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INSIDE: A&E recognizes outstanding seniors majoring in the arts.



NEWS
Dr. Wallerson has been appointed as the Interim Director of Unity House. She will also serve as the Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs.



SPORTS
Welcome to a revamped sports section, kids. Check out our two new columnists, and catch up on volleyball and sailing action on page 10.



A&E
Savor delicious homemade pastries and exotic blends of coffee and tea at the newly opened Blue Camel Café in the basement of Shain Library.



THE COLLEGE VOICE

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CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT

High Retention Rate Causes Crowding in Dorms

By ELIZABETH GREENMAN
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

As many students noticed upon their return to campus this fall, certain common rooms had been transformed over the summer and are now inhabited by members of the class of 2008. Contrary to popular belief, the housing crunch this year was not the fault of the freshman. Rather, the class of 502 students was exactly what the college had planned for and expected.

The issue of having to find housing for an extra sixty or so more students than the statistics had predicted was mainly caused by an increase in the College's retention rate; specifically, more students decided to return this year than in the past. For the college as a whole, this trend is a positive sign. The increase is attributed to a multitude of reasons, including more former commuters deciding to live on campus, less study abroad participants, and fewer students who opt to take a semester off or drop out altogether.

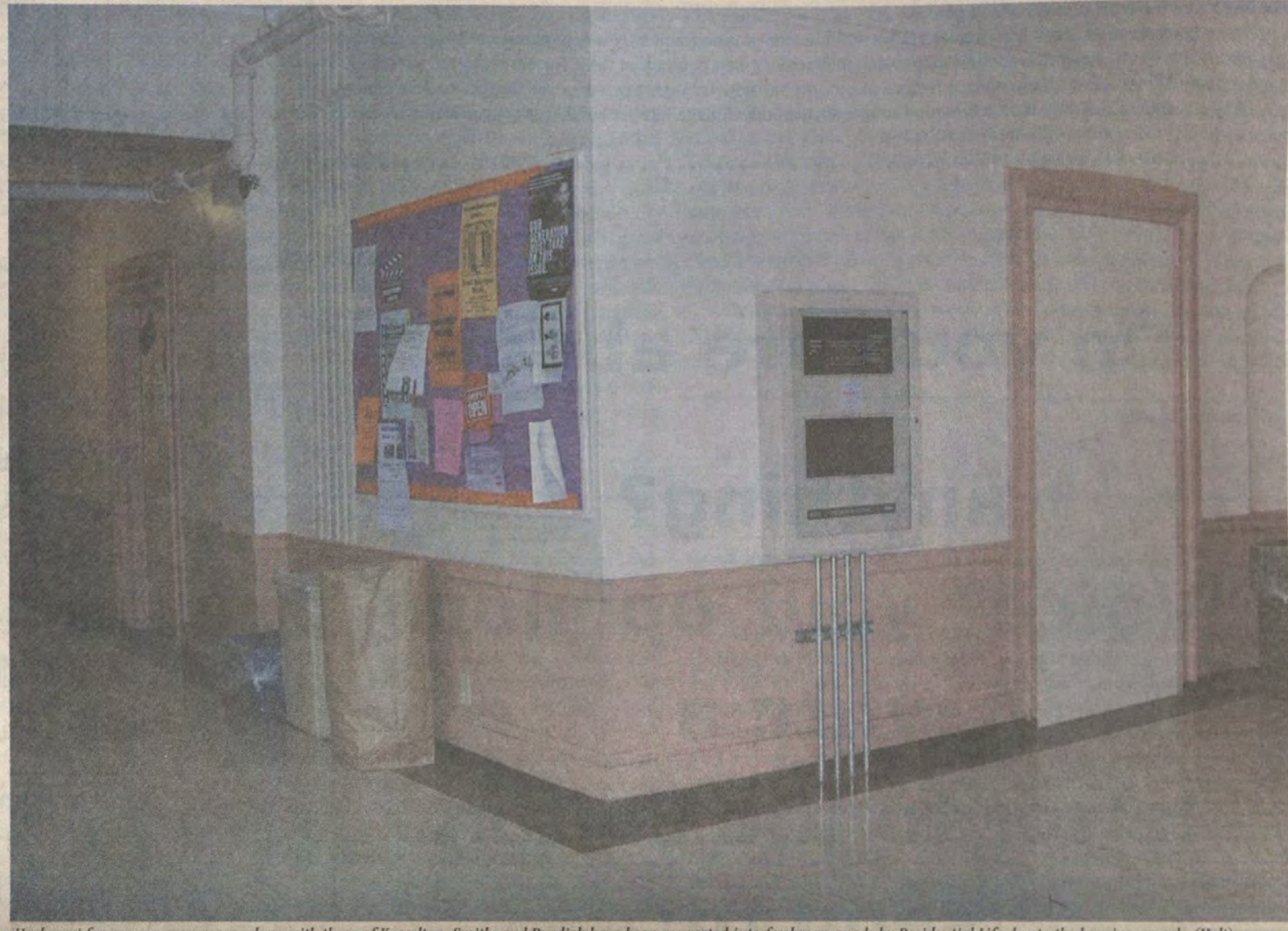
The housing assignments and lottery are renowned for being an exceptionally complicated process. Traditionally throughout the summer, students who have chosen not to return in the fall call the office of Resident Life and Housing to inform them of their decision. The office in turn calls rising sopho-

mores placed in doubles to offer them the an upgrade to a single. The rising freshman class is then placed in the doubles that have been vacated by upperclassmen.

By August this year, it became evident that there were not nearly enough students forfeiting their rooms to trigger the typical cycle and accommodate the remaining freshman still waiting to be placed in a dorm. Shelley Metvier, Director of Residential Life and Housing, was faced with the pressing issue and began to investigate alternative housing options.

Her main objective was to ensure that the housing process was still a "high quality experience for all students", especially the incoming freshman. She decided not to evict student organizations out of potential dorm space, such as the Women's Center in Freeman. Additionally, the office of Res Life decided not to increase capacity in current rooms, such as creating a forced triple out of a current double.

After narrowing the search down to common spaces in the residence halls, Metvier and company immediately discarded any rooms that would have been large enough to house six students, opting to remain consistent with the philosophy of capping freshman living



continued on page 6 Harkness' former common room, along with those of Knowlton, Smith, and Burdick have been converted into freshman quads by Residential Life due to the housing crunch. (Holt)

Conn Continues to Drop in U.S. News Rankings Connecticut College Welcomes Diverse and Well-Rounded Class of 2008

By YONI FREEMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

Connecticut College experienced a drop this year in the annual U.S. News and World Report rankings. According to last month's publication, Conn is currently in position 35 on the Liberal Arts Colleges list, compared to 34th place last year. In 2001 the college's ranking was 26.

The US News and World Report's rankings are among the most notable in the world and are considered by college officials to be a common tool for college applicants, particularly at the undergraduate level.

The US News and World Report's website explains how rankings are determined. There are seven categories, which are each assigned a specific percentage of the school's final score. The areas included are peer assessment (25%), retention (20%), faculty resources (20%), student selectivity (15%), financial resources (10%), graduation rate performance (5%), and alumni giving rate (5%). Ultimately a score is calculated out of 100 points. Further information is available at the U.S. News and World Report web

page. There has been a mixture of reactions from both Conn students and the administration. Zach Steacy '06 said he does not pay much attention to the rankings and that they may be "a little phoney as they are based heavily on a school's endowment." He added that he believed what really mattered was the "relationship between the professor and the student", an area not included in the calculations.

Chris Devine '06 remarked that he would be concerned if Connecticut College "plummeted" in the rankings. With regards to the latest one point decline, Devine commented that it only provides a "psychological effect."

Richard Zbeda '06 observed that he did not believe "a number could realistically summarize the value of the entire liberal arts education."

Members of the college's administration responded in similar ways to some of the views expressed by the students. President Norman Fainstein actually saw some improvement to the magazine's view of the college. "If you look closely, you'll see that the college showed significant improvement in four of the six subcategories

- faculty resources, alumni giving and graduation and retention." He made it clear that admission and financial information were two to three years old and did not portray the improvement of the college's budget situation.

President Fainstein said that the rankings cannot "fully measure or accurately describe the Connecticut College education program," and gave an example that the rankings placed "great weight on how much money a college spent but did not attempt to evaluate how well it was spent."

Fainstein did not believe it will affect application numbers because he believed students "knew better than to let these rankings dictate their college decisions." He concluded that the college was strengthening.

Dean of Student Life, David Milstone, confirmed that the school was aware "that many people use these rankings as an indicator of how graduate schools and employers will view their degree." He noted it was a serious matter in that instance. Milstone elaborated that the rankings did not "accurately measure what most people

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lent competition to athletics, add to community service, and contribute to artistic programs. The Class of 2008 has 30 international students representing 21 different countries and a legacy count of 39 children and grandchildren of alumni. There are four ballroom dancers, several competitive Irish dancers, and even a Gumbboot dancer. Additionally, the class has many musicians, including a bagpiper and a student from China who plays the Zeng.

By MICHAEL O'NEIL
STAFF WRITER

The Class of 2008 arrived on campus August 28 for freshmen orientation. After the initial process of moving into their rooms, the freshmen participated in a four-day series of events planned by the Office of Student Life. The class, which consists of 502 students, was joined by the rest of the student body on August 31. Classes officially began on September 2, marked by the College's 90th Annual Convocation.

With the highest number of applications in the history of the College and the second most selective admittance rate, the numbers stand for themselves. For example, 55% of matriculated students graduated from their respective high schools in the top ten percent of their class, nine points higher from last year. Similarly, 80% graduated in the top twenty percent of their high school, three points higher from last year. The average combined SAT score, 1330, was the highest in the College's history and set a strong platform for the Class of 2008. While numbers give a strong indication of the quality of the class, it's the students' talents, backgrounds and personalities that highlight their impressive record.

Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, Martha Merrill '84, reflects positively on both the intelligence and character of the freshmen. "This is a well rounded class. Not only are they very intelligent, but their interests range from athletics to art and beyond." Merrill added, "As early as the application process, people were interested in programs like PICA or CISLA." Merrill projects that this class will be well versed in all of the four centers, bring excel-

The freshmen also have diverse academic interests and credentials; one student likes to study herpetology, or the study of reptiles. Another student was recognized as a Thoreau Scholar, due to his "potential to affect positive change in the way humans respond to the environment." Another student, from Bulgaria, attended the Bulgarian Astronomy Conference.

Several freshmen have significant athletic accomplishments as well. One student has won the US Badminton championships. In addition, there is a Slovakian fin swimmer, a Bolivian National Soccer player, and even a silver medalist in US Teen ice skating.

Freshman Colby Tallman talked about her first experiences on the campus. "I love the school. Classes have been going well. The workload is tough, but I am getting used to it." This period of adjustments includes learning to live with roommates. "I like my room, and though I've never had roommates before, I really enjoy the ones I have. It gives me company and people to talk with," Tallman said.

The Office of Admissions is already providing tours and interviews to prospective students of the Class of 2009.

