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Rampant grade inflation
Community Settings – students pitching in
Graduate schools will not judge grades as the most important admission criteria. If a student has a GPA over 3.0, they can be competitive for graduate school. However, the emphasis has shifted from achieving high grades in college to gaining admission to graduate school. According to Rhyne, the median grade at Conn 17 years ago was between a B and a C (this was before the installation of GPAs). Now the median grade is between a B and a B+. A rise of two-thirds of a letter grade is evident, which may result in more emphasis on grades.

"Some of this trend might be pushed up from the bottom," Rhyne continues. "From grammar school to high school to college, I can't really tell you if grade inflation is better or worse here than at other schools, but the trend is toward inflation."

Inflation is the biggest problem facing the American economy today. Over the past few years, a new kind of inflation has developed. It is non-monetary, but to college students it is just as serious. It is called grade inflation, and over the past 17 years, it has risen at a steady rate. Occurring at colleges and universities across the country, including Conn, it is a situation which steadily worsens rather than disappears.

According to registrar Robert Rhyne, "statistics are the only thing you can go by" to prove that grade inflation exists. Statistics provided by Rhyne make a strong case for grade inflation. One set, a comparison between grade percentages in 1962-1963 and 1978-1979 reveals the steady climb.

One of the items that stands out glaringly is that in the past 17 years the percentage of "A's" and "B's" given out has risen from 50 percent to 81 percent. This is blatant grade inflation, and Rhyne says one reason for it is a change in priorities. In 1962-63 the emphasis was on getting a job after graduation, while today the stress is on gaining admission to graduate school. "The pressure to get into graduate school is tremendous. Grades continue to inflate."

Green counters that, "faculty feel a lot of pressure if it is to change it will have to come from the student side...but that is not likely."

In a system that thrives on competition, high grades can give a person a competitive edge. Grades are seen as a sign of progress and ability, even as a sign of superiority. Though grade inflation cannot be condoned, its existence is inevitable. It is not surprising that the problem continues to grow as competition grows.

"It is disturbing," says Green. "It is like a permissive parent. If you get a B, how are you supposed to know if it is good. Nobody knows what grades mean today."

Unfortunately, Rhyne points out that grade inflation can be self-perpetuating. "Grades today don't have the same meaning they used to have...with increased competition, more emphasis might be put on high grades. It is a vicious cycle...grade inflation does not let you reward good students like you could before."

The registrar also pointed out a difference in students' attitudes towards grades over the past 17 years. "Many students feel that a grade of C is bad and a grade of D is horrible. It did not used to be that way. The grade of C used to be looked upon as satisfactory."

"Some of this trend might be pushed up from the bottom," Rhyne continues. "from grammar school to high school to college. I can't really tell you if grade inflation is better or worse here than at other schools, but the trend is toward inflation."

Addressing the need for change, Rhyne points to faculty as ultimately responsible. "The real control should be in the faculty. This is where the problem should start and stop."

Garrett Green, chairman of the religious studies department, and his colleague Eugene Gallagher feel differently. They predict that graduate schools will not judge grades as the most important admission criteria if grades continue to inflate. Green says, "grade inflation hurts, because as grades become less creditable, people will turn to other alternatives to learn how the student is doing."

Gallagher says he is "suspicious of any differences in a 3.0 and a 3.5 GPA to predict admission to grad school. If graduate schools refer only to GPA, they are off the wall."

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One night only
SGA Reps

To the Student Body

I am writing this letter in order to encourage students to run for the position of House President, as well as clarify what the job will entail next year.

The House President’s major role will be as the dorm’s representative on Student Assembly. Next year, SGA can be more active, vocal, and vital to decision making on this campus, if Student Assembly is made up of House Presidents who will devote most of their attention and energy to representing their dorm, serving as a communications link, and working for a more active SGA, and a better informed student body. The House President should not be primarily a Social Chairman. There will be Social Chairmen elected in each dorm, as well as Vice-Presidents, who could also assist in social organizing, but have in the past been underutilized. The House President, as leader of the dorm should necessarily be involved in the social life of the dorm. His or her primary task, however, should be as Student Assembly representative, which will help involve in helping to define campus problems, and their solutions, bringing issues out for public debate, as well as responding to, and encouraging student input.

I urge those students who would like to participate in Student Government in this manner to run for House President, and would like to encourage students to elect House Presidents who would embody this desire in their platforms. While some may not be able to devote a lot of time to this campus, but it will be necessary for House Presidents, the integral link between students and student government.

