

Connecticut College

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### The Echo, Vol. 1

Connecticut College

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## Relief Fund Provides Nicaraguan Aid

By Dan Cramer

Hurricane Joan smashed through Nicaragua, killing over 150 people and leaving 300,000 homeless on Saturday, October 22. Bluefields, the only major city in the East, was especially hard hit. Many other countries and international organizations have donated thousands of dollars and tons of humanitarian aid. Nicaragua also suffers from poverty, disease, and a United States-backed revolution. The U.S. government has sent nothing but more military aid to the Contras.

Here at Connecticut College, a relief fund was set up to raise money for medical aid. On November 16, \$85 was collected in buckets from students in the dining halls. \$100 from faculty was also gathered. People who set up this drive include; Chaplain Steve Schmidt; Grissel Hodge, the Minority Cultural Center Director; Barbara Troadec, Director of OVCS; Marisol Velazquez, President of La Unidad; and Mary Hubbard, secretary of the chaplains. There is also a medical supply drive-in through which area hospitals will donate supplies to Warnshuis. Several different organizations hope to receive the funds raised but it is still unsure which is the most appropriate program.

When any such tragedy strikes, "we all must band together to help one another" said Marisol Velazquez. Cash is accepted at the Chaplain's Office, and checks made-out to Connecticut College - Nicaraguan Relief should be sent to the Development office.

## Strong Reads From Elsewhere

By Shelley Stoehr

Novelist Jonathan Strong, author of *Ourselves*, read Part One of his most recent novel, *Elsewhere* in the Haines Room of the library at eight p.m. on Tuesday, November 30.

According to Strong, "The plot [of *Elsewhere*] came from a dream. I woke up in the morning with those beginning lines - 'My baby has been taken ... Not my baby, but his' - in my mind."

The novel was an exploration for him, as he moved forward from this beginning, examining characters and "what could have made them do what they did." Listening to the reading of *Elsewhere*, one feels this exploration, and is intrigued by it. The novel begins using only pronouns. Although "he" is obviously important to the story, we don't learn "his" name until a good twenty minutes of reading have passed. Even the speaker's identity is not known until three or four minutes into the reading. In a lesser work, this might confuse or annoy the audience. But Strong knew just the right moment to divulge information, so that when he did, I thought, Oh, so that's it. That's where that fits in. That's who he is. Wow!

Besides creating this subtle suspense, Strong expertly handles transitions between reflections and the present. His narrator's reminiscences are equally as powerful as his comments on his present life. Strong's humor is well developed, too - he effectively milks his audience for chuckles by repeating phrases and humorous character traits.

Unfortunately, Strong's reading did not at first do justice to his work. He read a little too quickly, I thought, and appeared nervous and uncomfortable. His body was tight and his shoulders hunched. His eyes never left the book, making his reading less dynamic than his work deserved. But as the reading progressed, he seemed to grow more confident, picking up the book from where it had rested on the podium and raising his eyes to occasionally acknowledge his audience.

After the reading, Strong answered questions posed by students and faculty about *Elsewhere* and his writing in general.

## Rivkin Speaks at World Premiere Opera

By Michael Kahn

Connecticut College Associate Professor of English, Julie Rivkin, has recently returned from a trip to Dallas, Texas where she was invited to speak at *From Text to Performance*, a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of Henry James' novella, *The Aspern Papers* as well as the world premiere of its opera adaptation.

The opera was produced by the Dallas Opera Company in cooperation with Southern Methodist University, and marked the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize winner, Dominick Argento's opera adaptation of James' novella. The performance, which starred Elisabeth Soderstrom and Frederica von Stade, was held November 18, 19, and 20.

The producers of the celebration chose Rivkin because of her previous work on Henry James. Different panels were featured, including James as an audience for European art and culture, James in film and television, and the panel on which Rivkin spoke, Jamesian Morality. She delivered her paper entitled, "Speaking with the Dead: Ethics and Representation in *The Aspern Papers*."

Other guests included Martha Banta, Professor of English at UCLA; Millicent Bell, Professor of English at Boston University; Martin Bernheimer, music critic from the L.A. Times; Peter G. Davis,



photo by Kristy Tyndall

music critic from New York Magazine; Andrew Porter, music critic from The New Yorker; and James W. Tuttleton, Professor of English and Associate Dean of Graduate School at New York University.

A special speaker who gave two keynote addresses was Leon Edel, Professor Emeritus of English at New York University and University of Hawaii. Edel is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize in literature as well as the National Book Award for *The Henry James Biography*.

Rivkin called the performance "fascinating", and noted that "it was very different from the original." She also enjoyed meeting "so many interesting people," and said, "it was wonderful to have such an interesting combination of people all in one place."

