed.

“Over the past two months,” Ban Ki Moon said in a report to the 15-nation council, “the security situation in Western Darfur deteriorated significantly as Chadian regular forces and the Justice and Equality Movement launched several attacks inside Sudanese territory.” The Justice and Equality Movement is a Darfur rebel group.

Darfur rebels said on February 20th that 15 civilians had been killed in bombing raids by Sudanese planes near the border with Chad, part of a government offensive to clear out insurgents.

The Sudanese Army said it had opened a “cleansing” operation in the rebel-held mountainous region to open the way for humanitarian access and to rid it of Darfur and Chadian insurgents, asserting that they were attacking civilians.

“I remain extremely concerned by the security situation on the ground,” Ban said in his regular monthly report on Darfur. “Humanitarian conditions and access to civilians in need of assistance have been severely undermined by recent hostilities between government and rebel forces in the region.

Asia:
Musharraf Safe, Opposition Short of Majority
Despite the strong protest vote against President Pervez Musharraf and his party in parliamentary elections February 18th, the Pakistani People’s Party, which won the most seats, said it would not move against him since it does not have the two-thirds majority needed to impeach him or change the Constitution.

“Musharraf is our problem,” said Ahmad Mukhtar, who successfully contested a seat against the powerful ally of Musharraf, Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. “Today we don’t have the two-thirds majority,” he added. “It is very difficult to talk about impeachment.

The Pakistan People’s Party does not have a majority on its own and will have to enter a coalition to form a government. It is having discussions with the Pakistan Muslim League-N, the party of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, which won the second-largest number of seats in Parliament. Between them, with the reserved seats allocated for women added, the two parties will have the necessary simple majority to form a government and nominate a prime minister.

But to go beyond that would mean bringing smaller parties into the coalition or some independents, said Rehman Malik, a senior party official. “It depends how strong we are in coalition,” he said of any move against Musharraf.

Musharraf dismissed calls for him to resign. In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, he was asked if he would resign or retire after the election results. “No, not yet,” he was quoted saying. “We have to move forward in a way that we bring about a stable democratic government to Pakistan.” He said that he would work “with any party and any coalition because that is in the interest of Pakistan.”

Latin America:
Castro May Not Be Exiting the Stage Completely
On February 19th the 76-year-old Castro, born on January 31, 1953, gave up the almost unlimited power he has wielded in Cuba for nearly 50 years, but whether the surprise announcement represented a historic change or a symbolic political maneuver remained unclear.

It is expected that his brother Raúl, 76, will be officially named president, and some experts consider him more pragmatic.

Raúl Castro has talked about bringing more accountability to government and possibly working to improve relations with the United States. But since taking over temporarily in the summer of 2006, he has largely operated in his brother’s shadow, and, except for a few attempts to make connections through special envoys, he has brought about little change.

Under Cuba’s Constitution, a newly chosen legislative body, the National Assembly, is scheduled to select a 31-member Council of State on Sunday, including a new president. Fidel Castro said he would not accept the position even if it were offered to him.

In the letter of resignation, the 81-year-old Castro was said to be too ill to continue as head of state and would not stand in the way of others who were ready to take over, a sentiment he first expressed last December.

Experts say the decision on a successor remains in the hands of the Castro brothers and their inner circle, many of whom hold cabinet positions. Others said a younger president could be brought in or the posts of prime minister and president could be divided between Raúl Castro and one of the ministers.

It was not clear what role, if any, Fidel Castro would play in a new government, or whether he would retain other powerful positions, including head of the Communist Party.
Why We Love

Meet the staff behind The College Voice...

Caroyln Sebasky '09
a&e editor

I work for The Voice because I think that the paper represents us as a college. It provides our community with information about what is going on at Conn, but it also gives insight about who we are to the people who pick it up when they are just passing through. I work in A&E because I have a passion for music. I think it is important to keep our community informed about music and art worlds globally, as well as at Conn.

Gabby Kaminsky '09
photo editor

Photo editing keeps me in the know about campus life and it's a great way to meet new people who play an active role at CC. It's fun to be involved with the process of the newspaper and know that your "voice" is heard. The staff is great, too so it makes the job a lot more rewarding.

Claire Gould '10
advertising manager

I love ads of all mediums, especially print, so the opportunity to work directly with clients has been really exciting. When I think back on my time with The Voice, I realized that I've been working as Ad Manager almost as long as I've been at Conn — I began second week of freshman year.

Sasha Goldman '10
business manager

I started working at The Voice last year as a Copy Editor. I like to be busy. In high school my friends jokingly called me the "extracurricular whore." Copy Editing was one of those things that is an easy way to help out, as well as a good time filler. But as I got to know the people that worked at The Voice and more about the paper itself, I realized I wanted to get more involved.

Areti Sakellaris '08
editor-in-chief

I thought I would have a great deal of free time between being a senior and being a housefellow so that editor-in-chief would be a fantastic way to fill in that time gap. Who likes free time anyway? What is free time? I don't even like free time. My involvement with The Voice goes back to my tour guide; she was the editor-in-chief and she enlisted me to The Voice corps before I knew who my roommate was or where I was living. Stylistically, The Voice has changed since then, but the core Voice-ness is still there. I think we're going through a transition to something that could be really exciting and I am thrilled to be part of it. I don't know about you, but I want to be ready right when I get out of the starting gate with some media experience to my name when I go for jobs in PR. I like to be in control of things, pumping out ideas, and making little projects to stay busier. I am crazy... crazy about The Voice.

I enjoy being Business Manager because I deal with a lot of the administrative aspects of the paper while still staying involved with the editorial staff, a great group of people to work with.

Jason Starr '09
sports editor

I write for The Voice because I want to provide our community with reasons why Boston is the best sports city in America on a weekly basis. Joining The Voice also allows me to publicly condemn the vilest enterprise known to man—The New York Yankees. If you have something positive to say about the Sox, Pats, Celtics, or Bruins (if that is even possible these days), you should consider writing for The Voice, too.
...and this could be you next year!

Arielle Shipper '10  
photo editor

I've always loved working on newspapers because there's something new to be a part of every single week. The rhythm of putting the paper together is predictable, but what exactly it will look like is sort of a mystery until it's been printed and you're holding it in your hands. The Voice has a really strong team of great people that are happy to step in and do a little bit extra on your behalf if you're having trouble, and that's definitely the kind of environment that I hope to work in after graduating from Conn.

Gozde Erdeniz '08  
news editor

I believe that at a place like Connecticut College where many people take such unbridled pride in the shared governance system, The Voice acts as a crucial forum where students inform each other about what goes on in our community. My (almost) four years working for the news section taught me that the average student does not actually know about the inner workings and decision making processes at this school—unfortunately, shared governance, in some cases, has come to mean that a few students will be part of decision-making committees but the student body at large will be left in the dark.