Unique opportunity

Few peeps on campus are aware of the tremendous amount of work that goes into publishing a newspaper, and the consequent value of responsible workers. Those willing to put in time and energy will find that they become indispensable to other newspapers, and will find themselves in upper level positions where they can make decisions.

LETTERS

Government, to be energetic in their role as Student Assembly representatives.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Lichten
President-Elect
Student Govt. Assoc.

Nuke poll

To the editor:

Although the College Voice Nuclear Poll was an earnest attempt to stir student opinion, it unfortunately missed the point. Consequently, it belittles in college audience; the poll appears aimed at an undiluted lot, oblivious to current newspaper headline.

The point is that no form of energy is safe. From black lung disease to oil spills, man has poisoned himself and his environment in pursuit of energy. A potential hazard is manifest in every major energy source.

Sadly, we are faced with serious risks from nuclear and other energy sources. We have no choice. Otherwise others forms of energy must be explored, but when compared in existing sources, nuclear power holds a significance that cannot be ignored.

To the danger of science, emotion has modified this essential fact. Organizations on nuclear power have acquired the names of religious cults. As a result, nuclear energy is frequently perceived as a deliberate injury to human life instead of an attempt to provide the power to maintain.

The point perpetuates this misunderstanding. It is not a question of whether nuclear energy is safe or not, but rather realization that we have no alternative to it. Once we accept that we are victims of this tragic plight, we can spend our time making nuclear energy as safe as possible and developing other supplemental sources instead of in useless opposition to it.

Sincerely, 
Nicole Gordon

Swim meet

To the editor,

I am pleased to report to the college community and the residents of the New London area that $8325.00 was raised from the 1976 Connecticut College Swim Marathon. There were more than 130 participants in the event which was held on April 9. Freeman dormitory won the cocktail party by raising $4845.00. The five swimmers from Freeman were Sally Clarke, Allison Holland, Connie Whitehead, Mike Kimmed and Pat Hinkle. The party will be held on May 3 at 8:30 p.m. in the Freeman living room and all swimmers who participated in the marathon are welcome to come.

The money which was raised will go toward the library, a new whirlpool for the college, and the Ocean Beach. The reason why these particular charities were chosen was to remind the college community that we still owe a lot of money on the library 2, even though we have an athletic trainer. Con has lacked facilities to rejuvenate sore bodies 3. To help the New London community by making a contribution toward the renovation of the Ocean Beach pool so that we will be able to open this summer.

Not only did Connecticut College students, faculty, and administrative officials show a great deal of generosity toward these three worthy causes, but also a keen interest in the sport of swimming.

Sincerely,
Daryl Hawk, ’79

Volume II, No. XVI

A dollar isn’t worth what it used to be worth, and neither are the good grades that exceptional students used to get exclusively. Apparently, demand has forced up supply, leaving the value of even the highest grade point averages in question.

Seth Stone looks at runaway grade inflation, and at whether grades really have much meaning anymore.

Be it counseling mothers facing abortions or helping to place foster children in homes be it dance therapy or clinical counseling. Con students are holding jobs in the community and finding the experience invaluable.

Everyone’s talking about nuclear power. What do the professors at Conn have to say about it? In the wake of Three Mile Island, Oakes Ames and others pin down their thoughts about notorious nuclear power in black and white.

dePARTMENTS

LETTERS

ON CAMPUS
Views on nuke power: the cons have it

Ames doubts industry's credibility. Kirmmse suggests reform

The recent accident at Three Mile Island has shaken my confidence in the statements made by the nuclear industry about the safety of nuclear plants. I do not believe, however, that the United States should alter its plans, which are to use nuclear power as an interim energy source until other energy sources such as solar energy can be developed. Instead, the power industry must be required to install more effective safeguards, and the public must insist on receiving more accurate information so that there can be no way of hiding inadequate safety procedures. The accident also underscores the need to accelerate our development of alternative energy sources and to be more conservation-minded as a nation.

The Administration has not yet adequately educated the American people on the nature of the energy crisis, and until it does, we are unable to make informed judgments in support of a long-range energy policy.

Bruce Kirmmse: an historian's outlook

There are many dangers and uncertainties connected with nuclear power: the genetic and cancer risks of long-term exposure to low-level radiation from normal plant operation; the grave risks connected with a serious accident; the guarding of the canary situation which has characterized the relationship between the NRC and the nuclear industry, which is both the object of the NRC's policing power and its client; the incalculable risks connected with guarding radioactive waste for thousands of years - fourty ice ages - into the future, and with the decommissioning and guarding for a similar period our radioactive nuclear plants after their lifespan or 30 or so years; and the certainty of nuclear weapons proliferation which the spread of nuclear generating capacity carries with it.

