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Pundit

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



Vol. 55 No. 14

New London, Conn.

Thursday, March 2, 1972

—Controversy— Administration Ctte. Closed to Innovation

By PAT WHITTAKER
MARY CERRETO

A great portion of academic reform now being considered and discussed would not be necessary if the mechanisms of academic liberality were in fact a part of the prevailing philosophy rather than merely vague statements in the faculty handbook.

The Administration Committee is essentially the work-horse committee of the college. Its duties are (a) to act in an advisory capacity to the President and the Class Deans, (b) to give consideration to matters involving general college policy, (c) to consider petitions from students and faculty, and render decisions in cases where dispensation from a rule may be deemed equitable, or in cases not covered by existing regulations, (d) to grant an instructor permission to substitute a final paper for a final examination, and to rule on any plans which substitute some project for class attendance for an extended period of time, (e) to make decisions concerning individual proposals for irregular programs for the degree, including foreign study, study at other institutions, reduced programs, and accelerated programs, and (f) to administer academic discipline.

The importance of this committee is obvious. As evidenced by (c), (d), and (e) above, an individual's academic flexibility is determined by the Administration Committee. The flexibility of student and instructor alike lies in the hands of this committee. As a result of the educational recommendations of the 1970 Strike, student members elected to faculty committees supposedly "have voting privileges on the committees to which they were elected." However, the Administration Committee has delineated its functions in such a way as to relegate its student members to token participants. Student members are not allowed to attend any committee meeting dealing with items (c), (d), (e), or (f) above. They are not allowed to participate in any discussion of these matters, much less permitted to vote. Students on the committee are permitted both discussion and vote on only those matters concerning general college policy. Even here the vote is

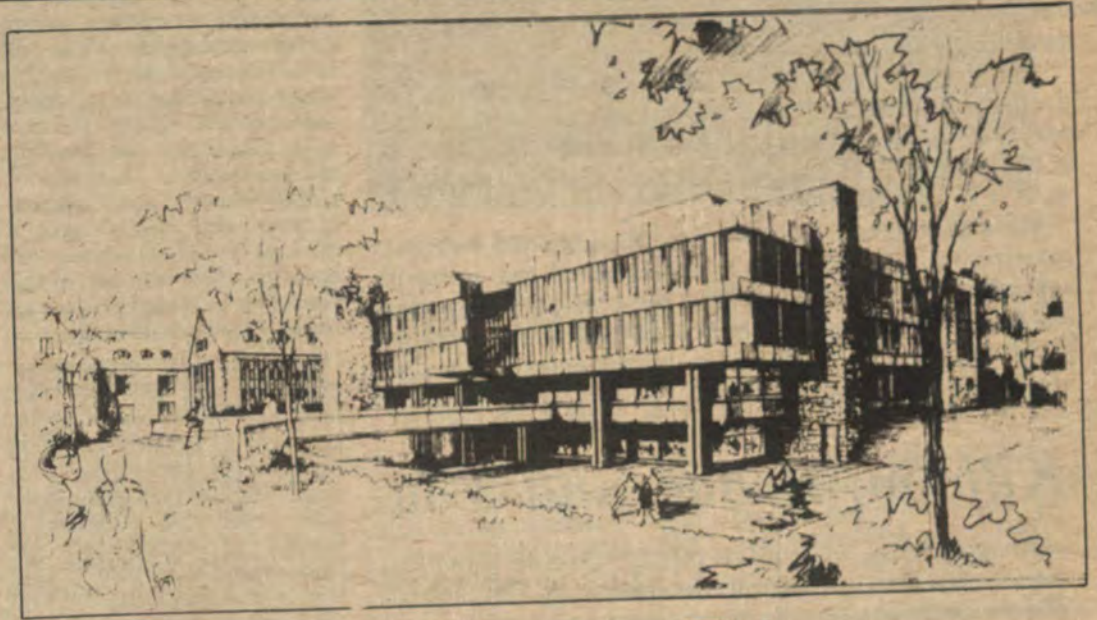
essentially no more than an opinion poll—general policy matters voted upon go from the Administration Committee to the Academic Policy Committee merely as suggestions to be enacted upon.

The reasons given for student exclusion on these matters revolves around the concept of confidentiality for the student or professor petitioning. It has been the Committee's position that students do not want other students to act on their petitions. We believe this to be a mistaken position and feel that students here believe that they have elected student members to represent the ideas and reasons behind their innovative proposals.

On the other hand we as students recognize the fact that in areas of academic discipline or matters with a medical component, the petitioning student may indeed wish to preserve this confidentiality. What we propose is not a blanket vote on all petitions but rather the ability for the petitioning student to choose whether or not he wishes his proposal to be enacted upon by his elected representatives on the committee.

We believe only in this way can the committee achieve its full potential as a key body of academic innovation and flexibility. Students will then be able to represent the innovative educational ideas that are flowing through their classes and dorms to a body that has the power to enact them on an individual level. These will include such individual proposals as three course semester loads, five-year educational plan, plans for accelerated study, withdrawals for purposes not covered by established rules, taking the entire senior year at another institution, etc. The Administration Committee has the power to enable a student to realistically fulfill his educational philosophy in ways not necessarily covered by "rules and regulations." To exclude students from the position of being able to aid enactment of individual proposals is blocking off another avenue of student-faculty - administration communication on issues where it is absolutely vital to have student representation.

Pat Whittaker '74
Mary Cerretto '73



Trustees Meet, Discuss Budget, Library Plans

At a series of meetings last Thursday and Friday, the Board of Trustees of Connecticut College discussed and approved the budget for 1972-73.

Also discussed at the meetings were plans for the new library and perimeter road, improved campus lighting, a faculty-trustee liaison committee, and other business.

Because of increases in salaries, scholarships, and institutional costs, tuition and room and board will each be raised by \$100, to \$2,800 and \$1,220 respectively.

A public meeting will be held on Monday, March 6 at 4:20 in Palmer Auditorium. President Shain and Mr. Knight will present the new budget to the College. The Co-chairman of the College Development Committee will be invited to appear at the meeting.

On Thursday night, the Trustees met with members of the Library and Development Committees to discuss plans for the new library and consider various proposals for handling campus traffic and parking problems.

