Letters to the Editor

Blackstone (1)

To The Editor:

After reading the letter in last week's Pundit from a Student '74, I felt as if I had been kicked in the stomach. Few words could frame an appropriate reply, so I hope everyone will re-read the letter and analyze it carefully. Perhaps if you, the members of the college are willing to do a little reverse role playing the irony of the situation will become apparent. The letter systematically, though obviously unintentionally, spoke to many of the difficulties of being a black student on this campus.

Conn's Afro-Am Society is presently aware of the communication problems on this campus. This weekend, we offer you an opportunity to share an experience with us. Make no mistake: we don't expect that you will as a result of this participation become a part of the black experience. I doubt that such an aim is rational. Rather, we hope that in sharing various experiences designed by respected artisans of the black community, we will be able to enjoy communication on that level.

We have invited several figures from the world of the arts. Douglas Turner Ward is the artistic director for the Negro ensemble company of New York. He co-stars with Bill Cosby in the film "Harresto" to be soon released. He is also the author of the Day of Absence, The Reckoning and Happy Ending. Mr. Turner's presentation will deal with the black experience in theater. Nikki Grimes will read her poetry Saturday at noon in Dana Hall. Her most recent collection is, in the Seventh Day, Alah. Hubert Lewis, flutist with Quincy Jones will perform his new album, "Afro-Casic" at 8:00 in Palmer.

On Sunday, we invite you to worship with us in Harkness Chapel, under the leadership of Rev. William Philpot of the New Haven Christ Chapel New Testament Church. Sunday afternoon Michael Harper will give a reading of his poetry at 4:30 in Dana. The last scheduled event of the weekend will deal with Rev. James Hargett entitled "Thoughts on the Black Revolution." Other planned events include a showing of art from the black community of New London in Cummings Art Center, and a presentation by the Conn. College Black Theater Workshop on Saturday at 4:30 in Palmer. This is but a thumbnail sketch of the major events of this weekend and of the people involved in the weekend. There are hidden opportunities to meet and talk with the people and the other people this event will draw to Conn.

This weekend is one of the few opportunities for the black students to enjoy contact with black leaders, it is by no means to be an exclusive event. We need your financial support as all social events here do. But most importantly, we must see that you are willing to be open with us. Frankly, it would be more than tragic to find that the members of this college were unwilling to support such a weekend. We don't ask that you "bend over backwards to be sweet and nice to anyone." Rather, we offer you an occasion to share in the Black Experience.

Anita DeFranc "74

Blackstone (2)

To The Editor:

First let me say that I was disappointed to see an anonymous letter appear in Pundit of April 6th. At the risk of advocating the suppression of ideas I feel that unsigned letters tend to foster irresponsible gossip and slander and therefore should not be published.

To the anonymous Sophomore who was too "Marrad to take responsibility for his or her idea" I would like to say that I feel a deep regret not only that such a letter was published, but that it was written at all. Exactly what did you hope to achieve by writing such a letter? Reconsideration in any form was clearly not your motive since you make it impossible for anyone to reach you and reason with you. From the tone of your letter I can only assume that you were good and angry when you wrote it, and that perhaps it served the function of a safety valve for you. Unfortunately your letting off steam serves only to increase the pressure upon other people, especially those persons, both black and white, who are struggling to build better relationships between the races here at Connecticut College.

As a frequent visitor to most of the college dormitories I can personally testify to having been met with stars, and a casualness which might in other circumstances or to a less astute visitor be interpreted as rudeness in every one of our housing units. I can also state that without being ingratiating or "patronizing" it is relatively easy to overcome such simple reactions. Did it ever occur to you that it was precisely your experience, in reverse and multiplied a thousand times, "I'm damned if I am going to put up with rudeness and fiery when anyone on this campus", which made it necessary for black students to seek at least one place on this college where they could relax and not be constantly "on display"?

I accept at face value your statement that you are not a bigot, and I grant you the benefit of the doubt that you honestly wish to do something constructive towards easing racial tensions in our college community. If this is the case I invite you to come and see me (if necessary the confidentiality of my role as Chaplain and discuss with me ways in which the hostilities you have experienced and expressed can be diminished, if not eliminated altogether.