I wish for the moment to overlook all these specific risks and uncertainties and concentrate on two questions, namely, liability insurance and costs.

1) Liability Insurance. If, despite all objections, nuclear energy is so safe, why isn't the nuclear industry subject to the same sort of legal liability as every other activity in our free enterprise system? Filled with misinformation, naivete, and euphoria about nuclear power, a written questionnaire was presented to students at every other activity in our free enterprise system.

The poll showed that 75 percent of the college body does not believe that nuclear power is safe. There was also a 75 percent majority that does not believe the object of the NRC's policing resources effectively, and 85 percent that the U.S. should explore alternate energy sources, such as solar, hydro, and wind power.

In order to determine campus attitudes about the viability of nuclear power, a written questionnaire was included in a recent Campus Observer poll. The poll showed that 75 percent of the college body does not believe that nuclear power is safe. There was also a 75 percent majority that does not believe the object of the NRC's policing resources effectively, and 85 percent that the U.S. should explore alternate energy sources, such as solar, hydro, and wind power.

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Amelee worried by "beast"

The arguments for and against an escalation in the use of nuclear power to supply the country's energy needs are intense - of late, downright passionate - particularly in this neck of the woods.

While there are points on each side that cannot be taken lightly, I am against escalation. Clearly the biggest con is real or potential danger to the environment and to human life. It's a risk-benefit issue and although with luck the benefits could win hands-down, the risks are too deadly to be discounted. Although advances in safety technology could chip away at the probabilities of a disaster, I doubt that absolute certainty can be attained. Even if the technocrats assure us that everything is crystal clear, how can we believe it? At best, I'd only feel I was being hoodwinked by pro-nuclear PR men. Even if their claims were being made in good faith, I doubt I'd still feel comfortable. We have to be careful not to believe everything we hear when it's what we really want to hear.

Randall J. Amelee

Bruce Kirmmse: an historian's outlook

nuker poll -- Student doubts

In order to determine campus attitudes about the viability of nuclear power, a written questionnaire was included in a recent Campus Observer poll. The poll showed that 75 percent of the college body does not believe that nuclear power is safe. There was also a 75 percent majority that does not believe the object of the NRC's policing resources effectively, and 85 percent that the U.S. should explore alternate energy sources, such as solar, hydro, and wind power.

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In the past 17 years the percentage of A's and B's given out has risen from 50 percent to 81 percent.

"Pass-fail has its problems, but it can work many ways. Some of our better students don't use it, while some ordinary students do. But there is no pattern. It has the potential for inflating grades."

There is hope in one set of statistics however. One coveted goal that had lost some of its significance through grade inflation was Latin Honors. As grades became higher and higher, more and more graduates received the award, making it less and less meaningful. The minimum qualification however, has now been increased, reversing this trend.

"For the class of 1963, 5 percent graduated with Latin Honors. By the class of 1975, 45 percent graduated with Latin Honors," stated Rhine. During this period a student needed a 3.8 GPA to qualify for the honor. "We changed our ground rules with the class of 1974. The GPA was 3.50. In that class 19 percent qualified."

This was the direct result of the changes in rules. By changing the minimum requirement, the percentage of Latin Honors dropped from 42 to 19.

"Two sets of statistics tend to show contradictory information about the average college student. GPA is going up, but SAT scores are down. The student, however, does not think students are any better or any worse than 17 years ago."

"I'm not aware of any move to change the standards. I'm not sure, but I am not sure anybody tried to change that. Our students aren't11 any different than any other student with a special skill. I'm not aware of any move to discriminate in favor of athletes."

Thus far, many reasons have been cited for grade inflation. Educators know instinctively what it is, how it exists, and what its repercussions are, but nobody is certain of its basic cause. But as Rhine says, "there are a few contributing factors."

"The curriculum now versus 20 years ago is looser. The general requirements are looser. We teach more things more now than 17 years ago... we must ask ourselves if we have the pressures on the faculty increased."

"This last point is pivotal. Students alone are not plagued by the pressure to succeed. A professor feels the pressure just as much as a student does. He does not like to jeopardize a student's future by giving him a low grade at a crucial time. So he gives the student a better grade than he deserves. He has been pressured into grade inflation."

Grade inflation is a serious problem. It gives students false impressions about themselves. It casts doubt on a professor's ability to honestly grade work.