Summer Conference Attendees Vandalize MOBROC Barn

By EMILY MORSE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On July 28, 2004, the MOBROC barn, located behind Crozier-Williams, was broken into and ransacked by members of a Christian youth group using facilities at Connecticut College for a religious conference. About \$5,000 worth of damage was done to the structure of the barn in addition to \$7,500 in damages to MOBROC's equipment.

MOBROC, which stands for Musicians Organized for Band Rights on Campus, is a student club composed of musicians and music lovers at Connecticut College. It was founded in 1986. The group acquired the barn in the early 90's and it legally belongs to MOBROC.

"[The barn] was the old squash court, and the college actually gave the papers to the club," said Nate Staub '05, President of MOBROC. "So it's kind of like an annex. It's almost like the Indians and their casinos, on a smaller scale. It's actually not part of Connecticut College."

The organization serves two main purposes. For the students in

MOBROC it gives them an opportunity to communicate with other musicians and network and form [bands]," said Ryan Hoyler '05, former technical support staff. Additionally, they "try to provide entertainment for the rest of the college campus at least twice a month in the form of a music show."

The MOBROC barn is crucial to the group's ability to function. "The barn serves a dual purpose," said Hoyler, "It stores all of [MOBROC's] equipment in a safe location as well as amps and really heavy things [belonging to] the musicians in MOBROC. It also serves as our practice space."

Because Hoyler was one of the few MOBROC board members on campus over the summer, he was responsible for assessing the damage. "The main practice room was absolutely destroyed," said Hoyler. "They had thrown a couch off of the upper railing area onto an organ and had tied a rope onto the couch and the railing so as to partly rip the railing down. There was stuff strewn



A broken window is but one of several damages sustained by the MOBROC barn. (Solod)

about, upside down, broken in half throughout the room."

These damages are in addition to a broken window, smashed-in door, and graffiti - not to mention the damage to MOBROC's equipment. These individuals destroyed most of MOBROC's speakers, along with some amplifiers, sound processing equipment, microphone stands, and

various instruments.

Physical Plant has begun repairs to the internal structure of the barn. "The extent of the damage to the MOBROC facility was limited to the broken window and graffiti," said Jim Norton, Director of Physical Plant Services. "While we painted over the graffiti, we have not com-

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OPINION

THE WORLD SERIES BOUNCE

ADAM WEINBERG • THE HEBREW HAMMER

Thank you for tuning to SNN. This morning we have an exclusive special report on an issue that has the potential to determine the outcome of this year's United States presidential election. This issue is the so-called "World Series Bounce", a factor that Bush and Kerry are banking on to turn the turbulent tide of public opinion in their favor in this hotly contested election.

Presidential candidates traditionally receive a boost of support or a "bounce" in the polls shortly following their party's nominating conventions. This year Senator Kerry received very little such boost, while President Bush has experienced a considerable bounce following the Republican National Convention in New York City. However, the convention bounce tends to be temporary, and with two months between the party conventions and the November election, both parties have been looking to the months ahead for some way to energize voters in what has been a particularly long and exhausting campaign thus far. The Major League Baseball (MLB) World Series, played not even 2 weeks prior to the election, could very possibly provide that steroid-filled shot in the arm their candidates are looking for.

But could the outcome of MLB games actually influence voter behavior? John Kerry and key Bush administration officials apparently think so. During a nationally televised contest between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees in mid-July, Dick Cheney was seen by millions of viewers wearing a Yankees baseball cap. A month and a half later the Republicans held their national convention in the very same city.

Connections between the Yankees and the Republicans do not end there. The Yankees' owner is a registered Republican who even shares the same first name with the President. George and George have similar approaches towards policy. Both men spare no expense in stocking their teams with the biggest available weapons. The 2004 Yankees are the most expensive baseball team in baseball history, outspending the next most expensive team, the Boston Red Sox, by more than \$50 million. Meanwhile, the 2004 United States military budget is greater than the rest of the world's military budgets combined.

Historically speaking, and Vietnam, Somalia, and War of 1812 aside, the US military has been the decisive victors in virtually every conflict it has participated in. The Yankees for their part have won far more World Series rings than any other team. By having Dick Cheney

seen wearing a Yankee cap, and then staging the Republican convention in New York City, the Republicans have clearly been trying to make the association in the public mind that the Bush administration, like the Yankees, are proven winners.

The parallels tying senator and presidential hopeful John Kerry to the Boston Red Sox are even more direct. The Massachusetts liberal cum moderate cum fiscal conservative and militarist would seemingly have natural ties to his states hometown team, but just weeks after Cheney's appearance at Yankee stadium, Kerry appeared at beautiful Fenway Park during a nationally broadcast game wearing a Red Sox cap. Taking the republicans scheme one step further, the Kerry team arranged for an in-game interview and, according to one fan, "He talked like a freakin' 'owah!". With such an appearance, Kerry clearly is casting himself as the under-dog fighting an uphill battle to unseat the champion.

The Red Sox' die-hard fan base is widely respected as the most intense, knowledgeable, and loyal fans in all of baseball. As the Red Sox suddenly become the hottest team in baseball, the Democrats are hinging their hopes on team players that have the best offensive 1-2 punch in the game, and a much-improved defense and staff of missile hurlers that have been keeping losses, particularly at home, to an absolute minimum. Kerry would love to capitalize on such credentials.

Which brings us back to our original question. What would be the impact on the United States presidential race if one or the other team defeated their historic rival and went on to win the World Series? Would the conscious or unconscious linkage of each party to their respective team trigger an emotional response in the electorate such that voters reward a party with their vote on the basis of their reaction to the World Series? Would a Red Sox victory cause the country to unite around a Bostonian candidate, ignoring the fact that it still doesn't know exactly what Kerry stands for? Would a Yankee victory cause the undecided voter to vote for Bush, a dimwit who, on the strength of his convictions, would determinedly lead the country off the edge of a cliff into the gaping maw of hell? Or would a Red Sox loss in the ALCS cause a jaded Ralph Nader to drop out of the race and start heaving Molotov cocktails? Rest assured, we here at the SNN will be reporting up-to-the-minute sensationalistic campaign news coverage as it happens.

THE SHAKEN LINES

YONI FREEMAN • VIEWPOINT



"Take counsel together, and it shall be brought to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand; for God is with us." - Isaiah 8:10

This week the third anniversary of the heinous terrorist attacks on America in 2001 will be marked and remembered around the world. Over three thousand people lost their lives on that day in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. It was then that the United States decided it had

enough reasons - three thousand of them - to actively strike those who sought to bring it harm wherever they may be.

Another mark this week has been the publication of official Israel Defense Forces (IDF) statistics for ONLY the last 4 years regarding the terrorist war against Israel. Statistics show that 989 Israelis were murdered and 6,700 were injured in 22,837 terrorist attacks, foiled terrorist attacks and violent incidents. 22,837 terrorist attacks! Can you believe it? Think about what the death toll would have been if Israel did not intercept any of the Arab attackers. And remember that the population of Israel is around six million, whereas 989 dead Israelis would be equal proportionally to 46,153 Americans dead in 4 years of terror!

The world has seen the increase of terrorist murder inside various borders these past few weeks. The four places which stand out are Iraq, Russia, Israel and Indonesia, though it is not to say murder of that sort, brought forward by the militant Islamic ideology, is not occurring in other places in the world, such as in India. It is here that militant Islamic terrorists have continued their targeting of those they consider to be infidels, no matter how old or innocent. In their book they are not civilians, but combatants. The slaughter of those in Iraq (where twelve kidnapped Nepalese citizens were murdered), in Beer-Sheva (where sixteen Israelis were butchered in genocide bombings on two buses), and in Belsan (where hundreds at a school in Russia, half of them children, lost their lives to a group of over 20 Islamic terrorists who shot them in the back or blew them up with explosives) continues to paint a gloomy picture of an ever increasing dangerous world with more and more countries finally realizing the danger of an ideology which

LOOK HOW FAR WE'VE COME

NICK IYENGAR • OUT IN RIGHT FIELD

It's been three years since Muslim terrorists murdered thousands of innocent Americans in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. The people of our generation will always remember where they were when they first heard that the World Trade Center had been destroyed, the Pentagon was burning and that America was under attack. I didn't hear about it until 7:45 in the morning (10:45 in New York,) when I got to my high school and heard the news as I was walking from the parking lot towards first period English. Of course, my initial reaction was simple disbelief, which turned into shock as the day wore on. I don't think I felt any anger that day - somehow, the rage was so obvious that I didn't even take note of it.



It's been three years, and with every year that passes, Americans mourn the loss of their 3,000 countrymen. We also gain perspective with each passing anniversary. Conveniently, I have an op-ed

column this year, and I'd like to take a look at how much we've progressed since that terrible day three years ago.

To say that America has come a long way since September 11 is an understatement. Today, we Americans are conscious of the fact that we are threatened every day by Islamist terrorists who would love nothing more than to slaughter a few thousand more of us. No longer do we live in the pre-9/11 mindset, thinking ourselves to be safe and secure. Acknowledging this new reality is a small but important first step in the effort to make America a safer place.

Coming to grips with the new world we live in after 9/11 was important, but America also reacted quickly when it came time to move from grieving for our loss to bringing the terrorists to justice. Our brave men and women in the armed forces fought a relatively bloodless war (compared to the predictions of the doomsayers) in Afghanistan, ousting the oppressive Taliban and putting a serious dent in the Al Qaeda terror network.

It seems as though that was the easy part. European sympathy for America's war on terror quickly diminished when President Bush began

THE LEGACY OF A "LIBERATOR"

ZACH WEST • VIEWPOINT

The death of Ronald Reagan this summer provoked feelings of sadness and nostalgia in many people around the world. Watching from my apartment in Germany, I was particularly fascinated by how everyone - from Maggie Thatcher, to former East German citizens, to American conservatives and liberals alike - were remembering Reagan as the 'man who won the Cold War' and as a great 'liberator'. Reagan's popular legacy as a bringer of freedom and defeater of the USSR is a nice way to remember and honor him and his presidency. So it's a shame that it's not really... true.

The popular argument for Reagan's cold-war legacy, which is embraced by American conservatives as gospel truth, usually goes like this: Reagan won the Cold War for the US and the Free World. He defeated the Soviet Union peacefully and brought freedom and democracy to the citizens of the Soviet Bloc. He accomplished all this by drawing a hard anti-communist line in foreign policy, fueling the arms race to exacerbate Soviet economic problems, and making stringent, no-nonsense demands for arms reductions and for freedom for citizens under communist rule. A true hero and visionary, he made the world a safer place.

But in reality, Reagan's hard-line, anti-communist policies didn't accomplish all that much; in fact, they may have even prolonged the cold war. For the entire first term of Reagan's presidency, despite the staunch ideological stances of Reagan and Thatcher, no progress whatsoever was made in 'winning' the Cold War for the West. There were no talks or agreements between the superpowers, and Reagan's hare-brained SDI program (Star Wars), intended to scare the Soviets into overspending on the arms race, did not have the desired effect (the only significant changes in the Soviet military budget during the 80s were reductions). In addition, Reagan's penchant for flexing nuclear muscles alienated the USSR, and once again made our sudden extinction as a

species a distinct possibility (and it didn't help that Reagan's Soviet counterparts were equally cantankerous and obstinate).