Also present were three students from a seminar in modern architecture, who presented "an alternative to the perimeter drive," including plans to exclude vehicular traffic from the center of the campus. President Shain described the master plan for the Conn College campus, including the new library, a central pedestrian mall, central dining hall, and field house.

Preliminary plans for the library were shown and discussed. The plans include a relatively open main floor, with main circulation desk and

reserve desks adjacent to one another, a current periodicals area, reading areas, offices and display areas. The plans for a lower level include a 24-hour study area with an outside entrance, a seminar room, and stacks for bound periodicals and government documents. An upper level will contain stacks with study areas, and two seminar rooms.

Shain presented an architects'

drawing of the exterior of the building, illustrating recommended materials. The architects plan to utilize precast concrete and glass in the facade, with projecting vertical stair towers covered in granite to relate the building with the existing library.

A plan for a perimeter drive was presented to the Trustees. The plan had been prepared by
(Continued On Page 6)

Minority Report is Inaccurate: Shain

President Charles Shain stated Monday that the Minority Report of the College Development Committee was, in his opinion, "irresponsible".

"I believe the minority report has certain inaccuracies," he said. These inaccuracies concerned the comparison of the budgets of Connecticut College and Fairfield University.

John Schwartz, Co-Chairman of the Development Committee, wrote the report. Other student members of the committee signed the report in agreement of Schwartz's belief that the scholarship allotment recommended by the committee was inadequate.

Mr. Schwartz had been told that there were errors (in the figures he used)," Shain said, "but he continued to use them." The minority report was published in Pundit after Sch-

wartz had been made aware that his figures were incorrect.

"The Physical Plant budget of Fairfield is not \$541,000, but \$896,000," Shain stated. He added that "We do not recognize the figure Schwartz uses for our enrollment." Schwartz put the figure at 1650; actually, the number of students who use the College facilities is considerably greater, according to Shain. This puts the per student costs listed in the report into question.

"One way to figure costs," Shain said, "is to divide the total number of square feet in the school by the costs." The figure arrived at for Conn College is approximately \$1.50 per square foot; that of Fairfield University is \$1.18 per square foot.

Shain pointed out that Connecticut College has about three times as many buildings as Fairfield. More people are on the payroll at Conn that work for
(Continued On Page 7)

Parity in Numbers Only

It is suddenly becoming obvious why students rarely hear of the activities of the various student-faculty committees: either the committees rarely discuss the important issues, or the student members of the committees have little in the way of actual power, or both.

It has been approximately two years since the idea of student-faculty parity on committees was accepted by the College. Those two years have apparently proven that parity in numbers does not guarantee anything even remotely resembling parity in influence. It is time to reexamine the committee system, and to seek effective means of giving students a real instead of a symbolic role in decision-making.

Pundit will continue its series of interviews with student members of the committees, and will also interview faculty members. Any member of any committee is invited to submit his or her views on committee activities and problems.

The editorial board regrets having published incorrect information in last week's coverage of the minority report. We were unaware that the statistics John Schwartz used were in some cases incorrect. We deplore the fact that he was aware of these inaccuracies, but did not inform us of them.

Kilham, Beder, and You

Although it may at times be difficult to determine just who makes the important decisions at Connecticut College, decisions usually do manage to be made, and sometimes well.

An example of a good decision is the College's choice of the firm of Kilham, Beder, and Chu as architects for the new library. Parusal of the many, many brochures and pamphlets sent to the school by architectural firms, and evaluation of the architects' work so far leads us to conclude that of all the architects considered, KB&C are the most competent, experienced and cooperative. We may not get an architectural masterpiece, but we are almost assured of a handsome and practical new library.

No plan is without its imperfections, however. Because of budget problems, preliminary plans indicate that the new building will seat only 500 students — less than 50 more than the present library's capacity. Considering the fact that the enrollment of the College is increasing, and the probability that the new library will attract a larger percentage of the student body than the present building, we feel that this number is inadequate.

We urge that all possibilities for increasing the seating in the new library be explored. It would be unfortunate to have to cope with a library that is overcrowded the day it opens.

Announcing...

Important meeting for all those interested in a Natural Foods Co-ed Co-op next year — Monday, March 6, 6:45, Burdick living room.

SURVIVAL meeting to plan Earth Week program. Tuesday, March 7, 6:45, KB living room.

The sophomore class will sponsor a Crafts Fair to be held on April 5 and 6 in the Main Lounge of Crozier-Williams. Any students interested in selling his or her jewelry, leatherwork, weaving, candles, etc., please contact Anne Swallow or Ruth Antell in K.B. Please let us know before March 13.

A documentary film "King: Montgomery to Memphis", will be shown on March 12 at 8:00 p.m. in Palmer Auditorium, \$2.00 donation for the Black Scholarship Benefit.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

Perhaps the most appropriate reply the College Development Committee can make to the misleading disclosures in the last issue of PUNDIT, is to urge all interested in these issues to be present at an all-college meeting on the budget on Monday, March 6, at 4:15 in Palmer Auditorium. At that time, President Shain and Mr. Knight, College Treasurer, will present the College budget for the coming year. There will be explication of the factors that affect construction of the budget, and with the College Development Committee participating, full opportunity to ask questions, raise issues, and express opinions. The idea of such a meeting, and of appropriate full disclosure have been part of this committee's thinking since it began its work in the fall.

Rebuttals and explanations, then, are best left until that meeting. One observation, however, is in order: student behavior in committee work ought to be governed by the same code of conduct as is that of the faculty. A committee's effectiveness begins with the integrity of its members, and with their mutual trust and respect.

Walter F. Brady
for the College Development Committee

To the Editors:

As the signers of the minority report, we would like to prevent what we feel to be two likely misinterpretations of the information in last week's Pundit on our findings and on the committee system.

First, we regret that only our report appeared; we do not feel that free discussion is aided by the presentations of only one side of any question, and would be pleased to see the majority view made known as vigorously as ours.

Second, we would like to make clear that the views expressed in the front-page article are individual, not collective on our part. Our opinions on the committee system and the implications of our experience represent a spectrum rather than a complete consensus and thus we would prefer not to be identified as a group with any one view.

In closing, we feel that the best way for a member of the community to become familiar with the various views held by members of both the majority and the minority would be to attend the public meeting to be held on the budget. This meeting has been rescheduled for 4:15 the afternoon of Monday, March 6. Information on the place of the meeting will appear on posters around the campus, and we earnestly hope for a large turnout.