"Is a problem unique to Connecticut College, grade inflation is a problem that affects the whole field of education. It makes grades, a cornerstone of our curricula."
By Tamara Vertefeuille

Although there are those who think that we on the hill are not concerned with the New London community, there is a certain group of individuals who prove that belief false. The members of Mrs. Sloan-Devlin's Community Settings Field Work course are active volunteers in various social organizations as the major part of their course work. These people, most of whom are psychology and other social work oriented majors, work eight to ten hours per week in supervised field placements in community agencies.

The major emphasis of the psychology course is to provide a perspective of a variety of experiences, some good and some bad, depending on the organization and the individual. Mrs. Sloan-Devlin feels that the major factor on which the profitability of the student's experience rests is the presence of a good supervisor.

Students doing fieldwork which may consist of counseling emotionally disturbed or mentally retarded people need close and careful supervision. Unfortunately, some supervisors neglect the new fieldworkers, leaving them on their own, which detracts from the learning experience. These placements are usually weeded out. Mrs. Sloan-Devlin stresses the difficulty of keeping equality of experience between such widely varied field work situations.

A major part of the course's success depends on its students. To work in new, unpredictable and sometimes discouraging situations requires a degree of maturity and persistence in the student. Mrs. Sloan-Devlin tries to familiarize the student with the situation beforehand. She also conducts weekly seminars and requires the students to keep detailed journals.

The course lasts two semesters. Usually the first semester is spent getting acclimated to the working situation. Second semester, after things have settled down a little, the student can really start to work with the agency's clients on a professional basis. Occasionally a position doesn't work out and a student leaves the course after one semester.

Janet Foster, who is an RTC, mother of three and a psychology major, is one of the course's most enthusiastic members. She works with the Child and Family Agency in New London, where she counsels women who have problems with pregnancy. She is enthusiastic about her project and about the Agency in general.

Janet's work specifically consists of counseling two clients. Her work is in supportive counseling and active listening; she firmly stresses that her role is not to give advice to her clients but to help them straighten out their own thoughts. She does this by listening to them and then reflecting the client's emotions back to her.

Janet is adamant about keeping the confidentiality of her clients. Her sense of professionalism is strong and she is careful of what she says at home and to her fellow classmates. Professionalism is one of the most important educational aspects of Community Settings, one that is often neglected in the purely clinical approach to psychology.

The other major element of Janet's project is humanistic. With sparkling eyes, she announces, "I'm working with real people!" She has a strong compassion for the people she works with which often makes her emotionally involved with her clients.

When questioned about whether emotional involvement is professional, Janet replied, "It would be hypocritical of me to keep my emotions out of it. My clients know I'm concerned about them."

She also said that some days her emotions run the "full gamut" from sad to happy, which can be draining. The sad cases are the ones in which mothers give up their babies, but Janet has witnessed many happy moments when clients were adopting babies and taking foster children. She often accompanies foster or adoptive parents to the hospital to pick up their new family additions.

Janet has learned to appreciate and respect mothers who give up their babies for foster care or adoption. She says, "It takes tremendous love to give up a baby so that it can have a better life." She has learned to respect the people who seek help at the Agency, because "it requires a lot of courage to talk to a stranger about your intimate problems."

The agency works extensively with foster care, adoption, family problems, and problem pregnancies. Janet feels that the Agency does a great deal of good for its clients and takes pride in its success. She feels that the Agency strives to avoid making its clients uncomfortable in a clinical atmosphere. "Even the structure of the building is important. It looks like a house." She notes the homey appearance and absence of fluorescent lights; the environment in which one counsels is important in relieving tensions in the client.

Janet takes pride in the Agency, saying, "Our foster homes are very special." The agency supplies foster parents with a stipend of $200 per week, but it is not enough to cover the expenses of child care. "Why do people take foster babies?" she asks rhetorically. "Because they love them."

Ann Goldberg is a senior whose community setting is at the Norwich Planned Parenthood Center. Her first semester went well as she was positioned in the vasectomy clinic where she learned to do counseling. In the spring she was to have taken charge of the vasectomy counseling program, a position of great responsibility, but the entire vasectomy clinic was cancelled.

This semester, her major focus is on contraceptives: mostly medical interviewing and giving lectures on birth control. Ann is disappointed in the lack of responsibility that her shift in focus has caused. In her new function, she does not counsel patients, which would enable her to apply her psychology training.

Ann feels that this semester has been too routine and has not been as valuable a learning experience as the vasectomy clinic. Despite the change, she says, "It's the most positive thing that's happened during my college education. It is the culmination of my college experience. It is integrative with everything I've learned. I can't recommend it highly enough."