What I try to do is to point to the changes (or the lack thereof) that are taking place at Conn, so that students will be informed, and those who have the will and the determination will take action if they don't agree with the school's decisions. We at The Voice are trying to generate discourse because as Foucault says, "...in a society such as ours...there are manifold relations of power that permeate, characterize and constitute the social body, and these relations of power cannot themselves be established, consolidated nor implemented without the production, accumulation, circulation and functioning of a discourse." It is up to our readers to make that discourse function. Now it is your turn to write a letter to the editor, to speak to your senator about it or even get an appointment with a Dean. If our voice is heard, THEN we can truly be proud of our shared governance system—and THEN The Voice will truly fulfill its mission.

Ben Eagle '09  
sports editor

I do The College Voice because I believe newspapers inform and shape the way we think. There is no greater satisfaction for me than hearing that someone has read and enjoyed one of my articles. I hope, whether they agreed with my opinion or not, it inspired them to think about the topic for longer than they normally would.

Staff not featured: Claire Dowd '08, Zach Adams '08, and Dasha Lavrennikov '08

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**Editorial Board Positions for the Academic Year 2008 - 2009**

No previous experience necessary. E-mail ccvoice@conncoll.edu and include the position you are inquiring about in the subject line.

**Business Manager** In charge of running a small business including paying bills, overseeing budget (SOFO), mailing subscriptions, organizing ads, and sending invoices. Must be well organized and responsible.

**Copy Editors** Expert spelling and grammar skills required. We use AP Style. Editors are assigned to work with particular sections and coordinate with that section's editor.

**News, Sports, and A&E Associate Editors** Responsible for assisting the section editor to develop ideas, assigning and soliciting stories, editing and layout.

**Forum Editor** Compiles events for calendar, creates back-page, chooses back-page photo.

**Layout Editor** Final layout editing, including overall visual copy. Knowledge of InDesign and Photoshop essential.

**Online Editor** Develops and maintains site. Knowledge of HTML and Adobe Photoshop essential.
Iron Harris Goes to Italy
Recipes for Conn Dining

By Heather Petrucci '10

One of the perks of having an Italian last name, despite being less than a quarter Italian, is the need for a steady and abundant flow of carbs directly to the bloodstream that comes with the title. Of course that also comes with a side of obnoxiously loud family gatherings and hairy guys in white tank tops, but consolation comes in the form of some fine home cooking. Then again, the incredible seven-course meals I shoveled into my mouth daily while visiting distant relatives in Naples a few years ago made my grandparents’ kitchen back in Connecticut look like the Olive Garden, but that’s beside the point.

Still, while there’s little more satisfying than a steaming, heaping plate of lasagna on a chilly night, when your cupboard is filled three-fourths of the way with more shapes of pasta than should be legal and still needs to be restocked weekly, it can get a little tiring. One can only handle so many consecutive nights of Grandpa’s homemade marinara sauce before one’s carb-jacked blood starts to boil with the desire to go back in time and kick Thomas Jefferson in the face for introducing pasta to America. News to you? Well, there’s one back in 15th centuries?

Now, although we have the daily option of pasta and marinara sauce in Harris, we’ve all probably marveled one time or another at a friend’s take on pasta primavera. Somehow, though, cheese and penne thrown together in the microwave for a few seconds just doesn’t come close to the real thing. If you’d like something a bit more authentic, here’s something you can whip together that’s as close as you’re going to get in a college dining hall.

Pasta Alfredo Primavera

Ingredients:
1 or 2 packets of butter or margarine
1 large dollop light cream cheese
10-15 shakes garlic powder
1/4 cup milk
1/2 oz. parmesan cheese
Pitchfork raves, “Though ostensibly an alt-country act, no amount of Telecaster bends or fiddle breaks are going to disguise Deer Tick’s indie-rock core.”

An Introduction to Wine

By Andrew Carten '08

Hello Connecticut College,

So, I got to thinking last semester that The College Voice needed a new column in the arts and entertainment section. After having been in France for eight months and interning in the south of France with a wine marketing firm, I thought that the College needed a wine column to educate the college community about this beautiful “grape juice.” Being that this is the first edition of the wine column, I want to introduce you guys to wine in a pretty unorthodox manner. As opposed to giving you list after list of wines to check out at the local stop and shop, I am going to give you a list of three cocktail based wines that I picked up in the south of France from my friend Julien. Wine itself has become more complex, more specialized, and more diversified since midway through the 20th century. Young people, not just in France, find themselves lost in the supermarkets with all the shelf-talkers (those plastic tags telling you why you need such and such wine), promotions, and 50 million chardonnays to choose from. In order to get the ball rolling, let’s start with these easy to make cocktail based wines that I alluded to earlier. Consider it your crash course into wine but from a different angle. You will be enjoying a drink that has wine as its base, but is not entirely wine. In the following columns I will break down several topics such as: the different grape varieties found in the world, matching wine and cheese, seasonal wines, bargain wines etc. Enjoy the cocktails!

White Cocktail
2 tears of peach syrup*
2/3 of Sauvignon
Completed by lemonade soda

Rosé Cocktail
A small amount of raspberry syrup*
2/3 of Rosé Wine
Completed by lemonade soda

Red Cocktail
A dose of grenadine syrup*
2/3 of Red Wine
Completed by Perrier water

*If you have trouble finding these syrups, the Blue Camel Café carries them, and could order you a bottle. An individual bottom runs for around 6 to 7 dollars but will last you for a long, long time.

Also, if unsure about which Sauvignon, Rosé, or Red wine to purchase ask the store clerks. They love answering customer questions.
FEBRUARY 27, 2008

BY BEN EAGLE '09
sports editor

Most of us know Margaritas. Their salt-rimmed, tangy margaritas and Southwestern cooking entrees seem to be made for college students. What most of us don’t know, however, is the restaurant that lies right in front of Margaritas: Voodoo Grill.

I first heard about Voodoo Grill from a friend. “Are you 21 yet?” he asked me in reference to the mystic restaurant. I responded I wasn’t and he trailed off. I didn’t understand why my friend became quiet at the time, but upon entering Voodoo Grill it all became clear.

With nine beers on tap, and Mardi Gras decorations arrayed on every wall, Voodoo Grill is plainly put, a party. The frosty pitchers with the perfect ratio of beer and head are tall; the decorations are lively and foreboding—one larger than life papier-mâché mask that looked as if it were stolen right off a float in New Orleans hung precariously above our table during dinner.

The libations and adornments prepare you perfectly for the food that lies ahead. A bowl of the spiced shrimp Creole, a basket of hushpuppies and the slightly smoky Crawfish and Corn Chowder. It was perfect, and when I finished my cup, I scraped the bottom of it wishing I had ordered the bowl.