Signed,
John Schwartz, co-chairman
Michael Ware
Marjorie Bussman
Bonnie Clark
Robert Ballek

To the Editor:

I would like to offer a few comments to Pundit's readers that may clarify the budget comparison data presented in "Students Contend Scholarship Allocation," in the issue of February 24. I speak as a recent transfer student from Fairfield University.

It may be inferred from the data that several of Connecticut College's budget allocations could be lower, based on a comparison with those of Fairfield University. However, I think that the data does not tell the whole story. For example: Fairfield currently has six dormitories (with another under construction) compared with Connecticut's twenty-two. There are no single rooms at Fairfield—all students are housed in doubles—compared with Connecticut's high percentage of singles. Fairfield students eat in one, huge common dining hall, compared with the many small ones on Connecticut's campus. (Fairfield's food is also of a noticeably poorer quality than Connecticut's.) There are fewer buildings and more open, undeveloped land at Fairfield than here at Connecticut. Obviously, differences in conditions such as these are responsible for differences in budgets. It seems to me—having lived with the results of both Fairfield's and Connecticut's budget allocations—that facts like these are extremely useful to any budget study and should be presented along with pure data.

Please understand that I am not saying that Connecticut College's budget should not be studied and perhaps reworked; rather, I would like to add some further (personally experienced) facts for consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Black

To the Editors:

The minority report of the student members of the College Development Committee exposes a very serious problem found throughout the faculty-student committee system. It is time the faculty reconsiders why they have put students on their committees at all. Are they truly interested in mutual exchange and cooperation towards the continued growth of Connecticut College or are they really just giving in to "student pressure" with the traditional institutional answer of tokenism? How can a body which serves within a community such as ours as the major legislators and policy makers have members of its committees which are unable to speak on the floor or vote on issues which they have proposed? Is it consistent with the concept of cooperation in the best interest of a community that facts which pertain to all major decision are hidden from a majority of the members, especially from those members who have been put in positions where they are meant to be developing proposals? Without consideration of influential economic facts, these committee proceedings and discussions are seriously inhibited. These facts are lost somewhere in the shuffle of confidentiality and bureaucratic secrecy.

We are now reaching a point in the life of the college where the interests and desires of the students and faculty are centering around the same issues. No longer are the students lost in consideration of social rules and dorm entertainment. The community in its entirety must now consider the rationale and meaning of a liberal arts college and education. These considerations must be undertaken in a truly "up-front" spirit or we will once again find ourselves
(Continued On Page 6)

Pundit CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

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From Ruby T. Morris

Alternative Reforms

To the Editor:

The students have issued their document, "Student Report on Academic Change," which I should like to discuss and to which I should like to propose alternatives.

The labor market is extremely tight, and likely to remain so for college graduates in the foreseeable future. The strong ground-swell towards extreme permissiveness in higher education appears to me to have been much abated by the job stringency which exists. It is to the best interests of college graduates to expose themselves to a rigorous course of study, in a high grade institution, whose degree continues to have meaning and enjoy respect among employers and graduate schools. To adopt the program proposed would debase the college; it would tend to attract light-weights, bent on selecting an all elementary program (no required major field) doing all pass-fail work, and with no general requirements to ensure that they get around in our curriculum to any degree whatsoever. The plan envisages endless advising and program-forming and progress-defending activities, although the precise powers of the Advisors is nowhere really spelled out. If Advisors are merely advisory, forget it. If Advisors do have real supervisory powers (as the Summer Planning Group proposed) then the end result will be as rigorous—or as rigor-less—as the particular Advisor. Great inequity will result thereby (much as it has, in a similar program at Haverford). Students unfortunate enough to draw "rigid" Advisors will take prescriptive courses of study; for other "lucky" ones, anything goes. There is nothing more equitable, simpler to administer, and more clearly comprehensible than a set of general academic requirements. These we now have and should retain.

It is your degree which will cease to be respected if students are given an A.B. Degree for little work here. The best interests of the students lie in maintaining the quality of the college intact. Only by doing so will the fine plant and generally excellent faculty be well and fully employed. Parents should be given "sound value" for their high tuitions here. To do otherwise is to court wholesale withdrawals of applicants. If students are free to do practically nothing with their time, and waste their college years in all-elementary pass-fail work, they may as well pay a great deal less than is required here and go elsewhere to take it easy. It would be better for serious students and faculty interested in spending their time fruitfully to be spared having the space cluttered up with such individuals.

The student proposals have, as I see it, one merit. It is the proposal to do a better job acquainting Freshmen with the various fields of knowledge. Instead of "mini-courses," however, I guess a series of substantial period-and-a-half

colloquia in Palmer Auditorium at 4:20 on successive Mondays of the first term of the Freshman year, at which representatives of the various disciplines, Departmental and Inter-Departmental, would discuss their work, giving in the course of the presentation of a lecture on a topic of general interest lying within their field.

Instead of wholesale curricular revision which would, in my view, render it a waste of time to come here, I propose a more moderate approach, one which just might, with luck, secure faculty approval. I should like to present it in outline, and explore its merits. Although at first blush the changes may appear minor and unsubstantial, their ramifications are many.

Let us extend and substantially overhaul the pass-fail option, along these lines: permit a good deal more pass-fail work, but discourage the final entry of much pass-fail work on the student's record. These are the specifics:

1. Broaden the fields within which pass-fail work may be taken to all of the requirements, all of the electives and all major courses with the one provision that, upon graduation, students have a minimum major of eight graded courses in the major field.

2. Permit one pass-fail course each semester, starting with the first term of the Freshman year. After the end of the Freshman year a specified credit rating (2.16) must have been earned in the graded courses so that the cumulative graduation level could not be substantially debased by a student abusing the pass-fail system (that is, doing all graded work at the C level, and all pass-fail work, at D). This ratio is 2.20 for 2nd semester Sophomore year and 2.25 thereafter.