In reference to her project, she says, "It's my agency. I feel like an employee, like a professional."

Although as a wife and mother she finds it difficult to find study-time, Janet usually spends more than the required eight hours per week at the Agency. As to the course's value, she says: "It's the most positive thing that's happened during my college education. It is the culmination of my college experience. It is integrative with everything I've learned. I can't recommend it highly enough."

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Photo by Wendy Weeks
substantiating her major.

Ann is not completely negative about her experience at Planned Parenthood. Among her training there, she has learned to do blood, blood pressure, and urine tests; she also assists in examination rooms and talks to patients in a variety of contexts.

The Agency sets aside a particular day to do abortions. Women sit in a waiting room together, which Ann feels gives them an opportunity to reassure each other. Generally, the women are more willing to talk to each other than to the volunteers at hand, so Ann is not required to do much counseling.

Ann often stands near the patient during the abortion, "to give her support and hold her hand if she needs it." She feels that this has been a valuable experience; she now sees the events at the Agency as real people; not just "patients." She says that "when I work at the Agency, especially counseling, Ann feels that this has been a valuable experience in terms of the women are more willing to talk to each other than to the volunteers at hand, so Ann is not required to do much counseling."

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Overview

Nine other students are involved in the Community Settings course. Although the course is offered by the psychology department, students are not required to take jobs that are strictly psychological.

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SPORTS

Good, tough season for our laxmen

By Ann Allan

Thus far into the season, the men’s lacrosse team is doing well with a record of 4-2. The attack, composed of Stuart Glover, Fritz Fabb, T.C. Burke, and Robin Brown is outstanding. All four players are also young, and the future looks bright. Veteran attack man Peter Stokes was unfortunately injured midway through the season and his experience and judgment are sorely missed on the field, though one can still hear him from the bench. Veterans Howie Grimm and Michael Fishman also help to enliven the attack.

Goalie Peter Capalbo also deserves special attention as one of the crucial members of the team. It is thanks to Peters’ skill in the cage that the Camels have occasionally averted near disasters. The defense, consisting of Captain Brad Root, George Barbareschi, Mike Proctor, and Jerry Carrington, is also very strong and has a good record of clear of.

The main bulk of the team is in the midfield lines. The middles provide the endurance and in the clutch situations on which the team as a whole depends.

The midfield trio, made up of Captain Beaver Morrin, Dave Nightingale, and Peter Craft, have done a superb job all year. The second middies, Tony Laine, Tom Swallow and Peter Craft, have also provided much needed help in the field as have the third line of Bill Barrack, Davenport Scott, and Mark Oliva.

This team has coalesced and improved remarkably during the season. Recently, freshman attackman Stuart Glover set a new school record of six goals. The Camels, ably led by Co-captain Morrin and Root and skillfully coached by Larry Roberts, has a promising future. Come watch your team!!

3 wins, 6 losses for resilient men’s tennis

By Jim Dicker

With two matches remaining in the season, the Connecticut College Men’s Tennis Team sports a disappointing 3-9 record. Much of the blame for the team’s poor showing may be traced to various injuries and illness that have plagued the netmen for most of the season. After recording two easy victories to even their record at 3-3, the Camels dropped three straight matches, to find themselves without a chance to reach the .300 level before the season ends.

In a match versus the University of New Haven, the outcome was decided after the singles matches as the Camels swept all six encounters in straight sets. Freshman Phil Craft led the way with a 6-1, 6-4 triumph. Peter Mykrantz took his match without trouble 6-2, 6-1 as did Ted Greenberg 6-4, 6-4.

Rich Goddard won 6-5, 6-3 and Seth Urham was never pushed in his 6-1, 6-3 triumph. Jim Dicker completed the singles sweep with an easy 6-4, 6-4 victory. The Camels took two abbreviated doubles matches as Craft teamed with Clyde McKee to win 8-3 and Goddard and Urham triumphed 8-3. The final score of the match stood at 6-1 in favor of the Camels.

The defeat of Nichols followed in a similarly easy fashion. Mykrantz overpowered his opponent 7-4, 6-2 and Craft outdistanced his, 6-2, 6-4. McKee won easily 6-3, 6-2 while Goddard took eight of the final nine games to gain 7-5, 6-3 triumph.

Uram ploughed off his opponent 6-0, 6-0. The Camels swept the doubles, Mykrantz and Kraft leading with an 8-2 win. Goddard and Urham won again, 8-4. The final tally rose to 8-1 in favor of the Camels as Dicker teamed with first time player Tom Myers to win 9-4, 5-1 in the tiebreaker.