In 1985, however, things took a turn for the better - not because of Reagan, but because of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union and, on his initiative, the leaders of both countries met for the first time since before Reagan came to office. At the summit meetings, Gorbachev advocated arms reduction, an unheard-of step in the Cold War peace process. Gorbachev was the first Soviet leader since Krushchev to realize that the arms race had been harming the Soviet economy, and he sought peace with the West in the interest of mutual survival and progress.

Progressive change was not limited to foreign policy; behind the Iron Curtain, Gorbachev strengthened civil liberties (such as freedom of speech), and allowed the Eastern Bloc more leeway in self-governance. These developments, intended to strengthen the USSR, ironically ended up destroying it, but it would be wrong to attribute such effects to Reagan. For instance, Reagan may have told Gorbachev to "tear down this wall" in Berlin, but it would be internal developments - specifically, rifts in East German leadership, errors in communication, and a popular yearning for freedom - that would ultimately lead to the opening of the Berlin Wall.

So let us remember this aspect of Reagan's presidency for what it was: he wanted us to win the Cold War, and we did, thanks to Reagan's eventual cooperation with the Soviet Union in his second term. But if you're looking for a great liberator and bringer of peace, look not to Reagan, but to Gorbachev. It was he who, somewhat accidentally, did what Reagan was trying to do all along by force: destroy the Soviet Union, free the Eastern Bloc, and end the Cold War. Reagan, actor that he was, just happened to be on stage at the right time to steal the limelight.

Take for example the terror attack in Beer-Sheva, which I might add is the city most of my family in Israel lives in, and a location I myself was in not so many weeks ago. Following the blood bath, various world governments came out and condemned it. But not one of them told Israel it expected Israel to go after those responsible, or that they stood with Israel against the perpetrators. Instead, the regular recycled trash came around saying that this hurts the peace-process and that the Palestinian Authority, the regime allowing the terrorists to operate, should take action against the terrorists. There was the usual painting of IDF actions and Arab terror attacks as equal, and that both sides need to get back on the roadmap, Israel should remove settlements, etc. Some days later, Israel pushed away the world, as it always does rightfully, and continued its operations, killing at one incident fourteen Hamas terrorists. The PA regime itself claimed it was a "summer camp" (with, I believe, bearded grown men holding weapons attending it).

And how did the world react? A European foreign minister called on Israel to respect International Law; the US Secretary of State criticized the action, saying he was opposed to striking Hamas and found it "unhelpful".

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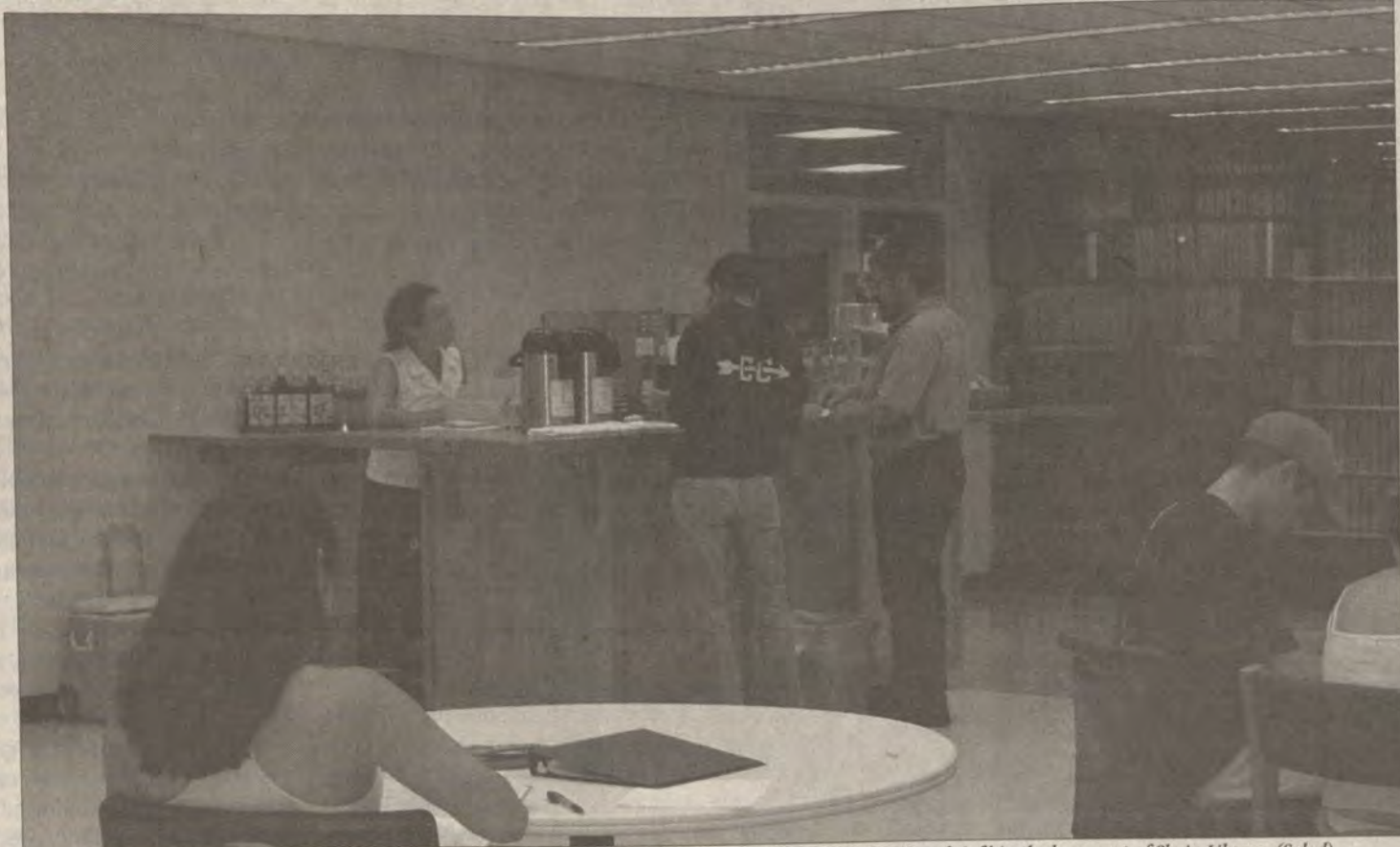
By RACHEL GAINES
A&E EDITOR

Upon setting foot in the Charles E. Shain library this year, students may quickly notice a change. Instead of the all-too-common smell of mildew-ed text books and copy machine toner, the building is bursting with the tantalizing aroma of freshly ground coffee. The books are still there and the printers are still unpredictable, but the addition of the Blue Camel Café in the basement of the library provides a relaxing and comfortable aspect to the usually stress-infested building.

The café was created this summer in response to requests from students for a comfortable group study space in Shain. Originally spotted last year in the gift shop of the Lyman Allyn Art Museum at the south end of campus, Conn was quick to put a deal into motion. When the museum decided to discontinue the café, Information Services immediately began making calls to bring its services to Conn students.

The café is owned and operated by Lorelei Frantz who is knowledgeable about coffee and passionate about her job. While business for Frantz has been somewhat slow so far, she's excited about the upcoming year. "[It's picking up] little by little. Every day is a little bit better."

While this particular café is owned by



Conn students check out the exotic new blends of coffee and tea being brewed at the recently opened Blue Camel Café in the basement of Shain Library. (Solod)

Frantz, a number of them, including the Lyman Allyn café, are contracted by Ashlawn Farm of Lyme, CT. Ashlawn has been family owned and operated since 1909

with only a short break in the mid 90's due to disputes with the state. The hundred acre property was originally a full-fledged farm and ranch with steers, dairy cows, vegeta-

bles, and all the picturesque greenery of the country. Now, Ashlawn is the only coffee roastery between Mystic and Guilford and produces some of the finest organic and Fair

Trade coffees in the Northeast.

The Blue Camel Café has three Ashlawn coffee blends each day, offering decaf, a mild blend, and a more exotic dark roast. The dark roasts so far have rotated between the French roast, a light bodied, spicy and smoky Guatemalan blend, and the heavy bodied Sumatra. A small coffee goes for \$1.30, medium for \$1.55, and large for \$1.80. The same prices apply to the wide array of teas offered at the café. Green teas, fruit teas, herbal mixes, and any other flavor you might desire while you cram for that last final at one in the morning are available. While it has not yet arrived at the café, a cappuccino maker will soon be added to the mix, allowing for Lorelei to brew up lattes, steamed milk, cappuccinos, americanos, and all the other things that take 25 minutes to order when you step up to the Starbucks counter. For those lucky few who don't feel caffeine cravings at all hours of the night, the café also offers Italian sodas which are a combination of flavored syrups and Pellegrino (bubbly water) which is a sweet treat, but still milder than American sodas.

Also like Starbucks, the café has a variety of snacks and pastries from local bakeries (and Otis Spunkmeyer cookies for those less adventurous Harris addicts). The school provides some of the food for the

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Dispatched After Last Show Four: A Good Time Filled with Mystery and Suspense

By PAUL DRYDEN
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

It had been years since Dispatch performed as one, but news quickly spread across the country and across the world that they were coming back together. It was one last concert to thank their fans for their undying support. Despite break-up rumors that dogged them for years, even at the prime of the band's career, the fans had always been there. They helped Dispatch become the first independent band to sell out the Roseland Ballroom in New York City, to pack the historic Fillmore in San

Francisco on one of their first trips to the West Coast, and to gather 10,000 strong for an outdoor concert on the streets of Chicago. Even when the radio stations would not play their music and when the record labels did not understand them, fans would show up by the thousands.

At July's end, friends planned their journeys by car, bus, train, airplane and T, to the Hatch Shell in the band's hometown of Boston. The Hatch Shell is an outdoor park on the Charles River, home to classical symphonies and the occasional rock concert. The park can hold 100,000 but this time concert organizers expected anywhere from 10-30,000 to show. The night before the concert, fans tried to camp out on the green, but to their dismay, they were kicked out by local police.

So, when the sun rose on July 31, fans already began gathering at the Hatch. By noon, the entire field and surrounding areas were packed, as many flocked to the

band's autograph session. It couldn't have been a more perfect day. Announced in the early spring, and publicized only through grassroots promotion, every Dispatch fan, from New York City to Seattle to South Africa, knew that this was it. It was the last Saturday in July, near-perfect New England weather; there was no reason not to attend. After all, it was free. Free rock music in the heart of Boston? Hell yeah!

At four p.m., with an hour until show time, the flow of people kept increasing. It seemed like every trendy Urban Outfitter- and American Eagle-wearing high schooler and college kid in New England was there. It

was impossible to find a friend or get a place on the green. You could not move. The overflow went out on the street and a peninsula across an inlet of the Charles. The authorities did not plan on it but they eventually closed the main through-way, Storrow Drive, because of the crowd.