3. Hold out the option of letter grades on all pass-fail courses. Students would register for pass-fail work (one course maximum) if they so desired at the end of the two weeks' election-shift period. The student's status would remain confidential throughout the term. At the end, a regular grade would be turned in by the Faculty, who would remain ignorant throughout of the identity of his pass-fail students. When the student is informed of his letter grade, he then informs the Registrar whether he wishes the letter grade earned to be entered on his transcript, or the pass-fail one. (No stand is taken herewith on the letter grades themselves, whether fewer or simpler than those now employed, the same, or more "fine spun" by the insertion of pluses or minuses. The pass-fail system indicated above could be accommodated within any spectrum of letter grades the college cares to employ.)

May I comment briefly on the proposed system, indicating the merits as I see them?

1. By broadening the pass-fail to most courses, students would be encouraged to "take risks" in all areas of study, and elect courses which interest them, but

for which they may be poorly prepared, or in which they may be untalented. This is the main purpose of the pass-fail option. In the major field, for example, some tough, advanced course might be elected, highly advantageous educationally, which students might hesitate now to elect for fear of ruining their academic records. Those finding languages or sciences especially distasteful or uncongenial could use the pass-fail option to render them somewhat less objectionable.

2. The cumulatives which I have calculated to protect the final graduation level do not begin until the Sophomore year. This would permit entering Freshman with severe handicaps a year of grace in which one tough requirement could be elected on a pass-fail basis.

3. Students would tend to have higher average grades because they would usually choose to have entered an earned A or B, rather than a pass. This option would motivate students to do their very best work, and get rid of pass-fail references on their transcripts. A subsidiary advantage is that Faculty would give equal attention in grading, conference work, and evaluation to pass-fail students who now, in some cases, are being academically slighted. For transfer purposes, a full set of meaningful grades would always be available in the Registrar's files, and usable in case of student request even after graduation, should a student's wishes with respect to the entry or pass-fail grading change. Honors such as cum laude, etc. would have to be made somewhat more rigorous, as the average cumulative would tend to be higher.

Under the proposed system students would undoubtedly employ the pass-fail system of grading more; but in the end they would probably have fewer pass-fail grades entered on their final records. Most would seek to do A or B work and, if successful, would presumably elect to have such earned high grades recorded. At present, by petition to the Committee on Administration, such grades are often being entered on student records, so that the proposal would make general and clearly understood an option what is presently an administrative practice.

I hope that students and faculty will give careful consideration to this plan as I believe that it would conduce to many advantages not present in our current pass-fail option. I think it would offer students more freedom (for which they long) while at the same time tending to improve, rather than debase, the student's overall academic performance. The same cannot be said for the "Student Report on Academic Change," which points but in one direction—downward.

Ruby Turner Morris member,
Academic policy committee

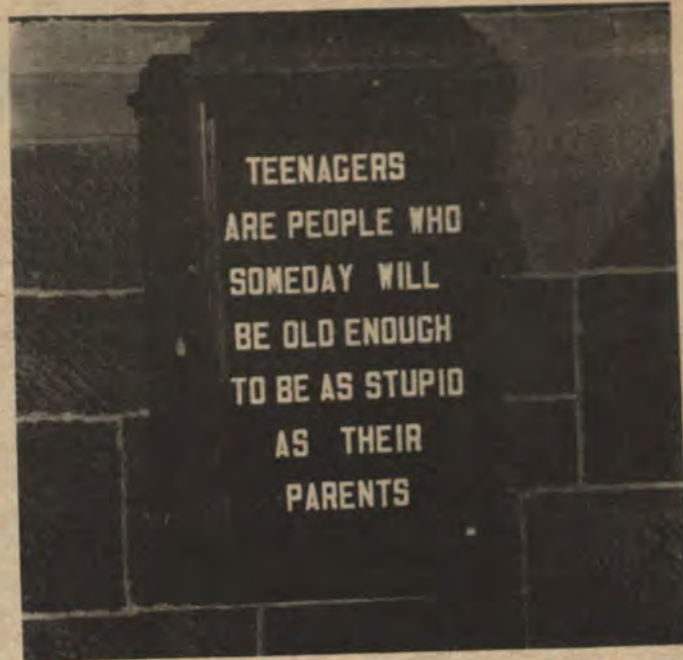


photo by carroll

Students Plan Coed Natural Foods Co-op

When school opens next fall, there will be a new coed dormitory serving only natural foods prepared by the members of the dorm. The idea of a coed natural foods co-op grew out of the desire of a group of students to eat better food and to prepare this food themselves.

Two previous proposals, a college-run natural foods kitchen and the inclusion of side dishes with main meals have not worked out, the former because of the added expense to the college, and the later due to preparation problems and other, less clear reasons. The establishment of a natural foods co-op dorm will allow the minority of students who are truly dissatisfied with the regular college fare to prepare their own meals, and will make the planning of the regular college meals easier for the kitchen staff.

At the preparatory meeting held Monday evening, several of the misconceptions surrounding the word "natural" were cleared up:

NATURAL: being or found in native state; not artificial, synthetic, processed (for example, bread without calcium propionate added).

ORGANIC: pertaining to or derived from living organisms (for example, potatoes cultivated

in peat based, DDT-free soil). **MACROBIOTIC:** a strict diet, part of a way of life based on the equilibrium of yin-yang, of which the staples include grains (rice, wheat), beans (lentils), seaweed, dried fruits and nuts, and herb tea.

In this natural-foods set-up, fresh fruits and vegetables will be offered daily, along with dairy products and nutritive breads. Meat will be served at two or three dinners a week, alternating with fish or vegetable main dish. The janitorial staff will be retained for sanitary reasons, although the students will be in full charge of the kitchen.

Each dorm member must take full responsibility as this is a complete-community project. For those who do not wish to cook or bake, they may engage in other activities such as sweeping, dishwashing, dinner-serving, table-cleaning, preparing a menu, food ordering, bookkeeping, and grocery receiving.

Another meeting will be held this Monday evening, March 3, at 6:45 in the Burdick living room to finalize plans. A co-op dorm is a cooperative venture; it can work only with the help of the students. All interested parties are invited to attend.

PAMELA DEVANNEY
JAMES CATTERTON

Security Log

Feb. 26— A suspicious person, who apparently gained entrance through a propped-open door, was reported in Wright House at 1:00 a.m. Security was not notified until after the individual left the dorm. Mr. O'Grady urges students to keep the dorm entrances locked, and to report immediately the presence of any suspicious persons.