I started with a cup of the Crawfish and Corn Chowder. It is a dish that the menu brags was awarded the “Best Chowder” in 2005. It may be 2008, but the dish seems as though it still holds the belt. The large, silky chunks of crawfish melted in my mouth and made me wonder how I had ever eaten crawfish without them. The seasoning was perfect, and when I finished my cup, I scraped the bottom of it wishing I had ordered the bowl.

Another one of my fellow diners is a hushpuppy lover. For his appetizer he ordered these cornmeal fritters with little bits of jalapeno. I tried one, and I can say without hesitation that it was the best hushpuppy I have ever had. The perfectly fried exterior is the ideal contrast to the soft, golden (yet not soggy) interior that lies beneath. The flavor of the corn is robust, and the spicy remoulade they serve along with the hushpuppies offsets the cornmeal beautifully. If it was socially acceptable, I would have been perfectly content popping puppies in my mouth throughout the meal.

But alas, it wasn’t, so I ordered an entree: Catfish Wrap. The catfish was delicious. The deep, oily flavor of the fish fills my head with visions of long southern afternoons. And when I eat catfish, I can’t help but smile. This dinner was no exception. I only wish there had been more in my wrap.

The accoutrements surrounding my wrap were less than exceptional. For my tastes there was far too much raw onion, and the sauce served in the wrap made it soggy and negated the need for the tasty remoulade that served on the side. Though it wasn’t the most successful dish, the success of the catfish will ultimately bring me back to Voodoo Grill.

Other dishes at our table included: A Doulie Boy (grilled andouillic sausage with cheddar cheese and Creole sauce sandwiched in a Portuguese roll), a deliciously char-grilled chicken sandwich, and a Cajun burger with Voodoo Fire heat. The latter was gobbled down without trepidation; a decision my friend regretted shortly after the steam emitted from his ears. Steam or not, every diner at my table enjoyed the little bit of spice and flavor that Creole and Cajun cooking brings to the palette.

Mardi Gras even without alcohol is still a trip to the beautiful city of New Orleans and a unique experience you can get nowhere else. Voodoo Grill is more of the same. Would my experience have been better if I could have sipped from the towering amber pitchers that lined my table? Probably, but even without that my food was tasty.

Facebook Wall without the sporadic displays of individualism and the landscape is shabby. If the film has a saving grace, it is undoubtedly Jamie Bell, better known as Billy Elliot. Bell plays Griffin, another “jumper” who is especially adept at “jumping” German sports cars and double-decker busses. While David (Hayden Christensen) is effeminate, unimaginative and pointless, Griffin is intelligent, melancholy and insane. He spends his time hiding in a cave in the desert playing video games and drinking cases of energy drinks.

Rachel Bilson makes her first big screen appearance in Jumper: Which is good. I guess. When the main character is as useless as Christensen, the love interest doesn’t have far to fall. She really steps outside her comfort zone and breaks down barriers for women hoping to find the right man and travel around the world at his will. Samuel Jackson is in villain mode, but to me it still seems like the same character. When Christensen and Jackson are in the same frame wielding an electrified stick, you might as well be watching episode three. The veil of originality is far too thin.

If the film can be said to have a project, it is to promote an eventual sequel. I wouldn’t be surprised if it’s already written, and in production. The film has the effect of a great trailer: you feel uplifted and excited but manage to follow conclusions while accepting. Even in films that are required to become sequels and trilogies, the writers manage to follow events to the logical conclusions while still leaving the audience wanting just a little more.

Even without a plot the film should have something to stand on. But the awesome power of the character translates into unappealing mindlessness. David Rice lives like any idiot with a trust fund and a Eurail pass. He is just a tourist on steroids. Instead of exploring the catacombs of Paris or using the pope’s private bathroom, Darth Vader is completely devoid of substance. The film goes beyond a mere lack of cosmopolitanism; it represents a complete disregard for its host cultures, as if David were visiting countless web sites. Though the tagline says, “anywhere is possible,” the subtext says “nothing is real.”
Men’s Basketball Not Finished Yet

BY MATT FAVA '09

Men’s basketball began their season with an incredible 15-3 record, but the team has cooled off significantly, losing five of its last ten games. After dropping two NESCAC matches to Amherst and Trinity, the weekend of February 15-17, the Camels were desperate for a final surge to make a run at the post season. It would not be an easy feat, however, as they had to travel to Williams and Middlebury—two perennial NESCAC powerhouse teams.

At Williams on Friday, February 15th, the Camels came out with great energy. They jumped out to an eleven point lead with just 9:04 to go in the first half, but Williams was playing for post season seeding as well and was not ready to fold. Williams battled back and reduced Conn’s lead to one at the half.

The second half, in many ways, was more of the same. The Camels quickly went up by ten, but Williams fought back, and with four minutes remaining, it turned into an absolute dogfight. The game was back and forth for a while, then the home team started to get the bounces and seemingly all the calls too. Although the Camels made a valiant effort to keep up—knocking down some desperation jumpers and fast break drives—it was not enough. Shooting a surprisingly low 30.0 percent from 3-point range and 47.9 percent from the field, Conn did not have enough firepower and fell 56-60.

With a 3-5 NESCAC record, the Camels had one last chance to make a statement in their final regular season game. It would be no cakewalk, however, as they had to make the longest road trip of the year up to Middlebury and play against the second best team in the NESCAC. On Middlebury’s senior day, there would not be a shortage of points as both of the teams scored over 85 points.

The home team took the early lead for a few minutes, but the Camels went on a run to take control of the game. Both teams shot below average percentages in the first stanza, and it might have actually been their 6-6 free throw shooting that allowed the Camels to enter the locker room with a slight 39-31 lead.

Coach Tom Satran must have said the right things during the half because the visiting Camels pounded the Panthers with a 21-4 run. Conn built a 25-point lead with 14 minutes left in the game due to solid play from the entire team: Charles Stone ‘08 scored 20 points, and Christian Mosley ’08 scored 18, and Jeff Young ’08 as well as Shavar Bernier ‘10 made key contributions that enabled the Camels to ward off a surging Middlebury team.

With three minutes left in regulation, Middlebury cut the lead to single digits and the Camels were only up by nine. Young, who has been consistently clutch all season, stopped the Panthers’ momentum when he drilled a 3-pointer to put Conn back up by twelve. The Camels never looked back and won 93-86.

After the weekend’s split, the Camels now have a record of 17-7 (4-5 in the NESCAC), which is an extremely impressive mark. Conn finds itself #7 in the conference and will face #2 Trinity in the post season. The Camels fell to Trinity at home by twelve earlier in the season and seek revenge against their interstate rival.