Some had doubted whether the event would be a success. Would peo-

ple travel hundreds, even thousands of miles for the show? When Dispatch broke up, many fans had moved on as their musical tastes evolved. But, as always, the Dispatch fan base did not disappoint and showed they were strong as ever. Some, who had planned on sitting this one out, made last minute plane trips. Concert organizers and the Boston Globe would later report that there were 110,000 in attendance, an "independent music record."

As the band did their own sound check, word began

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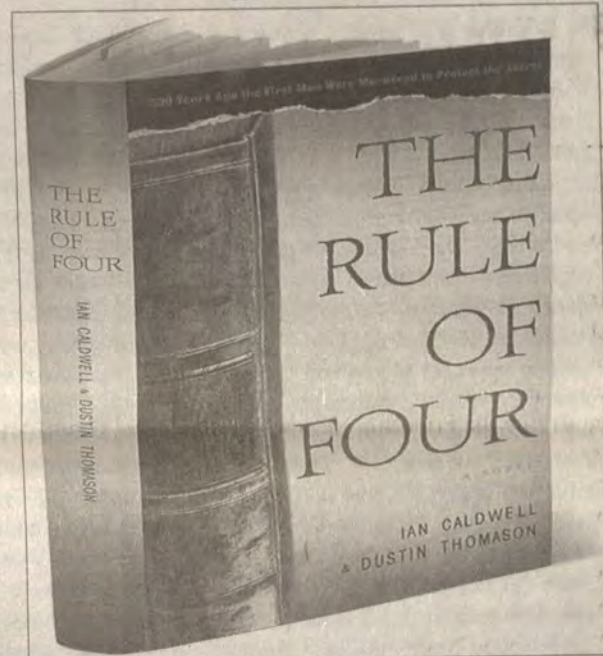
By ERIN RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

It's only the first week of school, and, chances are, you are as tired of spending your nights awkwardly curled up in the retro orange chairs of the library staring blankly at a stack of books that drained your bank account last week as I am. I wistfully long for the care-free summer days of just three weeks ago when I could pick up a book without the words "thee," "epistemology," or "spectroscopy," and read for fun.

But, since those days are long gone, *The Rule of Four* by Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason is a perfect compromise to bridge the gap between pleasure reading and academic reading. And, being set on the Princeton campus, this New York Times bestseller can also help get you in the spirit of being back at school.

The novel chronicles the senior year of four roommates at Princeton, two of whom are deeply passionate about an ancient Roman document, called the *Hyperotomachia Poliphili*, which is said to reveal the location of an underground structure that contains hundreds of preserved works of Renaissance art. Narrated by Tom, the son of one of the most prominent Renaissance scholars who ever lived, the book captures all facets of college life at Princeton, from the eating club parties to the Nude Olympics to the students' search for their own academic passions.

Tom and one of his roommates, Paul, have devoted most of their college career to studying the *Hyperotomachia Poliphili* in great depth to solve the mystery that Tom's father started working on before he died in a tragic car accident. Both boys know that the key to the site of the hidden structure is present in the document, and they work so long and hard to reach that end that they put themselves and their loved ones in the face of danger. Older Renaissance scholars enter the picture and try to foil the roommates' efforts to uncover the secrets, and chaos erupts when tensions heighten in the rivalry between the old and new scholars.



With its intense scenes of suspenseful chases, brutal murders, and brilliant discoveries, the book is fraught with excitement and thrill. While it is often compared to Dan Brown's highly popular bestseller *The Da Vinci Code*, *The Rule of Four* is, quite frankly, much better in every way. The quality of writing that Caldwell and Thomason put forth makes for a much more stimulating read, and the manner in which they sequence and present the events in the story is much less predictable. Although there are some moments in the novel in which a character drones on about history for far too many pages, the book strikes a good balance between intellectual and entertaining.

So, the next time you find yourself etching your name or obscenities into your desk at the library to avoid doing your work, take a copy of *The Rule of Four* down to the new Blue Camel Café, purchase a cup of delicious organic coffee (or, even more appropriately, Italian soda!), recline in a comfy armchair, and escape!

Jump Off the Bandwagon!

Ah, here we are again. Back on campus, in full swing with classes, and of course, faithfully writing *Jump Off the Bandwagon* for my fellow Conn College music snobs. Of course, I've spent my summer turning up my nose at pop radio, and I came up with a pretty decent selection of little-known records to listen to over the past few months. And here, for your consideration, are the three that I think are most worth your time.



EMILY MORSE
Jump Off the Bandwagon!

SKY SALT *I Believe In Fairy Tales*

I discovered this band through fashion - the singer is the designer behind Limecrime, a cult favorite of internet fashion junkies like



myself. I was sucked into buying the record by their tease of a website, and I assure you, if you pay skysalt.com a visit, you'll be lured in by the streaming audio as well. Vocalist Xenia describes the bands music as "post-folk fairytale rock," and I've gotta say, she's on the mark. *I Believe In Fairy Tales* is aptly named. The album starts out with a music box-esque melody, and continues through 10 tracks of what you swear must be a doll hanging out in a rock band. Xenia's voice is haunting in a sullen princess sort of way, contrasting beautifully with the harsh, raw guitars. Born in Russia, her

Finding Diamonds in the Radio Rough

sweet accent adds to the delicacy and intrigue of the music, managing to make the word "shit" sound absolutely glamorous. Complimenting the vocal is what sounds like a combo of Bush, the Sundays, and the Cranberries and ranges from heavy and distorted to sweet, soft, and melodic. The band's lyrics are simple, yet thought provoking, adding to the utter romance of the album. If you're aching for something new, different, and terribly beautiful, you can't live another day without Sky Salt.

MANDA AND THE MARBLES *Angels With Dirty Faces*

Also highlighting my summer was Manda and the Marbles' July release, *Angels With Dirty Faces*. I first fell in love with the Marbles when I received their album *More Seduction* two years ago. These guys have an 80's new wave meets 90's pop-punk flair that no other band out there can touch. These guys have carved themselves a signature sound, driven by synthesizers, rockin' guitars, and lead singer, Manda Marbles' no-nonsense vocal. Like their previous efforts, *Angels* is perfect for a fun, sunny day with the benefit of improvement and growth! Besides just being shinier and more well-produced than their previous album, Manda and the Marbles delves into a little diversity on *Angels* with slower paced tracks like "Say Anything" (would have fit perfectly in *The Breakfast Club*, which I watched three times this summer on TBS) and "Seventeen" which - holy crap - uses acoustic guitar. The Marbles get just a little tougher with "Let Them Talk" and "Boys Will Be Boys" and just a little sassier with "Lipstick." And let's be honest, who can argue with an album that starts out with the not-even-two-minute anthem "The Kids Just Wanna Dance"? That's right, nobody.



KASEY CHAMBERS *Wayward Angel*

My favorite little alternative country girl with a 'tude finally put out another record...unfortunately not in the US, but for Kasey Chambers, I'll order direct from Australia. What I love first and foremost about Kasey Chambers is her writing - her lyrics are beautiful, meaningful, strong, and sassy. Add to this her uncanny knack for melody and that sweetly unmistakable folk-country voice (where does an Aussie get that twang?) and you've got a time bomb waiting to explode onto mainstream radio. *Wayward Angel* proves that Ms. Chambers is more than ready for worldwide superstardom - most of the songs have a little more pop appeal than her previous efforts. But fear not. The bluegrass hasn't completely faded; songs like "Guilty As Sin" and "Follow You Home" are as shamelessly country as Jonny Cash and Dolly Parton, if only a little more polished. *Wayward Angel* rides the proverbial emotional roller coaster through joy, love, confusion, uncertainty, sadness, pride, and nostalgia, bringing each song to life in a way you thought couldn't be done anymore. Put this record on when you're feeling cozy, and I guarantee you it will be the ultimate audio blanket.



There you have it - the best three albums I weeded out from the otherwise abysmal summer music selection. I thought about listing *Cherry Pie* by Warrant, but seeing as it was not only released long before this summer, but also the only song I can name from that album is the title track. Seriously though, it's worth the seven bucks I spent on my used copy to put "Cherry Pie" on repeat and pretend you're in a hair metal video. I did that this summer too.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Opportunities Abound for First Year Fun Rocky Times in New London State Park

By RACHEL GAINES
A&E EDITOR

For first year students at any college, a primary concern is finding entertainment. Sure, upperclassmen can enjoy a good keg, but if getting sloshed on cheap beer is not your idea of a fun night, staying occupied on the weekends can be more of a challenging. Luckily, Conn was ranked #17 by the Princeton Review for having a great selection of things to do on campus. So, fear not frosh! When it comes to entertainment, we've got you covered:

MOBROC

Conn, unlike every high school in America, has no garage bands. Our bands practice in a barn. MOBROC (Musicians Organized for Bands Rights on Campus) is one of the most popular groups on campus, perhaps because of the diversity they bring to the music scene. Bands and artists in MOBROC range from mellow folk to southern rock to comical punk. They perform at TNEs, campus wide events, and have even have shows now and again in the Cro's nest to keep the student body rockin'. Anyone can join MOBROC, but for the sake of all the groupies out there, the musically inclined are particularly encouraged to sign up. Everyone else should just keep all eyes peeled for word of the first show.

Group Art Attack

One of the lesser known yet increasingly popular clubs at Conn, Group Art Attack gives stu-

dent actors, directors, and audiences a chance to savor the theater scene minus the sometimes intimidating atmosphere of a main stage play. The club is student run, allowing for risk and experimentation. In Group Art Attack's final show last year ("The Odd Couple") the cast consisted of theater majors, high school theater burn-outs, and actors with no experience at all. If you are an aspiring actor looking to make a name at Conn, Group Art Attack is a great place to get your feet wet, and, as a theater lover, the high-quality (and less financially burdensome) performances provide a unique escape from the weekly workload and regular Thursday DJ dances.

Dance Club

The Dance Club Show (usually held every spring and fall in the Martha Myers studio) is the fastest-selling, hottest ticket at Conn and the show never disappoints. The student run troop choreographs a range of dances for each show covering a wide spectrum of styles and genres that entertain even dance laymen with their originality and energy. The club is open to all students regardless of experience (or lack thereof) but auditions are held for the large performances. Odds are, even if you don't like dance, you will find yourself packed into the studio on performance night because that's where everyone else can be found.

A cappella

Conn's a cappella groups have already made themselves known in no uncertain terms with the annual all-group show last weekend. Over the

next eight months, each group will be auditioning, rehearsing, recording, and performing to feed the popular craving for college a cappella. The groups are all student-run and cover a variety of musical and theatrical tastes. The all-male Co Co Beaux, all-female ConnChords and Shwiffs, as well as the co-ed Conn Artists all have classic a cappella sounds, singing mostly pop music and oldies-but-goodies. The slightly off-beat (stylistically, not rhythmically) Vox Cameli tend to sing more obscure music, incorporating dancing and occasional other treats for the audience. Meanwhile, the William Street Mix goes all-out performance wise with choreographed dancing and acting to bring their music to life. This is not to say that any one group is more engaging than another. Each group has a unique flavor and performances are free. As with the Dance Club shows, if you don't attend a cappella, odds are you will be sitting alone in your room anyway, so it's well worth checking out.