Feb. 24 — \$25.00 was stolen from an unlocked locker in Crozier-Williams.

Feb. 23 — During the night, an unlocked bicycle was stolen from the front of Freeman.

Feb. 28 — A guitar and camera were stolen from a room in Park

House. The room had been left unlocked; the articles were stolen in the middle of the day.

Again, security urges students to keep their belongings locked at all times.

Feb. 28 — A small fire ignited when an art student who was melting wax on a hot plate in Park House left the room. The fire was put out by the housefellow. Considerable smoke damage to a commons room in the dorm resulted.

Feb. 24 — An end table was stolen from the waiting room of the infirmary, presumably during visiting hours.

PUNDT Thursday, February 4, 1971

The Millstone Point Power Plants: Is

By ALLEN CARROLL

The term "power plant" usually conjures up images of oil tankers, giant piles of coal, a mass of wires and transformers, and three or four dirty brick stacks belching smoke. A power plant now in operation in Waterford goes against most of these images; there are no fuel stockpiles, and the single red and white stack never emits even a trace of smoke.

In a staggeringly complex array of electronic equipment, pipes, turbines, pumps, metal and concrete bulkheads, and "engineered safeguard systems," the heat from nuclear fission has been harnessed at the Millstone Point Nuclear Power Plant to produce 650,000 smokeless kilowatts of electricity.

Completed in late 1970 at a cost of \$103 million, Unit One (a second unit is under construction) is a Boiling Water Reactor, meaning that heat from the nuclear reaction boils water to create steam. As with a normal fossil fuel plant, the steam is utilized to power an electric generator.

The 65-foot-high reactor vessel contains 580 "fuel assemblies," each of which contain ceramic Uranium Oxide fuel pellets. The pellets, made up chiefly of U-238, contain only two percent U-235, which is the "active ingredient." Stainless steel blades containing neutron-absorbing Boron Carbide can be adjusted to control the reaction.

The fuel assemblies are contained in tubes, around which flow highly purified water. The heat of the reaction causes the water to boil, which produces the steam that runs the 180-foot-long turbine-generator, housed in a large room outside of the thick concrete walls of the reactor containment. After passing through the turbines, the water is cooled and recycled in a closed system back through the reactor.

Tremendous amounts of seawater are used in the cooling process. Unit One uses about 420,000 gallons of water per minute, which is pumped in from the Niantic Estuary, run through condensers and released into the Sound. The exchange of heat from the closed reactor-generator system to the cooling water results raises the temperature of the cooling water about 23 degrees Fahrenheit.

Second Unit Under Construction
Immediately adjacent to the first unit will be a second, more powerful nuclear power plant. Now 35 percent complete, the second unit will generate 830,000 kilowatts, and will cost in excess of \$200 million. Northeast Utilities plans to put the new power plant into operation in April of 1974.

The reactor will be contained within a 176-foot-tall reinforced concrete cylinder (see photo) with steel-lined walls over 3½ feet thick. Unlike the first unit, the new plant will incorporate a Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR). In this system, pressurized water will be heated

by the reactor and piped to two steam generators within the reactor containment cylinder. Steam will be produced in the generators, piped out of the containment to the turbines, cooled, and recycled. Unit Two will use over 500,000 gallons of sea water per minute for cooling. As with the first unit, the sea water will be warmed approximately 23 degrees before it is released into Long Island Sound.

The Pressurized Water Reactor will thus utilize three separate water systems where the Boiling Water Reactor uses only two (see diagram).

The Problems: Radiation Release

One of the most controversial aspects of nuclear power is the release of "low-grade" radiation into the air and water. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the power companies do not deny that some radiation is released, but both claim that the levels are low enough to be harmless. George Fox, Nuclear Information Manager for Northeast Utilities, stated that people living near Millstone Point receive more radiation from their televisions than from the power plant.

As part of the normal operation of a nuclear power plant, some radioactive fission products are allowed to escape into the steam created by the heat of the reaction. These "low-grade" wastes—of relatively low radioactivity compared to the highly radioactive spent fuel—are drawn off in gaseous form and put through a 30-minute holdup system before being released into the air through the stack.

During this thirty minute period, most of the waste deteriorates to a non-radioactive state. Small amounts of Krypton and Xenon remain radioactive, and are released.

The AEC has set standards for the maximum allowable release of radioactivity into the air and water. Among those who believe that these standards are too lenient are two scientists, Drs. Gofman and Tamplin, who resigned from the AEC, stating that the legal radiation levels should be reduced tenfold. Yet even if this was done, the amount of radiation released into the air by the first unit at Millstone Point would be well under the maximum.

According to Mr. Fox, the Millstone Point plant "hasn't exceeded five percent of the maximum AEC regulations." The plant usually releases only about one percent of the maximum limit set by the AEC. The release of radioactive wastes is continually monitored; if the radiation level becomes excessive, the plant immediately shuts down.

Nuclear Accident

All experts on nuclear power agree that an atomic explosion is impossible in today's nuclear power plants, with the presence of neutron-absorbing control rods and the containment of fuel in well-separated and relatively

small amounts. Yet the possibility of an accidental release of large amounts of radiation is within the realm of possibility.

To prevent such an occurrence, elaborate precautions and complex safety devices are incorporated in every atomic power plant. If a valve fails or the reactor temperature increases to a dangerous level, for instance, the plant automatically shuts down. The main steam lines close immediately, and the steam is diverted to a huge doughnut-shaped tank below the reactor. The tank is half-filled with water, which serves to cool and condense the steam before pressure increases dangerously. The reactor is enclosed in thick reinforced concrete, built to withstand earthquakes without structural damage, and thick enough to prevent the penetration of radiation.

Much of the electronic equipment of the plant is installed for safety purposes. Radiation levels are continuously monitored throughout the plant, and alarms immediately alert technicians in the control room to abnormal conditions.

Minutely-detailed reports are available to the public at the Waterford Public Library. Among the thousands of pages of material are a two-volume "Preliminary Safety Analysis Report" of Unit Two, and a "Detailed Statement on the Environmental Considerations" compiled by the Atomic Energy Commission. The Safety Report lists and describes the various "engineered safeguard systems," which include such sophisticated equipment as "borated water injection systems," etc.