Editor’s Note: The quarterfinal match was last weekend. Coverage to follow.

Men’s Hockey Prepares for Playoffs

BY MIKE FLINT '11

After finishing up the regular season at home the weekend of February 15-17 against Babson and UMass-Boston, the Camels are preparing to face-off in the first round of the NESCAC playoffs on March 1st.

Going into the weekend of February 15-17, Conn was ranked 5th in the NESCAC above rival Trinity and Williams. Depending on the results around the league from that weekends’ games, specific rankings within the NESCAC could have changed. Conn has already clinched a playoff birth, however, and so no matter what happens they will play on March 1st in the first round of the playoffs. The final standings and playoff match-ups were announced on Sunday, February 24th.

This season will mark the Camels’ second straight playoff appearance. Last year, 6th seeded Conn was knocked off in the first round in a tough 5-1 loss to Colby. With an added year of experience, the team expects to fair better in the post season than they did last season.

And as of now, things look to be headed in the right direction. After a tough stretch through the middle of the season, the Camels have played particularly well recently. They have won their last four games and went 5-1 between 2/2 and 2/16.

Much of the Camels’ success over the past month can be attributed to great goaltending by goalie Greg Parker ’10. Parker was named NESCAC Rookie of Year last season and has continued to play well this year—especially over the past few games. During Conn’s winning streak, Parker saved 106 of 113 shots for a .938 save percentage.

Tri-captain Rob Campbell ’08, Robbie Tesar ’09, and Ryan Riffe ’11 have all also played well recently and have propelled the Camels into the playoffs.

Conn will receive a first round bye if they win twice over the weekend and Middlebury loses both its games. Even without anything to gain, though, the Camels intend to play hard and sustain a high level of intensity and momentum which will then carry over into the playoffs.

In order to advance in the post season, Conn will rely on strong leadership from Campbell and top-notch goaltending from Parker. Campbell will be capping off his collegiate career in these playoffs, and after a great four years as a Camel, he will give one last push for a championship season.
Women’s Swimming and Diving Devotion Pays Off
BY SOPHIE SMITH ’10

The Connecticut College Women’s Swimming and Diving team is having one of its best seasons to date. In his sixth season with the team, Coach Marc Benvenuti continues to lead these women to victory. Co-captain Mallory Watson ’08 describes Benvenuti as “devoted beyond words.”

Benvenuti’s dedication boosts the women’s morale and brings them success. “He pushes you to work your hardest everyday and to race at every opportunity you have,” says Co-captain Katelyn Brochu ’08.

This year, Benvenuti is joined by Will Wakefield. Wakefield graduated from Kenyon College in 2005 and has brought a new element to the team. Watson explains that “[h]e’s really brought his own experiences to the team, which provides for a new and interesting dynamic.” Benvenuti and Wakefield have coached the Women’s team to an outstanding record of 10-2.

Their meets often last up to three and a half hours and are scored per event—with only the top three swimmers scoring. Therefore, a team composed of many well-rounded swimmers has an advantage over teams with fewer members. This year the Women’s team is made up of 24 strong individuals who come together to form an even stronger team. Watson and Brochu both agree that the team’s biggest strength is their dedication. Watson comments, “[e]veryone is working towards the same goal—for the team.”

Over winter break, the team spent 16 days in Florida where they trained twice a day. Though practices were grueling at times, Watson says that the trip was a huge victory for the team and amemorable moment for the team and myself.

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The Connecticut College Women’s Squash team has received an outstanding performance from Ryan McManus ’09. Hailing from Marblehead, Massachusetts, McManus has improved to a 19-1 record as the season comes to a close.

Marissa DeMaio: You’ve had a great season so far, how do you think it’s been?

Ryan McManus: I am pretty happy with the way my season has gone so far. I’ve had more wins than any of my previous seasons, which is always exciting.

MD: What has been the key to your success?

RM: I came into this season determined to make it my best, and I think I have done that so far. I try and make every match equally important as the next, and I think that has really helped get me the record I have, which as of now is 19-1.

MD: What is your favorite part about being on the Connecticut College Squash team?

RM: I love the girls, especially, and we have a great coach who really knows the game well.

MD: What was the greatest win in your squash career?

RM: My greatest win was definitelystill last year against Tufts. I was the #1 seed, and the match was tied 4-4 by the middle of my match. I ended up rallying back from a 2-1 deficit and winning the match for the team and myself.

MD: What was the biggest challenge you faced this season, and how did you overcome it?

RM: The biggest challenge I faced this season, and every season, is the transition from soccer season into squash season. The girls [Squash team] has been playing all fall and it always takes a few weeks to get my strokes back.

MD: Do you have any pre-game rituals?

RM: I don’t really have any pre-game rituals. I always get nervous, which is something I’ve done in all sporting event situations, and I think it helps me to prepare for the match if I have a few nerves. It gets the adrenaline pumping.

MD: How long have you been playing squash for?

RM: I actually only started playing my freshman year here at Conn.

Marissa DeMaio: You’ve had a great season so far, how do you think it’s been?

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How Are You Not Entertained?

BY JASON STARR ’09

I consider fellow staff writer Steve Bloom ‘10 one of my close friends. He might be a Yankees’ fan, but he is still a good guy. But I completely disagree with his thoughts about the Clemens-McNamee congressional hearing expressed in his column “Yawn. Roger Clemens vs. Brian McNamee. Yawn.”

While I understand that sports fans would prefer to watch baseball games, nothing about this Clemens saga is boring. The congressional hearing definitely contained more drama and intrigue than anything else I’ve seen on TV in a long time.

I have been hooked on this story since Clemens claimed that if he had taken HGH, then he would “have a third ear growing out of [his] forehead” and “be pulling tractors with his teeth” on 60 Minutes. The cryptic recorded phone conversation between Clemens and McNamee continued to captivate me, and I could not wait to see what would happen next.

The congressional hearing was riveting on many levels. Both Clemens and McNamee stuck to their stories, and one of these men—probably Clemens—perjured himself and will go to jail.

The clear divide between the Democrats and Republicans was certainly not boring. The Democrats’ sympathies lay with McNamee while the Republicans favored Clemens. Christopher Shays (R-CT.) characterized McNamee as a “drug dealer,” and Dan Burton (R-Ind.) expressed his disgust for McNamee after he admitted to lying under oath in 2001 regarding steroid use in baseball.

Along with many other Democrats, Elijah Cummings (D-MD) did not find Clemens very convincing. “It’s hard to believe you, sir,” he told the seven-time Cy The committee chairman, Henry Waxman (D-CA), also asserted that Congress knows Clemens lied during his deposition.