Film Society

In any given year, most students attend at least one Film Society event without even knowing it. The club gets together, decides on a good movie, then puts it on the big screen in the basement of Olin charging all of \$2 to students and free of charge to members. To join, all you have to do is attend a training session on how to project a film and then you are free to campaign to show your-

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LIZ BRADLEY
Trailblazer

When the sun is out and the air is warm, there's no place better than the beach. Most Conn students flock to either Ocean or Harkness Beach, but in my opinion there's nothing special about Ocean Beach – the beach is fine, but the tacky boardwalk isn't even worthy of the Jersey Shore. The park's fitness center ruins the whole experience for me. The last thing I want to be reminded of as I'm walking on the sand is that I need to go to the AC more often.

Harkness Beach is definitely better. Green fields, marshlands, dunes, a mansion, and a clean beach characterize the beautiful state park. The majority of beach-going camels tend to go there. On a warm day, you'll find plenty of students there playing Frisbee or soaking in the rays.

Never satisfied, I decided that I'd set out in search of a new outdoor destination. Driving down I-95 South right after the "Do Not Stop Correctional Facility Area" sign, there's a turnoff for Rocky Neck State Park. I was certainly skeptical at first of Rocky Neck's potential, because finding a good beach in Connecticut is like a trying to find a sober Conn kid on Floralia.

I parked my car, got my stuff, and stood confused in the lot for a few moments. There was absolutely no indication of a beach anywhere. Then I spotted a sign leading to an underpass below a massive Acela train track. It was a little sketchy, but on the other side was long, sandy beach.

The nice thing about Rocky Neck is that the beach isn't actually rocky. I found a spot away from the crashing waves and sat on the sand, turned my cell off, and put my Nalgene beside me (God forbid a Conn student leaves their dorm without one). All was calm, peaceful, and rather idyllic – other than the occasional Amtrak train whizzing by – until I reached down and pulled a granola bar out of my bag. Suddenly, my bubble of serenity was invaded by circling seagulls waddling closer and closer with their fat feathery bodies suspended on toothpick legs. I have had a rather healthy disdain for seagulls ever since a particularly uncoordinated one once clobbered me in the head while dive bombing for my fries. Thankfully for me, I had parked myself right near a three-year-old bird-chasing enthusiast, Alex, who spent the next half an hour eradicating seagulls from my part of the beach.

I walked up the hill to a rustic pavilion perched over Long Island Sound. It offers a fantastic view of a deceptively clean looking body of water. Just behind the pavilion lies a system of hiking trails that loop around the park.

Have you ever had that nightmare where you're following a trail into the woods and the trail gets smaller and smaller until it vanishes and you find yourself lost in the middle of a meadow? Well that was me. I spent almost half an hour wandering aimlessly on trails that existed on the map, but weren't really there. I scraped my way down a steep hill through sticks and bramble before popping out in the parking lot.

I've been hiking many times and can read a map. Just to make sure I'm not a total idiot I found a park ranger who assured me that the dated six-month-old "brand-new" map was correct, and that the trails just weren't finished yet and would be "very soon." He then pointed me to another set of simpler trails.

After about five minutes of following plaques with spackles of faded paint, it happened again. Not knowing whether I was on trail three, blue-red, red, or mid-range grey squiggly line, I looked up from my not-to-scale map and saw a woman with her family. She turned towards me, threw her arms up, and proclaimed, "Isn't this ridiculous!" Together we commiserated as to how much these trails suck. One of her sons was deeply confused adding "Mommy said we were on red, but now it's white..." At that point I was done. Having given the trails a fair shot, I found a road to follow out of the woods.

As I walked over the Amtrak bridge and back to the pavilion, out of nowhere random people dressed up as swans, orcas, and lobsters start coralling me inside. "What is going on here?" I asked. Then the crazy lobster woman explained that there was a wedding and they were showing the guests inside. This made a lot of sense because old people prancing around at weddings in ugly neon sea creature costumes is standard protocol. I then turned the corner and found myself face to face with a kilted bagpiper wailing away. It was time to get out.

Before I could head back I felt inclined to let the park officials know just how disappointed I was with the trails. I walked into the office and started to

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MYSTIQUE CAN BE ANYONE SHE WANTS, AND SO CAN YOU!



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Conn Appoints Interim Director for Unity House

By THOMAS McEVY

NEWS EDITOR

Previous Special Assistant to the Interim Dean of the College and Visiting Associate Professor of Sociology, Dr. Dena Wallerson, has been appointed as Interim Director of Unity House and Assistant Dean of the College for Multicultural Affairs. Her appointment became effective this past July.

Dr. Wallerson's new positions come after Leslie Williams, former director of Unity House and Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs, left the College to pursue further studies at Columbia University.

Because Leslie Williams left during the summer, Interim Dean of the College, Maria Cruz-Saco, notes that it was difficult to consult students on the selection process for a successor. Nevertheless, input was still asked from various student leaders, including the Student Government Assembly Executive Board and leaders of Unity House. Dean Cruz-Saco stated, however, "We didn't get much feedback because it was the summer. The College still tried to communicate the appointment before it became official."

As Interim Director of Unity House, Dr. Wallerson will assess recent concerns members of the campus community have in terms of multicultural and pluralistic initiatives. Last year, members of Unity House voiced the need for a "safe space", where only minority students could live in order to create a comfortable atmosphere from which they would branch out and bring pluralistic

issues to the entire College community. Also, Unity House members have felt they have too much responsibility in organizing all of the College's pluralistic events.

Dean Cruz-Saco noted, "Ten years ago Unity House coordinated four student clubs. Now it coordinates eight with the same size staff and administration it had ten years ago." The administration component was essentially Les Williams.

The Presidential Commission on a Pluralistic Community, established in September 2002, stated the need for the College as a whole to promote a multicultural agenda. Among their recommendations was the creation of an intellectual home for diversity and appointing further administrators, including a Dean of Multicultural Affairs and an Affirmative Action Officer.

President Fainstein noted, "I expect that both of these projects will be significantly advanced this year."

The commission also affirmed that "the director of Unity House should remain a continuing position."

Dean Cruz-Saco also stated that the decision on how Unity House should grow and develop "needs consultation and collaboration." She further noted, "I think the College is moving in that direction. It's not going to happen over night, however."

A search committee for a permanent director of Unity House will be put together sometime this fall semester. In the spring the administration intends to interview prospective candidates.



Dr. Dena Wallerson has been appointed as Interim Director of Unity House and Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs following Leslie Williams' departure.

Luis Gonzalez Joins Hispanic Studies Department High Retention Rate Causes Crowding in Dorms

By TAYLOR KOPELAN

STAFF WRITER

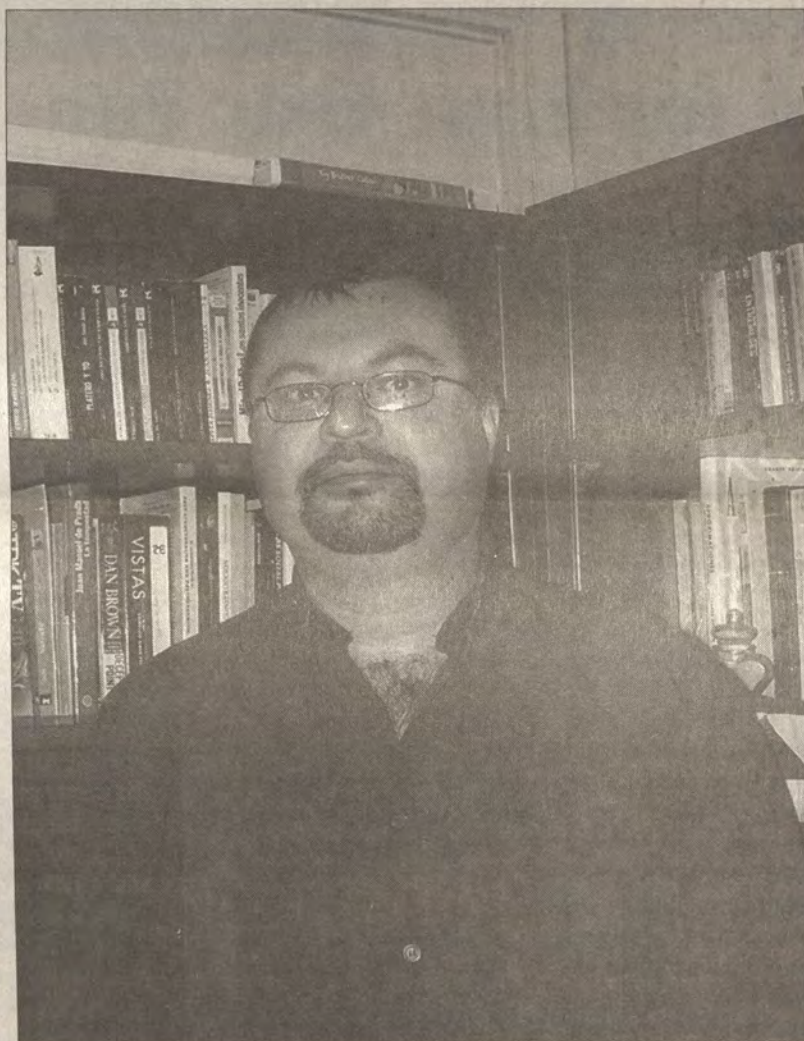
Conn.

This semester Professor Gonzalez is teaching Advanced Grammar and Composition SPA 207, as well as an upper level course, SPA 313, on Modern Peninsular Literature from 1700 to the Present. Next semester he plans to teach literary analysis and a survey of Spanish film.

When asked why he chose Connecticut College, Professor Gonzalez responded, "I love working in a small liberal arts college." He went on to explain a quickly developed affinity for the rest of the faculty and the student body. He also appreciates Conn's convenient location between two major cities. Finally he concluded, "What can I say? Two weeks and I love everything."

To expand and broaden Conn's academic repertoire and understanding, Professor Gonzalez hopes to "introduce the community to the Hispanic film character" and has plans for future courses that reflect his research and work with Spanish film. His specific area of interest is in the relation between fascism and film in Spain during the Franco era.

Aside from contributing his interest and expertise in Spanish film to the College community, Professor Gonzalez can further add to the diverse community through his cultured and well-traveled perspective. His travel experiences include backpacking through most of Europe and South America, as well as a visit to New Zealand,



Professor Luis Gonzalez is the newest member of Conn's Hispanic Studies Department. Holt

which he claims was well worth the trek. Of all the places he has visited, however, Professor Gonzalez exclaimed that "Laponia" (Lapland in English), a region of northern Europe mostly within the arctic circle, was the most exotic and conse-

quently his favorite destination.

The College welcomes Professor Gonzalez and feels privileged to have him as a new edition to the faculty. The campus community also looks forward to the knowledge and wisdom he has to offer.

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arrangements at quadruples. Metvier also considered the frequency of common rooms' usage based on last year's reservations, trying to avoid using prime social spaces.

The next logical step in the process was realistically considering what rooms would be easiest for Physical Plant to convert based on the physicality of their locations. Specifically, the spaces had to be able to have locks and phone, cable and internet wiring installed.