Spent Fuel Disposal

Among the most difficult problems of nuclear power is the handling and disposal of spent fuel. The first unit at Millstone Point is refueled once every year. At that time, one fourth of the fuel is replaced. The spent fuel removed from the reactor is made up of highly radioactive fission products, some of which will take hundreds of thousands of years to deteriorate.

This "high-grade" waste is kept underwater for six months in a tank adjacent to the reactor core. It is then put into lead-lined steel casks specially designed not to rupture, and shipped to a processing facility in Morris, Illinois, where usable materials are leached out. Among the by-products are Uranium-238 and plutonium, which is used in nuclear warheads and will eventually be utilized in "breeder reactors," which will produce atomic fuel as they are operated.

The removal of useful by-products reduces the waste to about two percent of its original weight. This concentrated and extremely radioactive material is being temporarily stored in underground tanks while the AEC continues to seek a permanent storage site. The problem of disposal is a difficult one, since the waste will remain

dangerous for literally thousands of years. The site under most serious consideration is abandoned salt mines, favored for their seismologic stability and radiation-shielding properties.

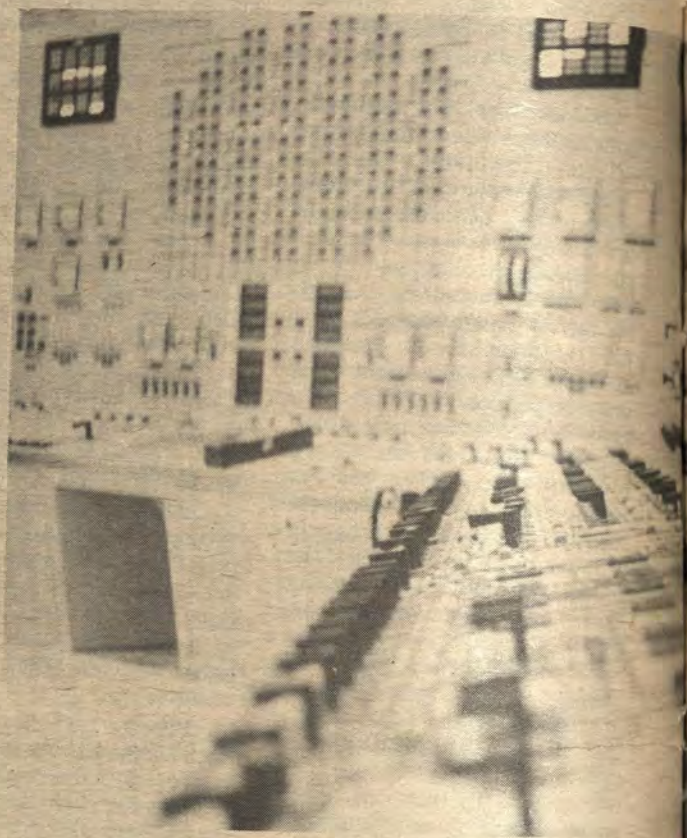
Curiously, the AEC seems to find this problem of no great importance, since it allows dangerous wastes to continue to be produced.

Thermal Pollution

Thermal pollution from nuclear power plants has been shown to have adverse effects on the aquatic environment where plants have discharged heated water into the relatively restricted environment of a river or stream. In the open environment of Long Island Sound, however, detrimental effects, if present, are harder to detect and apparently less serious nature. Experts on marine biology have not found any direct evidence of ecological damage from thermal pollution. Even though large amounts of warm water are released, the volume is small compared with the total tidal flow near the plant.

Bob Dmicco '73, who has done research on the effects of thermal pollution near Millstone Point with Dr. DeSanto of the Zoology department, says "I personally don't think thermal pollution of the Millstone Point area has any harmful effect." In fact, he agrees with an environmental report prepared by the AEC for Unit Two in stating that the warm water may have a beneficial effect by encouraging the growth of many species.

No one has proven, however, that environmental damage has not been caused by heated effluent from the first unit, or that the nearly one million gallons of warm water that will be released



Nuclear Energy as Clean as They Say It Is ?



1.



2.

3.

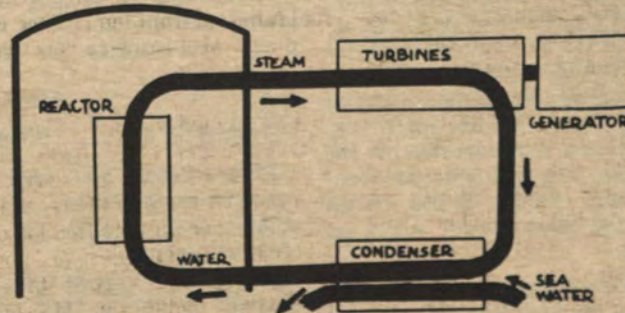
1. The main control room for Unit One at Millstone Point, now in operation. Nearly all plant systems, including the reactor, generators, and safety mechanisms, are operated from this room.

2. Cranes lift concrete during the construction of the 176-foot-tall reactor containment for Millstone Point's second unit.

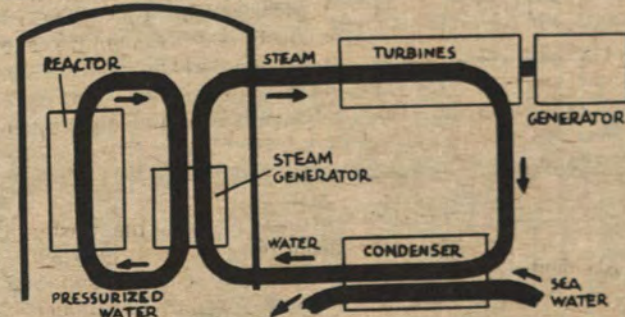
3. The construction worker is standing in the middle of the cavity that by mid-1974 will house an operating nuclear reactor.

photos by carroll

BOILING WATER REACTOR



PRESSURIZED WATER REACTOR



every minute by the two plants will not have harmful effects. "I think they're fools to go ahead with the second plant, Demicco said, without knowing more about the ecological effects of the heated water from Unit One. Regulation and Control: The AEC

Obviously, a process as new and complex as the production of electricity from nuclear power demands strict governmental oversight and regulation. The Atomic Energy Commission has been assigned this task, but performs it in a way that many find unsatisfactory.