Although members of Congress directed questions at Clemens and McNamee, three other figures played a crucial role in the hearing: Clemens’ wife, Debbie, and his former teammates, Chuck Knoblauch and Andy Pettitte. Neither Knoblauch nor Pettitte were in attendance, but they supplied Congress with affidavits stating that McNamee injected them with HGH which signifi-

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antly weaken Clemens’ claim that McNamee only injected him with Lidocaine and B-12.

Debbie Clemens sat behind her husband as he read a statement from her which insists that McNamee injected her—not Roger—with HGH in 2003. Whereas Knoblauch and Pettitte’s depositions create a strong case against Clemens, Debbie’s statement just complicates Roger’s defense and continues to suggest that he was involved with illicit drugs—not to mention the fact that he is completely throwing his wife under the bus.

Clemens claims that he is innocent and insists that Pettitte “misremembered” the specifics of conversations they had about HGH, but few members of Congress are buying this. While many consider McNamee to be a dishonest man, it appears that he’s telling the truth this time; both Knoblauch and Pettitte affirmed the allegations he made against Clemens in the Mitchell report, thus it seems unlikely that he is lying about Clemens.

Due to some rather bizarre moments, the hearing reminded me of the circus. I’ll always remember when Roger said he didn’t know what a vegan was or when he interrupted Chairman Waxman’s closing remarks. It was also incredible to watch Waxman apologize to McNamee for some of the hurtful comments that were directed towards him.

Although the hearing was not a baseball game, it was undoubtedly a spectacle. While I found it highly entertaining, there’s no question that this is an extremely dark time for baseball. I am deeply saddened that one of baseball’s greatest pitchers may have cheated and could face some serious jail time for perjury, but every new development in this case continues to intrigue me.

—f

So Fresh and So Clean Clean

BY BEN EAGLE ’09

On Sunday, February 17th, in front of the rejuvenated citizens of New Orleans, the NBA ushered in a new era. Sorry Kobe, Duncan, Yao, and Iverson. You all had your chances to be the face of the NBA. That time is over.

After watching the 2008 All-Star Game, it was clear that there is a new group ready to take center stage.

Leading this group of fresh faces is diminutive point guard Chris Paul. Paul, who stands just under six-feet tall, was selected by the New Orleans Hornets with the fourth overall pick in the 2005 NBA draft. With an ear to ear smile plastered on his face, Paul led the Hornets on and off the court.

On the hardwood, Paul is the reason for a basketball renaissance in New Orleans. In the team’s first full season in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina, Paul is averaging 20.5 points, 10.9 assists, and 2.6 steals per game. When called upon to relieve Steve Nash in the All-Star Game, Paul clearly outplayed the senior point guard. While Nash threw the ball away on several occasions, Paul used his silky handle, his crisp passing, and his nose for the ball to lead the West on a comeback in the fourth quarter.

Off the court, there is no better face for the New Orleans franchise. In 2005, Paul was the recipient of the NBA Community Assist Award. He has worked for both Habitat for Humanity and Feed the Children to make the lives of displaced New Orleans’ residents better.

Right alongside Paul is the Portland Trailblazer’s Brandon Roy. The smooth-handling guard who talks like a good-ole’ Southerner, Roy has led what everyone expected to be the most hyped prep-to-pro player of the century to the NBA, where he has become one of the most exciting players in the league. Roy’s silky handle, flawless crossover and teardrop jumpers, was an All-State wide receiver for both Habitat for Humanity and Feed the Children to make the lives of displaced New Orleans’ residents better.

As the first sophomore to play in the All-Star Game since LeBron James and Dwyane Wade, Roy was nearly as impressive. The shooting guard quietly put up 18 points, pulled down 9 rebounds, and dished out 5 assists. Maybe that performance will help everyone focus on this superstar who has been largely hidden by people’s inabilities to stay up for those late West Coast games.

Though he was never really below the radar (it is very difficult to remain below anything at six-foot eleven, 265 pounds), Dwight Howard announced his presence with gusto at the NBA All-Star Game. First, in a victory for all big men, Howard dominated the Dunk Contest. His dunk, where he slapped the ball of the backboard with his left hand only to catch and slam it in with his right hand, was one of the most skilled dunks ever performed.

Howard was just as impressive during the All-Star game. He was perfect from the field and pulled down a team-high nine rebounds. His alley-oop to LeBron was one of the top highlights of the game.

Speaking of LeBron James, what more can he do? In his fifth year in the league, the basketball wunderkind has handled the pressure of being the most hyped prep-to-pro ever. Last year, he carried an incredibly mediocre team to the finals. He has already released thirteen shoes—no doubt a requirement of his record-setting $90 million shoe contract.

They call LeBron King James for a reason. On the court, he seems to reign over all his loyal subjects. His height allows him to see over defenders and make passes that smaller players would not normally see.

And when he needs to score, watch out. His combination of speed and size (he was an All-State wide receiver in high school) makes him nearly unstoppable. In the All-Star game, he tallied 27 points, 9 rebounds, and 8 assists. Seeing him excel with all the talent around him begs the question: how much better could he be if he had a few competent teammates?

—f
The Childish Side of Chemistry
By Andrew Morgenot '10

Alas, dear reader, I have fallen victim to the flu pandemic sweeping through campus. As I lay here with my mucous membranes pouring out from my nasal orifices and a raging immunological response overheating my brain, I cannot muster the intellectual strength to piece together a clever article. Not to mention there hasn’t been much going on in the scientific community this week (maybe all the world’s scientists have this damned flu as well). So instead I offer you a selection of my collection of chemicals, taken deep from the bowels of my desktop. And if you’ll excuse me, I have to empty my other bowels. The flu is a harsh mistress, my friends.

No Pain, No Gain: Meet antipain. No, it’s not a miracle drug... in fact, it’s highly toxic. Antipain is a somewhat complex organic molecule that protects proteins from degradation. Indeed, the name comes from “anti-papain” in reference to its inhibition of the papaya enzyme that is often sold to bodybuilders and athletes as a protein digestion supplement.

Cummingtonite: Yes, there is actually a chemical— a mineral, really— by this name. To prevent outbursts of laughter during oh-so-serious scientific conferences the compound has been given the “official” name of magnesium iron silicate hydroxide. Yeah, like anyone cares. The guy who came up with “cummingtonite” must have had a stroke of creativity; the white mineral was first discovered in Cummington, MA.

Chemical of the Arctic: For once, a molecule that actually gets its name from looking like something. The structure of penguinone apparently looks like a penguin. It really doesn’t, unless you’ve been synthesizing happy chemicals in the lab, but of course, it’s easier to remember “penguinone” than 3,4,4,5-tetramethylcyclohexa-2,5-dienone.