After much deliberation, Smith, Burdick, Harkness and Knowlton's common rooms were converted into triples and quads. Jane Addams hall lost its bike room, and Freeman's small dining room across from the cafeteria now belongs to four freshmen.

Despite the pressing situation, Metvier made a conscious effort to ensure that although some dorms were losing their common rooms, there was still a public space available to the residents of those halls. Specifically, the Housefellows of the affected buildings now have keys to access Smith/Burdick, Knowlton and Harkness dining halls to use as a substitute gathering place for the dorm.

Metvier commented that she "valued teamwork on behalf of various college departments" and credits the cooperation for the successful completion of the room transformations in time for freshman move-in day and orientation. She specifically noted the collaboration between the Res Life office and Greg Hopkins of Auxiliary Services, Jim Norton of Physical Plant Services, and Lee Hisle of Information Services.

Furthermore, the housing crunch will have repercussions for students interested in room changes this semester because there are currently no empty rooms on campus. According to Metvier, the common room spaces will not be included in this year's lottery because "ideally the rooms will be reverted next year."

In terms of avoiding the repetition of this situation in the future, Metvier commented she is "hopeful that the future strategic plans will include a new residential hall." According to Jim Folger '05, a student representative on the Strategic Plan committee, a new residence hall has indeed been added to the plan. Folger, however, added that "there is no guarantee that the building of the residence hall will happen in the current cycle of the plan because funding has not been secured for all the capital construction project initiatives."

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Conn Continues to Drop in U.S. News Rankings

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believe makes an institution the most enjoyable, the best place to learn, and the most effective in meeting students' needs."

Milestone commented optimistically that the institution was "successful over the past two to three years in a variety of important areas and that we will soon see the results of these efforts." He explained that because one of

the main issues that contributes to the rankings is "peers' review", the College can be sure that with the introduction of new programs, which increase the liveliness of the campus, the ranking of the college will be higher on the list.

Tuition: \$40,000

Keeping up with seasonal J. Crew fashions: \$2,000

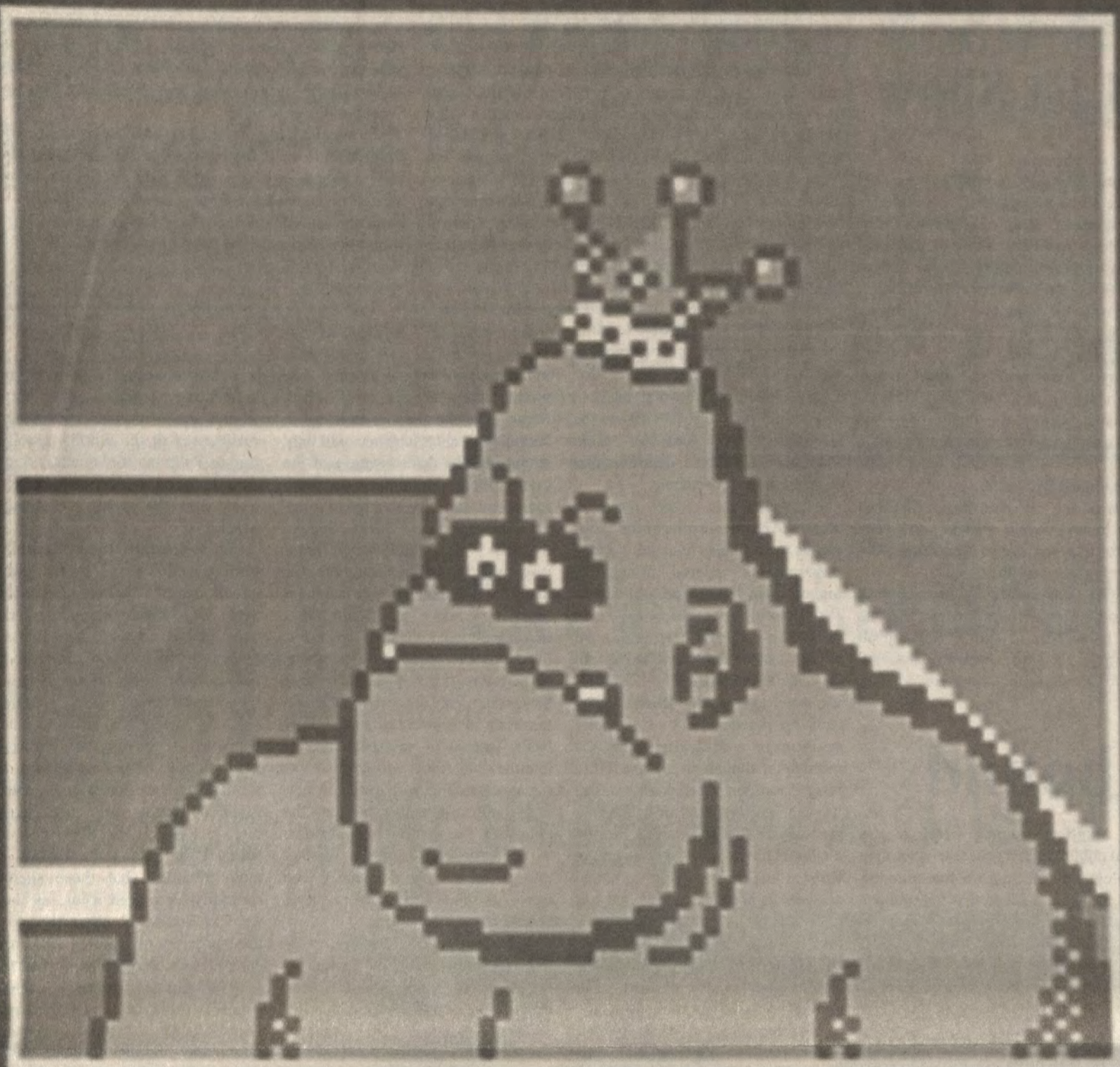
Sport Utility Vehicle with a Massachusetts liscence plate: \$37,000

Bailing yourself out of New London County Jail

after getting arrested at Mug Night: \$500

Writing for The College Voice: Priceless

RANKED: #2
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Newly Opened Blue Camel Café Will Keep Bookworms Perky

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café, but Ashlawn Farm gets baked goods from the Lost Cloud bakery and Frantz picks up some of her favorites fresh from a local shop on her way to work in the mornings.

As it is still in the early stages of existence, the Blue Camel Café has limited hours for the time being, closing at 2pm on weekdays and midnight on the weekends.

However, based on student response, hours will be expanded and adjusted.

The Blue Camel Café is a great study environment with delicious coffee that is sure to please everyone, from the most elitist coffee snobs to those afflicted with the munchies and just want to grab a cookie on the go. For more information on the Blue Camel, head down to Shain and get a taste for yourself.

Band Dispatched After Last Show

continued from page 4

to spread that the Boston Red Sox traded superstar Nomar Garciaparra. An army of about 100 cops in full riot gear joined together in preparation for response. But all the cops encountered were murmurs slowly spreading across the field.

Just before the show began, it was announced that the band's entire inventory of merchandise had sold out. Two hundred thousand dollars worth of goods had been sold before one chord was struck.

Right on time, the trio hit the stage with "Here We Go." As they progressed through regulars like "Open Up" and "Cover This," a saxophonist joined the band for a couple of songs, adding another dimension to the music. Legendary Phil Keaggy guested, jamming away on "Passerby," "Bridges" and "Prince of Spades." The drummer from guitarist/bassist Chad Urmston's new band, State Radio, played drums for a few songs while Dispatch's drummer Brad Corrigan left the kit to play guitar for a couple of songs.

Suddenly the mood changed. The band was playing an electrified version of "Past the Falls," from their first album, Silent Steeples, when some diehard Yankee fans began chanting for their team. True to tradition, nearby Red Sox fans pelted them with bottles. Within seconds, the entire field was filled with people hurling bottles, shoes and anything else they could find. But the band

played on. Dispatch attempted "Hey Hey," a song they had only played once or twice since it appeared on Steeples in 1996. It was a decent attempt at an old fan favorite but not really comparable to earlier versions of the song. Throughout the almost four hour show, there were signs of rustiness and awkward pauses between songs but it did not matter. Chad was still doing his rock star jumps, Brad still chiming in perfectly on every harmony and Pete (Heimbold) still being his goofy self.

Each member played a cut from his respective new project but only announced it as a "new song." It turns out that they're "Dispatchazing" the three songs and recording them for a documentary coming out about the band early next year. It is the first time the band is recording together in almost five years.

The trio said little during the show except that they couldn't believe so many people showed up. They thanked the crowd profusely for always supporting independent music and being there for them.

As the band played their anthem, "The General," they dragged it on and on until it was obvious that the guys did not really know how to end it. So they all walked up to the front of the stage, hand in hand, and stood there for a good minute as the crowd roared. And that was it.

Fun Opportunties Abound

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favorite film, be it *Titanic* or *Taxi Driver*, to the entire campus. You can bring your own popcorn or usually buy snacks at a showing if you crave the real movie theater experience without the ridiculous movie theater prices.

Improv

For students looking for something light-hearted, Conn's two improv groups are sure to please. N20 and the Scuds are the resident comedy troops on campus and are always looking for new talent. N20 specializes in short-form improv which is the basis for shows like *Whose Line is it Anyway?* Little games and skits are suggested by the audience and a couple of group members create short, ridiculous scenes that tend to poke fun at the college, the audience, and the actors themselves.

The Scuds perform long-form improv which is less familiar to the general public. In this genre, an actor may create a funny monologue on the spot for five minutes, or two characters might begin a scene that ten minutes later involves six characters and has completely changed subject. The closest comparison for the Scuds would be unscripted sketch comedy, like *Saturday Night Live* without cue cards. All improv shows are free, and usually take place either at Cro or in Olin basement.

Whether you are a music lover, a film buff, a theater kid, a dance fan, or just enjoy a good time, the student run groups on campus aim to please. So get out there and enjoy what the college has to offer. It's a great way to meet people as well as an opportunity to witness the abundance of creative talent here at Conn.

Rocky Times in New London Park

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complain to the man behind the desk who continued to thumb through his sporting goods catalogue as if I were invisible. A few pages later he murmured something about the trails being fixed this fall and pointed to some survey forms before sticking his nose back in his catalogue.

I stood back for a moment in awe of this proud park official's sheer dedication to the new fall line of camping packs and promptly left feeling robbed of a relaxing afternoon.

The bottom line: unless you enjoy getting ridiculously lost or find Amtrak scenic, go to Harkness Beach and bring a Frisbee, BBQ, and have great time because another New London winter will be here before you know it.

If you need directions to get lost on trails at Rocky Neck, take I-95 south to exit 72 and then follow park signs (don't worry - the signage doesn't start vanishing until you're actually in the park).

Conference Attendees Vandalize Barn

continued from page 1

pleted the necessary painting to restore the walls."