The Camels then dropped a heart-breaking 5-4 decision to UConn. The score stood at 3-3 after the singles matches. Mykrantz took his match 6-2, 7-5 and Craft again won without difficulty, 6-4, 6-2. Seth Uram gave the Camels their third point with a close 7-6, 6-4 decision. The doubles were to be the deciding factor but, unfortunately for the Camels, they could take one out of the three points. Mykrantz and Craft provided that point with a 6-4, 6-1 rout.

Archival Wesleyan invaded the South Courts and ran away with an upset victory. 7-2. Conn’s sole singles victor was freshman sensation Craft, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2. With its five singles victories, Wesleyan had already won the match and the doubles started the Camels' Craft tandem again took only the Camels’ doubles victory, this time in three sets, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

The unexpected task of facing the Eastern powerhouse Providence College was given to the Camels on a black day in Providence. Once again Craft was the only Camel able to win his singles match, this time by 6-2, 6-4. The Camels’ second point of the match came behind the doubles duo of Dicker and Greenberg, 6-2, 6-4. The powerful Friars were just too much for the undermanned Camels, 7-2.

Sailing the Thames

By Mike Sladden

The Camels of Connecticut College this year have distinguished themselves in a host of sports—Lacrosse, soccer, volleyball, crew—and yet for three years a modest group of salty camels has been meeting outside Fanning Hall on spring and fall afternoons, toting full-weather gear and sea boots. They drive down to the Coast Guard Academy for a daily sailing practice that has molded a diverse group of sailors into an intercollegiate club that races with Harvard, M.I.T., Tufts and Yale, to name a few. If the competition is impressive, so is the sailing camels’ record. Each year the club’s consistency increases, and its members sail head to head with the Ivies; last fall, a freshman yachtsman, Rob Birchcock, won a regatta for the first time on the Ivy level; and for three seasons of the last three years, the camels’ varsity racers, under Commodore Wisner Murray, have brought home the Bliss Trophy.

The Bliss is a championship series for the associates, the member schools of the New England Intercolligiate Sailing Association who do not maintain yacht clubs that could host the average thirteen school regattas held each weekend. Connecticut is among them, and yet has the opportunity to share with the Coast Guard, whose facilities on the Thames are complete, and easily accessible. The club, however, is as finicky off the course as on; and there are frequent reports of drunken binges around Boston and New London. But then, celebrating as much as the yacht way as serious sailing, and Conn’s sailors seem to practice each discipline with a sporting fervor. If the Austrins are notorious for forgetting which discipline comes first, then the Sailing Club has refined its brashness into a dialectic of racing and insanity.

Though Commodore Wisner’s contributions will be sorrowfully missed next year, the team will remain strong, with its newest talents, Hitchcock and Johnstone returning as sophomore and junior. Other members include the uncompromising Campbell Seawman, Louise “Drappers don’t Float!” Draper, Lois “hand me the flask, it’s freezing” Lovett, the everready Eddie Cassere, and a loud drunk Aussie who mysteriously appears at each season closing party.

The club is also looking for new members. In the long run, they hope that their skills lie in both coveted categories, that they don’t mind forty degree swims on Sunday mornings, after thousands of degree Saturday nights.
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Good-time schizophrenia: it's the New Wave**

Punk Rock. The new wave that has flooded America. At first an obscure British import, the New Wave has virtually cornered the hard rock half of the schizophrenic popular music market as the Mr. Hyde alterego to the more sedate Jekyll-like disco.

In an interview, Hugh and Peter, two band members, commented on the surge of enthusiasm for New Wave music in the area. The group taps into currents of hedonism in the culture, and when playing, "just want people to have fun." But, say the band members, the Reducers are also "into creating a scene that's an alternative to some of the rock bands." It is true that some music critics see New Wave as the only strain of rock music that dominates radio.

The Reducers downplay punk exhibitionism.

Some people have treated it like a masquerade party.

played at Conn., some people have treated it like a masquerade party. We're not into that.

The Vauxhall Inn:

*a potpourri of Victorian charm*

If Thursday night comes again and you feel nauseous at the thought of school food, if you have seven or eight dollars, transportation, and feel like gourmet food in style, then the Vauxhall Inn in New London should be your first choice.

Located on Vauxhall St. off Williams St., the Vauxhall Inn is a dream after the nightmare of Harris. The Inn is open only on Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 because the preponderance of its business is catering. No reservations are needed, although it is a good idea to call ahead to see if tables are available.