The Overkill Chemical: Dead is what you’re going to be if you take DEAD. Diethyl azodicarboxylate is an important compound used in organic synthesis. But the organic liquid is like a James Bond-ninja hybrid—it will find some way to kill you. DEAD is an explosive sensitive to shock and light and is also thought to be a carcinogen and mutagen. It has also been found to be an eye, skin, and respiratory irritant. DEAD is often mixed with acid (oh boy!) to make a compound known as DEADCAT.

Fun: Not much is known about furfuryl furfurate other than the chemist who named it had a thing for fur. Also, it stinks.

The Smelly “-ines”: What do bad breath, a rotting corpse, and sperm have in common (besides necrophilia)? They contain a class of closely related compounds represented by putrescine, a small nitrogen-containing molecule gives decaying flesh its smell. Putrescine is also partly responsible for the odors of bodily functions, including halitosis (i.e., elephant breath), urine, vaginal discharges, and semen. The smell of this last fluid also results from—wow, what a surprise—spermine and spermidine.

How do you... “How do you make Ethyl lactate”? A series of compounds including ethyl celbate, ethyl formate, and ethyl lactate are in the same strain as the Blueberry Hill joke from 4th grade, but for chemists.

Of Pigeons and Poop: Ready? Ok: cristane. No? Only an ornithologist would get this. Cristane is named for “cristulum,” a bird’s anus. But no, this name is not the work of another perverted chemist. Several years ago a Brown University lab was left open and a few pigeons slipped in, making the chemistry lab their roost for the night. In the morning the researchers found their workplace covered in pigeon excrement. While cleaning up, they decided to test some of the feces and discovered it contained an unknown chemical. In honor of the pigeon organ that had bestowed the discovery, they named it cristane.

Chemicals for Hillary ‘08: Back in 1843 in upper New York State, a mineralogist stumbled upon a new compound and named it after the 18th century statesman, De Witt Clinton: clintonite. Perhaps he foresaw the personal fiasco of the future American president and the failed attempt by his rabid wife to follow him into office. Recent experiments have found that clintonite is significantly more unstable than the related compound of obamitane.

Political Superlatives
By Adrian Stover ’08

The presidential candidates who have survived the race thus far have gone through many trials to get to this point. They have had to endure a straining campaign schedule and countless rounds of debates in order to make themselves stand out from the crowd. Now that the American people have spoken, we are left with only four candidates: Obama, Clinton, McCain, and Huckabee. Most of the public questions that the four have answered so far have had to do with the war, the economy, healthcare, and other serious issues. However, what the American people have asked recently is “How cool are you?” Obviously, all of them have some degree of “coolness” because otherwise they would not have made it this far in the race. If we are assuming that the “cool” factor has some part in this, however, how “with it” are each of these candidates who are vying to be in the White House?

Consider for a moment the idea that life is just like high school and that each of candidates are running for prom king, queen, or class president, and that “coolness” is essentially popularity in disguise. How much of it you have depends on a few things. The first has to do with the amount of friends a person has and, the second involves what this person has done to deserve their high social status. To some extent, someone else’s coolness can rub off onto another person and this can be found among the friends of each of the candidates. To begin with, I would rate that both Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee are pretty cool from a quick judgement of the status of their friends. Obama has cool people like the Black Eyed Peas, John Legend, and Scarlett Johansson supporting him in the “Yes We Can” video on YouTube™. If that isn’t enough, politically cool people from the congressional varsity football team like John Kerry and Ted Kennedy are also endorsing him. Mike Huckabee does not have as many friends as Obama, but he does campaign with Chuck Norris. Huckabee has even appeared with the former star of Walker Texas Ranger in several humorous commercials, which raises his cool percentage by a few points.

What this person has done to deserve their cool reputation is dependent on drawing on some of their personal experiences. Obama has the YouTube video, and he continues to make some pretty powerful speeches that would make him a very cool class president. McCain hosted Saturday Night Live in 2002 where he did an impression of John Ashcroft and sang a medley of songs by Barbra Streisand (it is funny to watch, but I would have to agree with The Onion’s description of him as being “a gross dork.”) Huckabee broke up a fight between Conan O’Brien, Jon Stewart, and Stephen Colbert in January, and he plays bass in a band called “Capitol Punishment.” Finally, Hillary... Hillary does... I am sorry, but it would be a lie to say that she is cool. I am sure that many people would agree with me when I say that she comes off as being rather stiff and that this is an area in which she badly needs improvement.

In conclusion, I think that at this point, Obama just exudes coolness where the other candidates do not, and therefore would win the title of prom king and class president. There is some coolness in most of the other candidates, but they still need a little more work. Otherwise, they might not even have a date for the dance.
Musharraf Must Go

By Nayan Pokhrel ’10 contributing columnist

The most recent general election results could potentially rid Pakistan of the troublesome military dictatorship and bring a well-functioning democracy. America should revise its failed policy and actively support the process of democratization in Pakistan. Musharraf stepping down and Bush leaving the White House could very well be the best opportunity for a stable democracy in this troubled nation in a long time.

There was a lot of skepticism regarding the nature of the recently concluded general elections in Pakistan. Within the past few years, the independent judiciary was scrapped, popular media was subjected to different kinds of censorship, the imposition of emergencies have virtually stamped out any effective political campaigns and even the election commission was not independent. Just when the democratic forces led by former Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif seemed to be making progress, Bhutto was assassinated in what appeared to be a blatant lack of security on the part of Musharraf’s government. Many were surprised that the elections were held in generally peaceful conditions. Only minor incidences of violence were reported. Although the fairness of the election process is debatable and the voter turnout was about 40 percent the results are particularly striking.

Musharraf’s Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) suffered a resounding defeat, finishing in distant third behind Bhutto’s Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Nawaz Sharif’s Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N). The Islamic parties in the North Western Frontier Province also suffered heavy losses. These results allow two of Musharraf’s foes to form a clear majority government, which seemed to be the most likely outcome. A two third majority with other fringe parties could even impeach the president. Therefore, this election could have an enormous impact on the democratic future of Pakistan.

Only time will tell if these results are sufficient enough to compel the former commander-in-chief to step down and allow democracy to emerge in this Islamic nation, but the voters have sent a very clear signal. And the White House must listen. Pakistan will continue to feature as a key player in America’s future plans of combating global terrorism no matter who succeeds George Bush. Bush’s policy, like elsewhere, has failed terribly in Pakistan. Al-Qaeda activities have been reportedly increasing in the Northwestern province, and Musharraf has hardly succeeding in containing these large networks of terrorists.

America’s failed policy has already cost Pakistan a lot in terms of its democratic future. Had the U.S. taken a stronger stance against the incompetent and dictatorial regime of Musharraf and pushed for free elections earlier, the country might be well on its way to a functioning democracy. The Bush administration’s rhetoric of “encouraging democracy” on one hand, but continuing to sign blank checks without using any political leverage whatsoever on the other, gave the cunning general an excellent opportunity to brutally crush democracy. And brutally crush democracy he did.