The AEC grants separate construction and operating permits to power companies for each nuclear power plant. In spite of the fact that citizen pressure was applied to delay the construction of Unit Two until thorough studies had been made of the effects of Unit One on the environment, the AEC routinely granted Northeast Utilities a construction permit for the second plant.

Even before public hearings were held to consider the permit, the Atomic Energy Commission had allowed construction to begin on "non-nuclear" portions of the second unit under a special exemption. In other words, excavation for the second plant was well under way long before the public had any say in the matter.

The AEC does not regulate thermal pollution from nuclear power plants. Power companies must comply with state and federal water quality standards, many of which are inadequate in their consideration of thermal pollution problems.

The use of nuclear power has many advantages. There is no air pollution from combustion by-products such as soot and Sulphur Dioxide. The small amount of fuel consumed by nuclear power plants is an important asset as many natural resources are rapidly being depleted.

In the long run, nuclear power plants cost less. Although a fossil fuel plant costs about 25 percent less to build than a nuclear plant of comparable size, fuel costs are three times as high for conventional plants. A nuclear power plant produces electricity at a cost of approximately six mills per kilo-watt hour, whereas the most efficient fossil fuel plant costs eight or nine mills per kilowatt hour.

For these reasons, nuclear power appears to be the most likely solution to the ever-increasing shortage of power. Yet there are problems that demand to be solved before nuclear power plants should be allowed to be built in large numbers. Could the cumulative release of radioactive wastes by many plants approach dangerous levels? Is there a thoroughly satisfactory answer to the disposal of spent fuel? Is thermal pollution going to become a major environmental problem?

And finally, should the AEC be trusted to provide satisfactory answers to these problems?

Letters to the Editor Cont'd.

with a system devised by a minority without due consideration of all the involved interest groups. This can only be done if the restraints now imposed on the student-faculty committees are removed. The faculty must place its trust in these committees and create a functioning system within which there is freedom for movement and action.

Sincerely,
John Wilson
Chairman
Academic Committee

To the Editor:

The Pundit has published several articles related to splitting room and board fees. Most of the articles state that so-and-so proposed the idea or so-and-so supports the idea. Little space has been devoted to serious discussion of the pros and cons of the idea.

The new room and board fee announced Monday is \$1220 per year which worked out to about \$135 per month or \$40 per week. I challenge any student to find a room and buy twenty-one well balanced meals for less.

Assuming that the room and board fee is split, we would undoubtedly see several things happen:

1) The average cost, per student, of meals prepared by the college would rise substantially. There are great savings in quantity purchasing. Meal tickets would make things even worse since it would be more difficult to estimate the number of people to prepare for.

2) There would be an increase in the number of hotplates and refrigerators in the dorms. This involves an increase in electric bills and, even worse, necessitates greater surveillance to eliminate these illegal hotplates, increased insurance costs, or both.

3) It seems to me quite probable that there would be a noticeable increase in illness on campus (resulting in increased costs in the Infirmary) because some students would not receive balanced dieted eating at Mr. G's or MacDonald or cooking their own food.

There are several things which can be done under the present system to reduce costs. Large quantities of food are wasted; people should take only portions they will eat. A significant number of people are eating free by various means. Plates, glasses, trays and silverware which are not returned to the dining rooms cost money. A

significant reduction in costs could be realized by the institution and enforcement of two basic rules:

1) All I.D. card should be checked at every meal. No exceptions.

2) No food, dishes, silverware, etc. should be allowed out of the dining rooms except by special permission when it can be signed out.

I don't like either of these rules any more than anyone else, but something must be done to keep the majority from being further burdened by the minority.

Sincerely,
Oliver Chartier '73

To the Editor:

In the recent student government elections a controversy arose concerning majority vs. plurality, specifically in the vice-presidential contest. There was a misunderstanding among us candidates as well as among the members of the election committee and among the members of the college community. I

assumed that in an election involving three or more candidates, where no one received a majority, there would be a run-off. The only apparent stipulation for the interpretation that plurality must rule, a decision with which I am willing to abide provided that it is explicit. I propose, therefore, that an amendment be made to the student constitution, which would clarify the election procedure for the future.

I wish to extend my encouragement and support to Josie Curran and Jay Levin for a productive and innovative year, and to thank the student body for consideration of my candidacy.

Sincerely,
Jean Kelleher '73

Dear Pundit:

Carlo's Cafe off Bank Street should not have been omitted from your listing of New London's Hot Spots. The pizzas are great, the atmosphere must be seen to be believed.

Conn Chorus to Sing With Lehigh Glee Club

By Susan Case

This Saturday night, March 4, Dana Concert Hall will ring with the sounds of the Connecticut College Chorus in concert with the Lehigh University Glee Club. The joint choruses will be performing works from various periods. Included on the program are Monteverdi's Psalm 126, Brahms' motet "Warum ist das Licht Gegeben dem Muhseligen," two American folk-hymns, and Samuel Barber's "Reincarnation"-choral settings of three poems by James Stephens. The Lehigh Glee Club, under the direction of Robert Cutler, will sing works by Renaissance composers, among them Josquin des Pres, and contemporary composers, Milhaud and Kodaly. The Connecticut College Chorus, conducted by Paul Althouse will perform the premiere of Charles Shackford's new setting of Psalm 1, "Blessed is the Man." Mr. Shackford is the chairman of the Music Department at Connecticut College. He has written several other choral works as well.

This concert will preview much of the program that the combined Lehigh and Conn. College choruses will perform on their

tour of the British Isles this June. The three-week tour beginning on May 31 will take the choirs to England, Ireland, and Wales to sing in such famous cathedrals as St. Patrick's in Dublin, Ely Cathedral in Ely, and the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in London.

Admission is free, but any contributions for the European tour will be gratefully accepted at the door. All contributions received are put toward a scholarship fund to enable students with financial difficulty to go on tour. So come and hear us Saturday at 8:00 p.m. in Dana. And in case you can't make it then, or if you'd like to hear us again, come to the Chapel service on Sunday the 5th. The joint choruses will be singing Monteverdi's Psalm 126. Don't miss these opportunities for some great music.

Trustees... (Continued From Page 1)

Kilham Beder and Chu, architects for the library, and included several sites for additional parking.

Students from the architecture seminar discussed their alternative with the Trustees, which called for as little construction as possible, and recommended rigid

enforcement of modified parking regulations.