The setting is elegant. The Inn is an old Victorian. Tables are set in three connected rooms, with an air of privacy. Each is covered with a colorful tablecloth, cloth napkins held by napkin rings, beautiful silverware, china and crystal, and fresh cut flowers from the garden out back. But each napkin ring and crystal glass is different. The delightful potpourri creates an unequaled ambiance. A bar complete with everything except alcohol is open to all who bring their own. The Inn has no liquor license, yet complimentary glasses of red or rose wine are served with dinner.

The proprietor is a gracious, quiet man who takes your coat upon arrival and seats you. You're then told that you may serve yourself soup at your leisure. Dishes are taken away after each course.

The Reducers, the Clohespins, and a new all-girl band, Lynn Oleum and the Reducers. Hugh Birdsell, son of History professor Robert Birdsell, punning it up with the Reducers.

The Reducers Hugh and Peter are playing at the El and Gee last week. The "pins" are led by Conn. student Jan Nugent, who broadcasts a weekend punk show over WCN. Reducers Hugh and Peter are avid listeners of Nugent's punk spot; they "listen all the time and really like it." The two feel that the show is a worthwhile alternative to most of the music that dominates radio.

What about the bizarre aspects of New Wave tunes? Peter and Hugh downplay punk exhibitionism, stressing, "We just want people to go and have a good time. When we've

**The Vauxhall Inn is a dream after the nightmare of Harris.**

Your job is to get your desired cuisine and eat as much as possible.

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The Hole

By Michael Sittenfeld

"How's Intro Sociology going?"

"Pretty well."

"Did you hear about the ground-breaking?"

"Hab?"

"The ground-breaking. They started to build the Hole."

"Who's 'they'? What's a hole?"

"That's the only thing they are allowed to spend the money on. An anonymous donor."

"I'd like to personally thank that guy."

"Wait a second. You're not looking at the issue. If we refuse that gift, other people will be less willing to give us money."

"Wouldn't it take more integrity to refuse a gift for something the college doesn't need? Wouldn't we be shoving other potential sources of money that our concerns are with education and not—um—holes?"

"What's your problem? The Hole is gonna improve this place immensely. It'll attract potential students. It'll save lots of money."

"What?"

"It'll be 1000-feet deep. We can throw our trash into there: Ill get rid of it. We're paying $800,000 for it!"

"Nope. $1.5 million."

"One—half million—"

"Hold on. I haven't told you about the other advantages of the Hole. On weekends we can have big bonfires in it, and on sunny days we can dangle our feet into it and romp and frolic and generally have fun!"

"We can go to the Arboretum to run around and frolic! Where's the rest of the money for this hole coming from?"

"Nobody knows yet. We're hoping for more donors."

"They broke ground already and they don't have all the money."

"Yes."

"Won't they have to cut back somewhere to pay for the Hole? Our education will go down the drain..."

"What's an education without fun?"

"A hole is going to be fun! We're going to have all this fun at the expense of professors' jobs and books and lectures and..."

"We'll get the money somehow!"

"Sure. Meanwhile the students get gypped because the Hole I'm gonna stop this thing."

"You can't."

"WHAT?"

"You can't. The inner shell for the Hole has already been built and is stored somewhere up north. We've already signed contracts with construction companies, we're building an access road we've gotten permission from New London officials. Forget it. Nothing can stop the Hole."

The Hole

often discussed. The pitfalls receive considerably less attention."

While attending the protest as a spectator I found that those actively involved were opposing the Trident submarine was a striking example of the degree to which political opinion becomes polarized at the grass-roots level. The tendency of the American public to reduce complex issues to narrow categories of black and white is a consistent one. Because his views are not tempered by the need to compromise that binds a legislator, the average citizen is free to assume a more extreme position on the question at hand. The benefits of this honesty are often discussed. The pitfalls receive considerably less attention.

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OFF THE TRACK

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Capable of really seeing what was in their best interest. The reaction of some of the employees to the chanting at the front gate was quietly hostile. They saw the opposition as being naive and careless. Aside from the primary responsibility of supporting their families, some also saw the construction of the Trident as a moral act. The workers viewed their participation in this country's defense program with pride. To them, the demonstrators were ignoring the Trident submarine was a striking example of the degree to which political opinion becomes polarized at the grass-roots level. The tendency of the American public to reduce complex issues to narrow categories of black and white is a consistent one. Because his views are not tempered by the need to compromise that binds a legislator, the average citizen is free to assume a more extreme position on the question at hand. The benefits of this honesty are just doing what they think is right."