Pakistan has been at a very turbulent political crossroad for quite sometime now. America’s poorly planned and unsuccessfully delivered policy towards this dangerous nation has not done any good to the latter’s stable and peaceful future. If America is concerned about the nuclear capabilities of Pakistan - as happens to be the argument frequently made by the Bush administration - it should be actively involved in the democratization of the army and help the civilians take control. The integrity of the Pakistani Army has come under fire time and again from the frequent allegations of its senior officials having ties with radical Islamic leaders. How can the nuclear facilities be safe in the hands of a divided army and not in an accountable parliament? The U.S. commitment to democracy in Pakistan has never been strong; not even after Benazir Bhutto was making a big statement by rallying the majority of Pakistanis for a democratic change within weeks of her returning to the country after nine years of exile.

It is too early to predict anything about Pakistan’s political future in such volatile times. There is, however, every reason to be carefully optimistic. The election results make a powerful statement. While other issues of radical Islam and Al-Qaeda will continue to feature in the political equations, Pakistan first needs to root out the military dictatorship. A democratically elected government and a civilian-controlled army will always be in the best interest of the U.S. as it seeks to combat global terror. Musharraf is, arguably, facing his toughest test to remain in power, but he won’t give up that easily. That is why international pressure, especially from the White House, is crucial. Musharraf has failed miserably in uniting Pakistan, and the latest election results have once again proved the lack of legitimacy of his presidency. Pakistanis will be happy to see George Bush leave the White House in November, but Musharraf must leave before then.

Art and Technology Symposium

Thursday, Feb. 28

Electroacoustic tape concert featuring pre-recorded music, 4 p.m. in Fortune Recital Hall, Cummings.

Artistic installation viewing, 5 - 6:30 p.m., third floor in Cummings. Artist Eric Dyer will use a zentangle to create an artistic animation that will be projected onto a blank wall.

Multi-media concert featuring music, dance, video, animation and interactive performances, 8 p.m., Evans Hall, Cummings. Tickets $15.

Friday, Feb. 29

“World of Warcraft: Race, Labor and Avatars in Shared Digital Space,” keynote speech by Lisa Nakamura, associate professor of speech communications and Asian American studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign, 4 p.m. in Evans Hall, Cummings.

A multi-media concert featuring music, dance, video, animation and interactive performances, 8 p.m., Evans Hall, Cummings. Tickets $15.

Saturday, March 1

A screening of videos and animated films, 4 p.m., Olin 014.

A performance by the New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, co-sponsored by onStage at Connecticut College, and other multimedia artists, 8 p.m., Evans Hall, Cummings. Tickets $15.

Symposium sponsored by the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology and co-sponsored by the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity; the departments of music, computer science and art; Citizens Bank; Chester Kitchings Foundation and Sherman Fairchild Foundation.

Connecticut College VP Ulysses Hammond Recognized as Renowned African-American leader by Dominon

Ulysses Hammond, Connecticut College’s vice president for administration, has been recognized for his accomplishments and leadership by Dominon, the nation’s largest energy producer, through its “Strong Men & Women” educational series.

The program highlights the accomplishments of African-American role models and converts their stories into an education series distributed during Black History Month to more than 12,000 schools across Dominon’s natural gas and electric franchise service areas. An award ceremony was held recently at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center in Cleveland, Oh.

In honor of Hammond, Dominon is donating $5,000 to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund in New London, which grants annual scholarships to children in southeastern Connecticut who exemplify King’s spirit by living their lives in pursuit of his goals.

“I am unbelievably honored and humbled by this award,” Hammond said. “I hope this will inspire kids of all ages to recognize their full potential and continue their pursuit of excellence in education.”

At Connecticut College, Hammond serves as the chief administrative and business operations officer and is coordinator of the college’s legal and community affairs. Currently, Hammond is leading the college’s $53 million, 10-year campus renewal effort. The renewal plan focuses on restoring campus buildings, walkways, roadways and vistas in the College’s overall effort to embrace technology in learning environments, revitalize student residential life, boost energy efficiency and modernize faculty and staff office spaces.

Additionally, Hammond is overseeing the construction of a new $8 million fitness center on campus.

A leader on campus and in the community, Hammond has earned numerous honors and awards, including the 2006 Connecticut Man of the Year Award, and the “Measure of a Man” Award from the Washington Inter-University Council of the College Fund/United Negro College Fund and the Tutoring for Success/Preparing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today program in New London, Conn. Hammond is also heading up a new campus club dedicated to providing support and leadership services to male students of color.

Prior to his current position at Connecticut College, Hammond served as chief executive officer of the District of Columbia Courts from 1990 to 2000, and was the first African American in the United States to administer an appellate and general jurisdiction court system. Hammond’s professional experience capped a 22-year career as a judicial administrator, during which he also served as associate state court administrator for the Michigan Supreme Court and as court executive for the Third Judicial Circuit Court in Detroit.

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Upcoming Film Releases

2/29:
- The Other Boleyn Girl
- Penelope
- Semi-Pro

3/7:
- 10,000 B.C.
- The Bank Job
- College Road Trip

Upcoming Album Releases

2/26:
- Beach House-Devotion
- Goldfrapp-Seventh Tree
- Janet Jackson-Discipline

3/4:
- The Black Crowes-Warpaint
- Dr. Dog-Passed Away
- Our Last Night-The Ghost Among Us
Hot Pink, Dancing Robotz

BY CLAIRE DOWD ’08

Sometimes a tee shirt really does “say” it all. Someone’s entire aura and personality can be encapsulated in graphics printed on cotton. Incognito Sofa Love’s saxophonist, Adam Demorest, donned a shirt with neon green and red levels that actually moved up and down with the rise and fall of volume. I am sure there is a technical name, but it’s as if he had a little volume-o-meter on his chest.

It is an awesome shirt. It evokes the quirkiness and electronic nature of the robot, their beloved “mascot,” and the band’s aesthetic as a whole. Incognito Sofa Love performed at the Robot Invasion!, which celebrated this science-fiction staple. Robots are a unique creation; they represent both the unlimited potential of technology and the antiquated, industrial past. Robots can be sleek or clunky. They are both the Tin Man and Optimus Prime.

Incognito Sofa Love’s music perfectly complimented the colorful robot paintings that adorned the wall and the muted, anime films that were projected behind the stage. A robot is a hodgepodge of different parts that come together to create an advanced whole. The same can be said of Incognito Sofa Love. The band’s sound melds electronic, futuristic sounds with classic rock, punk, alternative, and jazz. They are quirky, funky, and a little strange, but it all works in their favor.