The damage to the barn has been a significant setback for MOBROC. "At present MOBROC is not able to utilize the space for rehearsals unless individual members happen to have their own sound equipment, which is generally not the case," said Scott McEver, Director of Student Activities. "MOBROC normally plans a Fall Jam event early in the year and the damages to their space and equipment have made scheduling and preparing for the event more challenging than in previous years."

In addition to currently lacking a practice space, there have been discrepancies between MOBROC and the group responsible for the damage resulting in a delay in the replacement of equipment. Hoyler stated that some students had stored their own equipment in the barn over the summer, and it is unsure as to whether or not these items will be paid for. "Supposedly we are getting money back for [MOBROC's equipment]. There is some conflict as to the amount of money we are getting

back for [students' items] as opposed to MOBROC's."

While the Christian youth group has been billed, there is no news as to when the college or MOBROC will receive the money. "In order for MOBROC to be fully back on its feet is reliant in great part on their ability to replenish the sound equipment and instruments damaged and destroyed," said McEver. "I have not heard of any specific date by which we will receive payment from the responsible individuals."

MOBROC isn't out for the count, however, and they are expected to hold a Fall Jam in October at the earliest. "It's a traditional event because it's our third or fourth year that we're doing it," said Staub. "So we're getting \$1,000 [from Student Activities]. We'll have kegs, and Winslow [Porter] DJing."

Physical Plant and Student Life are working with MOBROC to have the barn and the organization back and running as soon as possible, but for Ryan Hoyler and his fellow campus musicians, the wait is difficult. "I know the school is doing this as fast as they can, but it would just be nice to see the barn up faster."

THE SHAKEN LINES

YONI FREEMAN • VIEWPOINT

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Others called for restraint on both sides and that "peace" should be negotiated. Not one of them strengthened Israel's determination to track those responsible.

Compare this to the terror in Russia. After the results of the terror attack were finally realized, various governments offered assistance, among them Israel, and told Russia it stood with it, and even some like Jack Straw of the UK reinforced Russia's statement that it had a right to strike at terrorists. The US didn't use the old phrase that Russia "had a right to defend itself," it actually said it stood with Russia against the murderers, though it still itself has reservations on whether to classify its own war with Russia's. The EU, probably feeling awkward, as it wasn't Israel having the terror attack, at first responded by saying it wanted answers from Russia as to what had happened. It later clarified its position to condemn the terrorists, but still did not wholeheartedly place the blame solely on the terrorists. But not one of these governments in the free world called for Russia to practice restraint, or that it should end its "occupation," remove the Russian "settlers" and negotiate. Even Putin went on to condemn those who called for him to negotiate peace, and in an interview published in the Guardian he could not understand how someone would want him to negotiate with "baby killers" and compared that possibility with having Osama Bin Laden invited to the White House. Putin is right of course, and I hope when he means "baby killers" he means baby killers of any nationality.

Finally, there was also the terror bombing at the Australian Embassy

in Indonesia's capital Jakarta. The world condemned the attack. Jack Straw in a statement, according to Xinhuanet, said "Such acts will only strengthen the determination of the international community to work together to fight the scourge of international terrorism." Javier Solana, the EU policy chief hoped those responsible would be brought to justice. The German Foreign Minister said he was "confident that Indonesia would not spare any effort in finding and bringing to justice the perpetrators of the attack." Compare these statements to those made when terrorism in Israel occurs on a daily basis. Instead of strengthening the international resolve to combat terror and standing with Israel in getting those responsible, it does the opposite. The international resolve is strengthened to pressure Israel into giving into the demands of the terrorists and sitting with them. Where is the justice here?

Europeans can't decide which terror is really justified, whether in Russia or in Israel. The US condemns the terror, but can't bring itself at the moment to compare Russia's war on terror to the US war on terror, or the Israeli war on terror to the US war on terror. Russia wants to unite against terror, which was reinforced by Russia's FM in Israel shortly after the attack in Russia, believing that Arab terror against Israel is not the same as Chechen terror. Russia condemns terrorism, but still believes in relations with terror states which have not yet touched its citizens, most notably its deals with Iran. Britain wants Israel to negotiate with terrorists while pursuing those in Iraq, along with the US, in an opposite way. The EU braces Indonesia and

its fight, but when a bombing occurs in Beer Sheva looks away. In the end all the above circular policies are weaknesses in the world's resolve. And as Putin put it eloquently hours after the attack in Russia, "We were weak and the weak are always struck."

In a column titled "Learning from the Russians" in the daily Israeli paper Maariv (Thursday, Sept. 9th), Nadav Hazani remarks that there is no logic in using the poison of an incident of terror to pursue both those responsible and those who may have operated wrongly when the circumstances happened - meaning the terrorists are to blame and not the victims. In the Russian case for example, there might be serious grievances when one looks at how the Russians planned for freeing the school, as many reported, but those should rightfully be placed aside, as they were in Russia. Hazani writes that the murderers of children and their comrades should first be pursued.

The insane terrorist Islamic enemy should be viewed with a sane mind. Whether they strike in Russia, Israel, the US, Indonesia or India, they are the same terrorists, following the same ideology of militant Islam. As soon as the world realizes this and stops looking for ways to blame the victim or because of politics refuses to take a clear stand, the better it will be and lives will be spared. In the end, those countries refusing to do so should not be surprised when terrorism they once classified as "good" or "acceptable" reaches their own shores.

Let the free world unite and may it be, as the motto of the Jewish New Year goes, "at the head and not at the tail."

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I pity the foo who don't write for *The Voice*, sucka!

Wanna get to know the cegs-iest mama at Conn? Sorry, Sarah Ceglarski went to Spain. Join the News Staff and write for Thomas & Liz. They're Cool Too. Call x2812 today!

Carter: The Bad Luck Fan

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stand what I'm trying to say.

Big Blue. Hmm, let's pretend last season never happened; it was a figment of your imagination. Aside from not quite fulfilling expectations, the Giants have actually not been so cruel to me over the years. Except for that 2002 playoff game against the 49ers! Only once in NFL history had a lead of 38-17 or larger been made up, but of course, there I was a witness to the second time this occasion took place. Imagine an evening at your house with friends of the family. From time to time you casually check the score of the game, coming back to the table grinning from ear to ear until one time when you look at the TV something's different. The main dish that

was so delectable suddenly isn't sitting so well with you anymore. You start to think that maybe if you pay more attention to the game and stop making trips back and forth that the problems will go away. And that's when you watch the team's long snapper (still no word if this is an actual football position) blow it with his second bad snap of the game.

I keep telling myself that all this failure is just a long, reoccurring nightmare. Someone's just playing a cruel trick on me and testing my allegiance to New York sports teams. Then I read in the paper that the Mets have traded one of the game's best pitching prospects for a mediocre pitcher and have dropped their last dozen games. D'oh!

Widdoes: Zebras Drive Me Crazy

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uations. Professional sports organizations need to pay more attention to the people they hire, and it would probably help to take into account both intelligence and knowledge of the sport, not to mention any biases they may have which could affect their objective judgment.

On that note, let me welcome everybody to football season. Everyone's excited, as they should be. There are bound to be countless exciting games and players at which we can all marvel on Sundays, Mondays and assorted Thursdays, Saturdays and other days from now until the Super Bowl in January. There are supposedly

going to be changes made this year to prevent defensive players from holding receivers, which will lead to more passing and scoring. With all of the fuss about instant replay, I propose that we just concentrate on making the calls right when we see them in replay. Two championships in the last 3 years have been affected by bad officiating, and that shouldn't happen. Ohio State beat Miami on a bogus pass interference call, and the favorite team of many Conn college students slid into the Super Bowl on a rule that was promptly changed directly following the game. So let the games begin, and we can all hope that this season ends with clear winners.

Play a wind or string instrument? Interested in joining the orchestra? Come to a rehearsal next Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 in Evans Hall in Cummings, or call x3120 for more info.

Do you like Sports?

Do you think Mr. Ed is "hella" cute?



You would LOVE Nick Iyengar!

Call x2812 to write sports for Nick Iyengar.

SPORTS

The Bad Luck Fan

Call me Paul Carter, the B.L.F. No, it does not stand for brick-laying fool; my jumper's not that bad, thank you very much! I believe this term best describes what has happened to me since I became a fan of NY teams in any of the four major sports. It stands for Bad Luck Fan. That's right, a fan who hasn't seen the fruitful rewards of any kind of success. Except for basketball, I am basically your typical New York sports fan. The Giants (since the days of Rodney Hampton, remember him?), Mets ('92 and the days of Eddie Murray), Rangers (1994- okay, so they won the Cup, but what since then?) and well then there's those good ol' Knicks (why do I even bother?). Anyone who knows me knows



PAUL CARTER
Viewpoint

L.A. has gone through? Hmm, I'll pass on that one.

Sure, I guess there have been a couple of successful moments along the way, like 1994. I didn't know whether to have a heart attack because the Rangers had finally won the Cup, or from the Knicks' agonizing collapse against the Rockets. There was the Giants earning a trip to the Super Bowl, but I think we all knew who was going to win that one. I guess the mark of a true fan is that they don't bet against their team no matter how bleak the odds. I guess 2000 brought some success with the Mets reaching the World Series and all, but again, who really thought they could beat the Yankees? No, I didn't bail out on my team that time, but the boneheaded play by Timo Perez, in game one of the World Series, nearly forced me to reconsider my stance! One moment he's standing there between first and second, and then the next thing you know he's tagged out at the plate on what should have been a run-scoring hit.

As for those Knicks, I have only this to offer for your pain: the day Allan Houston's contract expires is the day the Knicks can dream of postseason success! No organization can really be that dumb, can they? Wait a minute! I knew there was a team of comparable stature! How about the New York Rangers! Isn't their philosophy to just add marquee offensive players whenever there's a problem? In need of some defense? How about Pavel Bure. In need of some goaltending? How about bringing back the aging Mark Messier. Don't get me wrong, I mean the Mess(iah) brought us the Cup, which almost assures him of no criticism ever, but isn't he a little too old to be still playing? Sadly, he was one of our team's better players this past season.