On Friday, the Trustees voted to respond to a faculty request to set up a Faculty-Trustees Liaison Committee, made up of four faculty members and four members of the Board of Trustees.

A Director's Plea For An Audience

OR WHY "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS"?

by Ted Chapin '72

Modern theater is unfortunately saturated with pretention. Connecticut College, being an institute of advanced intellectualism is not without its pretensions as well. What Connecticut College does not need is pretentious theater.

I decided that I wanted to help Theater One in whatever way I could during this, my senior year. I have had professional experience and felt I could use it some way. Many projects were discussed and dismissed as being too complicated, too difficult to cast, or ultimately unavailable. There had been some talk of doing a musical but general enthusiasm was rather underwhelming. Interest in working on a show was evident; just exactly what show seemed irrelevant. It became evident that somebody had to make a decision sometime or the grandiose talk would never

amount to anything more than talk.

So we decided to do "Once Upon A Mattress." Musical comedies are intended primarily as wholly entertaining pieces. It was my firm belief that in going the way of nothing but modern plays Theater One was not offering its audiences a sufficiently varied repertoire. There most certainly is a place for the use of theater as a political or religious instrument, but there is also a place for theater to be entertaining. God knows "Once Upon A Mattress" falls into the last category. It is a musical comedy and makes no pretenses about being anything other than that. We are not out to be relevant; we are out to give the audience a good time. Some intellectuals may scorn us and I'm sorry if they do. All I have tried to do is direct the show as well as I possibly can. I am pleased with the results so far and I hope that audiences will have as good a time watching as we have had creating.

Camels Lose a Close One To Manhattanville

By GREG YAHIA

Feb. 26 — The Camels cannot win the close ones. This time they dropped a decision to Manhattanville 83-81. Leading by ten points with four minutes remaining, Conn managed to give the game away with an assortment of turnovers and bad shots.

Conn should have won. Manhattanville led for the first ten minutes of the game, then the Camels tied it up. At half-time they led 40-38.

In the second half, Manhattanville was clearly outplayed, as Conn shot and passed exceptionally well. Then for for no apparent reason, the Camels cooled.

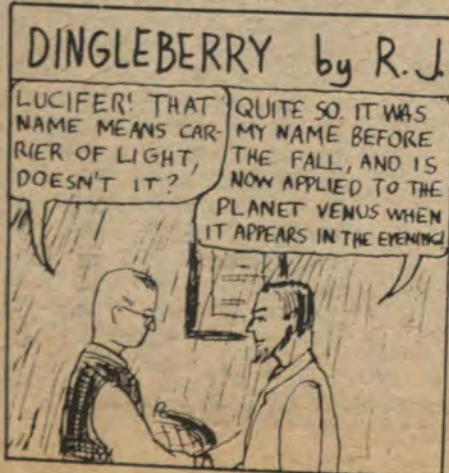
The turning point in the game came with just under four minutes to play. A Manhat-

tanville player drove the lane, put up a shot, and was fouled. The freethrow was missed, but the ball bounced straight into the hands of another Manhattanville player, who put it in for two more points.

This four-point play which reduced a 10-point lead to six, seemed to take the life out of Connecticut. A couple of turnovers and bad shots turned into Manhattanville hoops, and they took the lead and held it.

Jim Cawley played an excellent game at both ends, rebounding, passing off — and earning 27 points in what was probably his first game in a Camel uniform. Paul Lantz shot a phenomenal percentage and ended up with 20 points. Skip Lynch had a good day with 16 points.

Another sad note is that this game was the last at Conn for Coach Mike Shinault. Mike is retiring at the close of this season (which winds up at Vassar on March 4). Mike has been the coach of the team since the beginning. He has put up with a lot of grief, and has put much more into this team than he has received. It would be good to end the season with a win over Vassar.



EVERYONE

SURVIVAL urges campus-wide participation in an important letter-writing campaign. Devote a few minutes this week to composing a letter to Secretary of the Interior Morton concerning the imminent Alaskan land grab.

The Alaska Native Claims Act, which protects millions of acres of Alaskan public lands, will expire this March 17, unless we can convince Secretary Morton to extend it. Morton is under considerable pressure from oil interests, developers, and opportunists eager to buy up the land as soon as the statutory freeze expires in two weeks.

Environmentalists contend that once exploited, the delicate tundra ecosystem may be permanently disrupted. The Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, Friends of the Earth, and other organizations are conducting a national campaign urging you to help Secretary Morton decide to save these lands by designating them as Wilderness Areas. Write to:

The Honorable Rogers C.B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Interior Building
Washington, D.C. 20240

For more information about this and other letter-writing targets, contact Margaret Shepard, Park Dorm, or 447-9769

Shain... (Continued From Page 1)

physical plant, or are employed by the dormitories or refectory departments.

"A large proportion of the Fairfield University faculty are Jesuit priests," Shain said, "and more than fifty per cent of the Conn College faculty live in faculty housing." All these factors must be taken into account when he budgets of the two schools are compared.

"Most of Mr. Schwartz's case is based on the assumption that our costs are higher (than other institutions of similar size and nature)," Shain stated. He added that all along, the College has compared its figures with those of other colleges, including Trinity, Wheaton, and Smith. He emphasized that "Because of the differences between institutions, making comparisons is a tricky matter."

Shain took issue with Schwartz's statement that the College had oppressed student opinion. When the Development Committee met with the Board of Trustees, the students "were allowed to bring the minority report right out onto the floor." "There was no question of views and opinions being suppressed," he said.

Shain explained, "The College is always willing to open its budget and accounts to responsible community inquiry. But we will not gracefully accept

the use of this information in a dishonest and irresponsible manner."



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WANTED: OLD MAGAZINES OF ANY SORT. Please contact Devra Auguston, Box 31 or K.B.

PERSONAL
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Many thanks, whoever you are, for the lovely, lively lobster I found walking around on a red leash by my front door. Sorry I can't charge my usual baby-sitting fee. Somehow your lobster found its way into a pot of boiling water cooked up by Mrs. C.E.S. It was too late for 12-College Exchange. Naturally, we devoured it in the virtuous realization that we had reduced the college pet population by one. Its mate met the same fate at the E.B.'s. Sincerely yours, D.J.

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