They have become staples of the New London music scene, and with the talent they boast, they have garnered a devout following. They have just put out a full-length LP entitled Hot Pink. With their sonically sophisticated songs, all the members show off their musical chops. Rob Jenson is one of the most skilled guitarists I’ve had the privilege of seeing. His bluesy riffs and soaring solos create a remarkable juxtaposition with the complex funk of the beat, provided by bassist Justin Credible and drummer Michael Winslow. Adding the futuristic, “robotic” sound is Demorest, on saxophone and this other really cool tech-y instrument that looks like a Nintendo controller.

Yet sophistication does not necessarily equal seriousness—the band knows how to have fun. Despite the integrity of their songs, they all have an element of humor. Incognito Sofa Love doesn’t take it all too seriously; the cover of Hot Pink is a giant, animated sofa with a massive pink tongue spilling onto the floor. The rest of the album is decorated with robots.

Hopefully, people saw their performance last year at Floralia (a reprise this year would be awesome!), but if not, they have plenty of shows happening in the next couple of months. They are one of the best local bands and their talent will astound you. Check out their myspace (http://www.myspace.com/isl), buy their CD, and see their shows! And then hot pink, dancing robots will invade your brain!

80 Years of Ferragamo and an IPO Offering

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS ’08

Cristina Ortiz is celebrating her debut at Ferragamo before the house’s eightieth anniversary party in Shanghai next month. The autumn/winter collection presented in Milan on February 19th is straight from her martini mixer.

Starting with a series of all white ensembles of slouchy suits and fur-trimmed coats, the models looked like the incarnation of modern-day angels descending on the runway. However, Ortiz later shifts to the dark side with darker colors, more skin, and slinkier materials sculpting the body, expressing a younger look not usually associated with Ferragamo.

On the eve of Ferragamo’s listing on the stock exchange, expanding the brand’s image is of outmost concern. Michele Norsa, CEO, told Women’s Wear Daily, “It’s clear that every market depends on the level of penetration a brand has.” Ferragamo very well may be in the midst of a new marketing campaign to attract a younger customer, as the print ads portraying Claudia Schiffer as a paparazzi-hounded celebrity suggest.

Though WWD reports Italian fashion houses lost a third of their worth in the past month, the autumn/winter collection presented in Milan on February 17th, unveiled in Milan on February 17th, shifted from trendy sweater dresses. Whether it be for fear of an impending recession or an increased desire to stake out Missoni’s place in the luxury market, the collection caters to a clientele who do not necessarily want cutey party-girl dresses.

Missoni was stigmatized as being clothing for either the orange-skinned Donna or a tiny starlet going out; but there is no question that this collection is about class and old-world glamour. What is different in this collection is the texture, with a softer collection, off-the-shoulder blouses and stoles cocooning the body while evoking a subtly sexy look.

Luxe mink, silk tulle, and cashmere wrapped the house’s signature turquiose and muted brown tones to create graphic coats, streamlined eveningwear, and tailored sportswear.

In the midst of revamping Missoni’s image, one would be remiss to think the show lacked the sparkle and glitter of strass and metallic threads. The back-to-basics theme is part of an on-going movement by designer Angela Missoni to accommodate a polished sophisticate, and the zigzags were transposed to strategic positions like the lining of a coat to flash—rather than being flashy.

The show’s finale, a cream silk tulle gown with a high ruffle collar worn by Lily Donaldson, is already a favorite with fashion insiders. An overall organic presentation with the customary 1970s palette and flower motifs, the strikingly arranged collection offers an alternative to some of the other directions fashion is moving in that it integrates silhouettes with patterns that have yet to be paired.
WEEKLY CALENDAR
FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 4

**WEDNESDAY**

**EVENT**
JA/FR International Dinner, JA and Freeman Dining Halls, 4:30 p.m.

The Providence String Quartet of the Community Music Works, Chapel, 4:30 p.m.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICE**
Roman Catholic Lenten Mass, Chapel, 5:00 p.m.

**EVENT**
Black History Month Movie, Unity House, 6:30 p.m.

Dinner with 12 Strangers, see online calendar, 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

**FITNESS**
Personal Trainer, Fitness Center, 12:00 p.m.

**LECTURE**
Contact Detonation: Montage, Meaning, and Modernism in The Work of Yokomitsu Riichi, Woodworth Room 105, 2:30 p.m.

**EVENT**
Arts and Technology Symposium Tape Concert, Fortune Hall, Cummings, 4:00 p.m.

Electronic Music Concert, Fortune Hall, Cummings, 4:00 p.m.

Lesbian and Gay Civil Unions in CT - Rights and Restrictions, LGBTQ Resource Center, 4:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY**

**EVENT**
An Inside Look at Law School & Law Practice with Attorney Kurt Devylder ’04, Cro Bar, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Arts & Technology Symposium Keynote Address by Lisa Nakamura, Evans, Cummings, 4:00 p.m.

Alumni Panel “The Business of Professional Sports; Beyond the Playing Field,” Ernst Common Room, Blaustein, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICE**
Shabbat Dinner, Freeman, 6 p.m.

**EVENT**
Dinner with 12 Strangers, see online calendar, 7:00 p.m.

Working, Tonsill, 8:00 p.m.

Arts & Technology Symposium Multi-Media Concert, Evans, Cummings, 8:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

**EVENT**
Working, Tonsill, 2:00 p.m.

Arts & Technology Symposium Video Showing, Olin 014, 4:00-5:15 p.m.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICE**
Roman Catholic Mass, Chapel, 5:00 p.m.

**EVENT**
Arts & Technology Symposium Multi-Media Concert, Evans, Cummings, 8:00 p.m.

New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, Evans, Cummings, 8:00 p.m.

Working, Tonsill, 8:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY**

**EVENT**
Working, Tonsill, 2:00 p.m.

**RELIGIOUS SERVICE**
Protestant Worship and Fellowship, Chapel, 5:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry, Chapel, 6:00 p.m.

**MONDAY**

**FITNESS**
Personal Trainer, Fitness Center, 12:00 p.m.

**MEETING**
Women ’s Center Programming Committee, Women’s Center, 4:00 p.m.

Transgender Rights Advocate Dean Spade, Cro, 7:00 p.m.

**MEETING**
Habitat for Humanity, Larrabee Common Room, 10:15 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

**FITNESS**
Community Yoga Class, 1941 Room, 5:00 p.m.

**EVENT**
Power Point 101, Davis Classroom, Shain, 11:00 a.m.

“Synthesis, Characterization, and Applications of Transition Metal Containing Conducting Polymers,” Brown Auditorium, Hale Lab, 4:30 p.m.

“None but the Lonely Heart,” Music Faculty Recital, Chapel, 8:00 p.m.