Speaking of the previous season, didn't the team again have problems defensively? And they went out and brought in Jaromir Jagr, another offensive superstar who will no doubt wilt under the heat of the New York spotlight. If you watch Family Guy and you've ever seen that one episode where Stewie's playing pictionary and his partner keeps on guessing, "Jackal, jackal, it looks like a jackal!" then you'll under-

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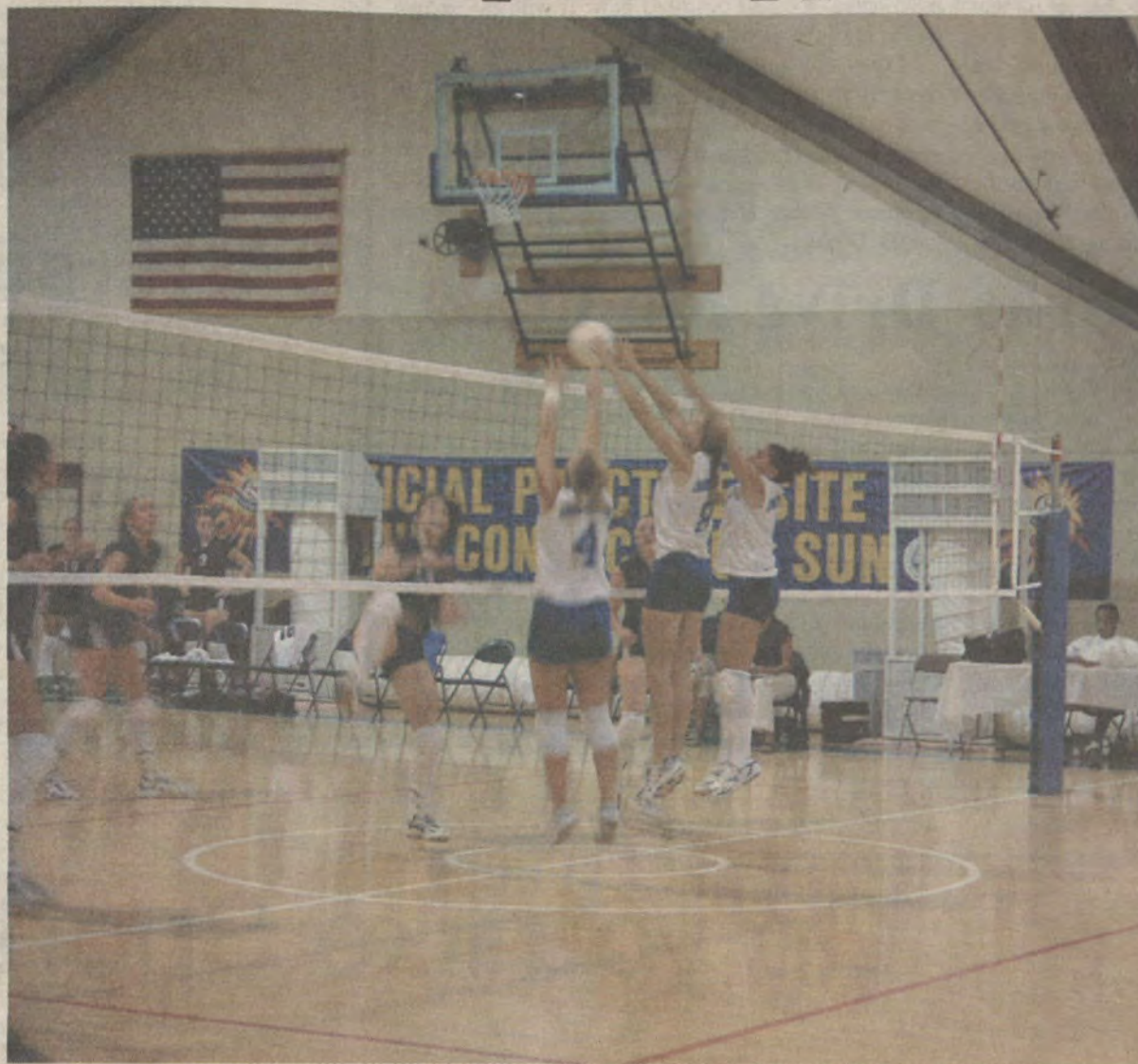
Volleyball Hopes to Spike Opposition in 2004

By STEVE STRAUSS
STAFF WRITER

Though the Camels will field one of the youngest teams in the NESCAC this coming volleyball season, they will certainly not play like lost underclassmen. What the squad lacks in experience, they certainly make up in perseverance and competitive fire. Though last year's co-captains Kelly Hart and Caitlin Sirico both left holding school records, the Camels will return more than enough weapons to pad the stat book this fall. The juniors, especially, are expected to take the reins of the program and will lead the talented sophomore and freshman classes.

The junior class is stocked full of leaders with enough experience to get the job done. Molly Kawachi '06 leads a stocked class; with an astonishing 657 assists last year, she filled the books on every game she played, in addition to playing gritty game-turning defense. With 148 kills and 309 digs last year, Amy Hart '06 also bears the weight of high expectations. She will be counted on this coming fall to finish big points. Adding to the '06 mix are Sara Whittington and Meryl Yoches, whose big play up front will be sorely needed.

The heart and soul of the Lady Camels' defense this year lies within the strength of the sophomore class. Jen Romanelli '07 returns along with others to highlight a backcourt that is one year stronger, one year more experienced. Along with Romanelli, Heather Albright '07 and



The Camels, boasting a roster filled with talented young players, hope to become a force to be reckoned with in 2004 and beyond. (Wilson)

Laura Brown '07 come back in 2004 hungry for wins. Kara Sprague '07 had, perhaps, the team's best service game last year with 41 service aces. This year, Sprague, who had 60 kills in 77 games last year, will look to

finish off even more points. This big four will play the big minutes and big points for Conn this year; much of the team's success hinges upon their growth and dynamism throughout the season.

If there is an "X-Factor" this year it is the eye-popping potential that lies within the talented freshman class. Courtney Hambleton '08 played in many big club tournaments in her native California. Amy

Crespi '08 and Maria McGinness '08 have played club volleyball together in Massachusetts. Their size and agility are impressive. Big play from the freshman is imperative for the Camels to have a winning season.

After the Camel Invitational (this Saturday), at which Conn will play St. Josephs, Salve Regina, Regis, Lasell and Elms, the schedule will get quite difficult. Two of the three next contests will be played away against NESCAC rivals. On the 17th, Conn will take on Tufts; on the 18th they have Amherst (both games will be played at Tufts.) Other dates to be remembered are September 22, when the Camels will play host to Western New England, and October 27, the final home match of the regular season to be played against Rhode Island College.

What will this season hold in store for the die-hard Camel volleyball crowd? It's tough to say. There are so many questions that remain to be answered. Will the class of '08 deliver with big results at the net? How will the inexperienced class of '07 step up? Is there enough depth on this year's squad? One thing is for certain; the Camels will play as a team and with the grit and enthusiasm that have come to define the program in recent years. Playing in the NESCAC puts any Division III program under the microscope; if the Camels reach any measure of success, they will most definitely receive much-deserved attention on a national scale.



Connecticut College's only Division I sports team finished third out of 24 boats in the Harry Anderson regatta, the first of the season. (file photo)

Conn College Sailors Get Their Feet Wet

By GERALD WOLF AND PETER STERLING
STAFF WRITERS

It was a successful opening weekend for the Connecticut College sailing team. The only Division I team at Conn finished third out of 24 boats at the Harry Anderson Trophy which was hosted by Yale University in New Haven. The team saw strong performances from Hans Jensen '07 and freshman star Charlie Moodekar '08, who won his division by an impressive 27 points in his first collegiate regatta.

The race revealed that Conn can look forward to strong racing in future years, as they have already started building with young talent in addition to experience. The season started on the 28th of August and the team has been working hard ever since. The team has been inspired by their female counterparts, who finished last season on a high, claiming the 11th place at the CSA North American Dinghy Championship and of course by their beloved mascot and biggest fan Quinn - a Chow Mix dog who never misses a regatta. Although the team is a competitive one, they welcome sailors with ability and drive to succeed in Regattas.

"Joining the Sailing team as a newcomer to the sport was a daunting task," said junior crew mate Emily "Pookie" Southard '06. "The team welcomed and supported me through the early

stages of the season." Learning the different sailing techniques and how to race efficiently in a regatta can certainly be a tall order for any athlete. The regatta itself is split into two divisions with one crew from each team racing in each division. The race itself is fast paced, and split second decisions are needed along with solid sailing instinct to emerge victorious. Although races can often depend on the wind and water conditions, sailors must learn to adapt to making uncertain decisions quickly, as their outcome depends on how rapidly they can alter the course of their boat to optimize their speed.

In the upcoming weekend, the Conn sailing team will head to Dartmouth College to compete for the prestigious Captain Hurst Bowl. The following weekend, the team travels to King's Point to compete for the Nevins Trophy. The regatta will be hosted by the Merchant Marine Academy of New York. Both races promise to be filled with exciting competition, and fierce rivalry amongst some of the elite teams of the east coast.

Conn sailing is expected to put forth a strong showing in both events.

"The team is really pumped for the season; we have a good freshmen class and with the experienced upperclassmen we can really go far this season," said skipper Danny Markham '06. The Camel sailing team will surely be one of the flagships (no pun intended) for Camel sports this year.

Zebras Drive Me Crazy

I can't stand referees. I'm going to take that a step further to include line judges, umpires, and sports officials of any kind. I'm sure that some of them are good people, but I think there is a problem when it seems like every important, recent sporting event is draped in controversy, usually revolving around the governing officials. The most recent incidence of awful officiating affecting an outcome took place at the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

In a match between Serena Williams and Jennifer Capriati, the judge called one of Serena's shots out which replays showed was clearly in. The call gave Capriati the advantage and she went on to win the set. Later in the match, three consecutive incorrect calls by the line judge led to Capriati winning and most people wondering if there was another reason for Serena losing than innocent mistakes by the line judge. Only a few months ago, Venus Williams' loss at Wimbledon was widely questioned due to incorrect calls that were made at key moments that clearly affected the momentum of the match.

Olympic competition seems like it would be more aptly called the convention for bad refs. In the past, we have seen Roy Jones robbed of a medal in South Korea, and the Canadian figure skat-

ing pair of Jamie Sale and David Pelletier given a silver medal when they clearly deserved the gold in Salt Lake City, which are just a few of the many Olympic injustices that athletes have had to deal with. This summer's games in Athens were no different. The most glaring controversy was about Paul Hamm and the men's



CHARLIE WIDDONES
Viewpoint

all-around gymnastics competition. Basically, the judges made multiple mistakes, and the result was a mess in which countries protested the medals and the International Olympic Committee requested that Hamm give back his medal. Hamm didn't give back his medal, with the support of the USOC. The judge was suspended, but what did that really do? That seems to be the trend these days, a slap on the wrist for people who jeopardize the integrity of what should be the highest level of sports.

Everyone says that human error is an inherent part of sports. I could not agree more with that belief, but I think that the human error in question should have to do with the athletes playing the games rather than the people officiating. Most sports fans have an opinion on instant replay, and that is one very important part of this problem. More important than instant replay, however, are the people in charge making the calls in game-time sit-

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Camel Scoreboard

Men's Soccer:

-9/11, vs. Middlebury, 1:30
-9/16, vs. Rhode Island College, 4:30
-9/18, vs. Williams, 2:00

Women's Soccer:

-9/11, vs. Middlebury, 11:00
-9/16, vs. WNEC, 4:00
-9/18, vs. Williams 12:00

Women's Tennis:

-9/14, @ Trinity, 3:00
-9/18, @ Bowdoin, 10:00
-9/19, vs. Bates, 12:00

Mens' Tennis:

-9/17-19, ECAC's @ Vassar
-10/7, vs. Trinity, 3:00
-10/9-10, Bates College Invitational

Volleyball:

-9/11, Camel Invitational, 11:00
-9/14, @ Roger Williams, 8:00 pm
-9/17, @ Tufts, 8:00 pm

Field Hockey:

-9/11, vs. Middlebury, 11:00
-9/16, @ Springfield, 4:00
-9/18, vs. Williams, 4:20