Yours sincerely,
J. Barrie Shephard

Kelleher

Platform Speech

To The Editor:

The office of senior class president is a busy and challenging one which encompasses many more detailed and specific tasks than the same office in the other three classes. It is crucial, therefore, to establish committees early — to organize information concerning job interviews, career talks, graduate schools and exams, to set up fund-raising projects to help pay for a commencement speaker, and to coordinate commencement itself.

Serving as president sophomore year, I found flaws in the dorm rep system. For this reason, I would avoid the hassle of having five out of 21 dorm reps show up for a particular meeting. I would encourage the committee to work independently with a concentrated effort. The groups would have workable numbers and the secretary-treasurer should be responsible for keeping together information for distribution to each dorm and thereby each member of the class. Dorm reps can be committee members with specific jobs as well as the recipients and disseminators of pooled information. I am eager to get involved (Continued On Page 7)

Free School Seeks Help

Like other free schools, that must maintain close, but informal contacts with the nearest college. Some faculty members attend and help has already come to the school from individuals within the community.

Help in the form of books, supplies, and money is needed. Visits to the school can be arranged. The New London County Free School is a non-profit educational corporation and any donations are deductible. Donations can be sent to the school via C.C. 10177 (Mr. Smalley).

Security Log

A portrait in Marshall house of former College president Benjamin Marshall was vandalized sometime between April 5 and 7. Several cigarette holes were burned in the canvas, and gold was pulled off the frame. The painting was turned over to Mr. Roger Dennis of Lyman-Allyn Museum for repairs.

A pair of skis was reportedly stolen over spring vacation from a locked room in the basement of Larrabee.
French House Opens Doors

The French House in Knowlton, under the direction of Miss Octile Mathy is throwing its doors open on April 15th to all members of the Connecticut College community who wish to improve, maintain, or brush up their spoken French. There is one or more French table at every weekday lunch and at dinner through Thursday afternoon, hosted by Miss Mathy and an advanced French student from the French House.

The French House residents will continue to form the nucleus for the new arrangement, but we hope to encourage as many others as possible to take advantage of this opportunity. The French Department is supporting this effort, and there will often be a faculty member there, especially at lunch.

Another important aspect of the new program is the regularly scheduled tea on Wednesday afternoons from three to five at the Knowlton French House. Miss Mathy and the French House residents will serve tea, engage in conversation, and provide French music. All French speaking students and faculty are cordially invited to attend.

No one need feel embarrassed about their level of fluency at the French table or the tea; all levels will be represented from native speakers to first year students. Besides, you can always bring a friend who speaks worse than you do.

James H. Williston

Asselin on Linguistics

Professor Claire Asselin will speak informally to the College Community on Tuesday, April 18th at 4:20 p.m. in Oliva Hall about linguistics in general and the new courses recently voted by the faculty in particular. The courses are: Linguistics, offered the first semester, and Applied Linguistics, the second. The topics for the applied linguistics course will be chosen to suit the interests of students. Professor Asselin is a professor of linguistics at Storrs.

Letters... (Continued From Page 6)

important meeting on the perimeter road Wednesday, April 19, 8:00 p.m., Oliva Hall.

PUNIT incorporates a political rights or obligations we may have in the community, to clarify the question of plurality vs. majority in student government elections when more than two candidates are running. I sincerely hope to be able to use my enthusiasm and experience for the class of '73 next year.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jean Kelleher

Announcing...

Important meeting on the perimeter road Wednesday, April 19, 8:00 p.m., Oliva Hall.

PUNIT apologizes to the Anthropology Club for failing to run an article that was submitted last week. It seems that our printer misplaced it.

—From Pres. Shain

The recent engagement of some of our students and faculty in local politics prompts me to remind us all that as members of the Connecticut College community we engage only ourselves and not the College in political affairs and events. The College must observe a complete non-participating role with respect to any political activity. Therefore, each of us must refrain from using the name Connecticut College except to identify our residence here. Any political rights or obligations we may have in the community derive from our being residents of New London and not from employment at or in connection with Connecticut College.
WANTED:
SUMMER RENTAL OR SUBLET. House or apt. in Middletoom-Meriden area, end of May till Sept. Contact: Wendy Chritz Box 564 (Sherry) Goodman Box 372, Larrabee.

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