The average American considering the issue of defense spending versus arms control must wade through the exaggerated claims of both sides if he is to find the truth. The public statements of those in Washington responsible to the interests of different departments are equally extreme. A spokesman for the welfare bureau may contend that if the U.S. completely halted production of nuclear weapons, the strategic advantage obtained by the Russians would be negligible. A Navy department spokesman will counter with the claim that the construction of thirty Tridents is vital to our security.

The confusion in the public sector is only heightened by this bureaucratic overload. The newspapers are constantly filled with interviews of reputable "experts" who maintain radically different views. All of this filters down to a public debate in which few people really understand what is at issue. On Saturday I witnessed a street discussion between some demonstrators and a group of Yale students in favor of the launching. All of those involved seemed to be intelligent and articulate people. Yet it was not long before the debate dissolved into an incoherent shouting match.

The SALT treaty about to be signed and presented to the Senate by Jimmy Carter will bring the issue of arms control and defense spending to the forefront of national concern. The outcome of this debate will affect problems far outside pure military matters. The questions involved are too complex to be reduced to righteous slogans. They demand thoughtful study and consideration.

In presenting his case to the Senate and the American people, Carter has taken into account the inherent tendency of this country to debate on emotion rather than fact. He has posed the question as directly as possible: "Will the United States be more secure if it approves the treaty? Will it be less secure if it disapproves?"

This approach is calculated to combat the obsession with the trivial that often mars partisan debates on foreign policy. But in a deeper respect it is...
The Bates Method corrects poor eyesight without glasses, The Bettervision Eye Clinic is now offering a program of eye-exercises that can produce astonishing results in a very short time. The method has been widely used by the Armed Forces, schools, clinics, and thousands of private individuals, for the treatment of:

- nearsightedness
- farsightedness
- astigmatism
- middle-age sight

For many years it was thought that poor eyesight was just bad luck, or something you inherit from your parents. Scientists now know that most eyeight problems are caused by accumulated stress and tension—which squeeze the eyeball out of shape, and affect the muscles that do the focusing. The result is an eye that cannot focus on a clear image, and the world appears to be blurry. In people over 40, the natural aging process is also an important factor.

No matter what your eyesight problem, the Bettervision Eye Clinic can help you. This is a health care program, approved and endorsed by everyone who follows it—children, adults, and seniors.

It is important to understand that glasses do not cure a visual problem. They are simply a compensating device—like crutches. In fact, glasses usually make the condition worse. Because they take the eye's strain away, a minor problem often develops into a lifetime of wearing glasses.

The Bates Method teaches you to focus and relax the eye muscles, and to relax the muscles that do the focusing. You do simple eye exercises that improve your focusing power, eliminate eye strain, and bring your eyesight back to normal.

Because the Bates Method deals with the basic cause of your eyesight problem, you can expect to see a definite improvement in as little as 1 or 2 weeks. Even if you have worn glasses all your life—things will become clearer and closer, and you will have flashes of good vision. As you go through the program, these flashes become longer and more frequent, gradually blending into permanent better sight—at which point the exercises are no longer necessary.

We usually find that people whose eyesight is not too bad can return to 20/20 vision in about a month. Even if your eyesight is really poor, within 2 to 3 months you should be able to put away your glasses, once and for all. Read about our 18 happy clients.

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By following this program, you will soon be able to see clearly without glasses. It's up to you. Ordering the Bates Method can be one of the best decisions you ever made. So do it now—before you get sidetracked and forget. Fill out the order coupon, attach your check for $9.95 plus 1% for postage and handling, and mail it to us today!

If you have any questions regarding this program, please call us at 415-755-8669. Our qualified operator will be glad to help you.

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Allow 1 to 2 weeks for delivery.
CA residents must add 654 sales tax.

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Here's an effective new eye-exercise program that can produce astonishing results in a very short time...

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My vision was getting steadily worse. even with greatly strengthened glasses. To my dismay I realized I was going blind. On the advice of my Doctor I decided to try the Bates Method. There was an immediate improvement. After only 2 months I was able to read clearly without glasses. Better still, the cataract which had covered part of one eye for over 16 years was beginning to clear up...

Rev. Frederick A. Milos, M.S.

"By following the simple exercises given in this program, I have completely recovered my vision. Now I can read for long periods without my glasses!"

Ron Moore—Technician

"I originally went to the Clinic to deliver some equipment—and ended up trying their eye-exercise program. I am nearsighted, and have worn glasses for 15 yrs. In just 3 weeks after starting the program, my eyesight has already improved to the point where I can now drive, do business, and watch T.V.—all without my glasses!"

esthetically

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