## Professor's Teaching Methods Create Controversy

By Matthias Regan

Professor Thompson teaches several courses on the history of Africa and the history of Afro-Americans. Unfortunately, his teaching methods have caused several students to drop his courses.

One student, who chose to remain in one of Thompson's 200-level courses, feels that Thompson has "good ideas," but greatly disagrees with Thompson's methods. This student described the lectures as "unstructured and incoherent," and charged Thomson with inconsistency of facts. The student then said that Thomson has been condescending to students, and that he teaches a very formal, "high school-like" class. According to the student, a group of about twenty students brought grievances to the history

department head after Thompson returned what they believed to be an unfair midterm.

The student also complained that Thompson offered no in-class discussion on the out-of-class readings. The student felt that he and others had not kept up with the readings as a result. "If someone asked me if I'd learned a lot from this course, I'd say no," decided this student.

But these are not the only views on Thompson's methods. A sophomore who dropped out of Thompson's "History 103 A, Introduction to African History" describes Thompson's teaching style as "very different," but adds, "I didn't have a problem with him as a teacher."

The student explained that Thompson expects his students to do the majority of the research

for the course on their own, and that his lectures are more geared to providing sources of information rather than the actual material. "You are responsible for what you're learning," said the student. She felt that it would be an excellent course for majors in history but felt that if it was taken as "just a fourth course" it was very demanding.

Both students agreed that Thompson's ideas were excellent, though both felt that his methods were, at the least, unusual. "You have to be prepared for that," concluded the sophomore, "then you'll get a lot out of the course."

Unfortunately, Thompson could not be reached for comments on his controversial teaching methods.

Note: At the risk of breaching newspaper etiquette, we have decided to allow the students quoted to remain anonymous.

## The Film Agency Offers Alternative Entertainment

By Cary Dyer

The Film Agency at Connecticut College is a student-run organization which rents second-run films directly from film companies and shows them in Palmer Auditorium. It is modeled after Cine Studio at Trinity, which has been in existence for close to twenty years.

The Film Agency was founded by Geoff Wagg and Larry Miller at the end of last semester. Over the summer they sent letters to film companies such as Orion and Columbia's Tri-Star, hoping to get contracts allowing the Film Agency to rent films directly from the companies, rather than through a catalog.

The films are run on Friday or Saturday night in Palmer Auditorium with only a \$2.50 ticket price and are open to the public. Despite the low ticket price, the Film Agency has made a large profit from their films. They plan to use most of this money for publicity. The rest is held in a Student Org. account and may eventually be used to purchase a new screen, which will cost in the area of \$8,000. The Agency must pay \$500 in advance to film companies

before they can receive the films. The film company then gets between 35 and 40% of the profits from the ticket sales. Despite these expenses, the Film Agency has returned all the money they originally received from SGA.

The Agency sees itself as a needed alternative form of entertainment on campus. Their goal is to reach the level of Cine Studio at Trinity, which shows movies seven days a week in its own theater, a converted lecture hall equipped with a Dolby sound system and the capacity to show both 35mm and 70mm films. With the help and hard work of Geoff Wagg, Larry Miller, Dean Tolliver, Julie Quinn and Trudy Flanery, the organization seems to be heading in its intended direction.

The Connecticut College Movie Hotline number is 447-7802, and information on both the Film Agency and the Film Society movies are available. Soon there will be a box outside the Post Office which will display a large, colored poster for each week's movie.

## Arts

page 7

## Some Consider A Night of Edgar Allen Poe Sacreligious



Caroline Oudin as a Bonsai Bird

photo by Heather Arcovitch

# 2 Letters

**H**il Yes, finally it's here - *The Echo*! First, let me explain our intentions. We are not a radical, left-wing newspaper set out to force our politics and ideologies on Connecticut College. Nor are we here to usurp *The College Voice*'s position. We're determined to simply be entertaining and informative. We feel it is important to have more than one weekly campus newspaper (note: Unfortunately, we may only publish bi-weekly this semester).

In many respects, we will work with *The Voice* to better inform our campus. *The Voice* doesn't have space to cover everything, and we hope to get what they miss - for example, we will cover only club sports, and will devote an entire page to campus minority and social awareness groups.

Still, our news will sometimes overlap that of *The Voice*. But we hope this will allow some events to simply receive more complete coverage. Also, we feel healthy competition is important to keeping both papers working their hardest to serve you, our readers.

You will notice, in reading this first issue, that many of our articles have been written by the same people. One difficulty with having so many quality publications on such a small, active campus is that writers are hard to come by. We've suffered especially because we are new. We need YOU! If you would like to write for *The Echo*, even on a part-time basis, please come to one of our Tuesday meetings, at 7 p.m. in the RTC Lounge. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24th. Or contact me at 444-9873, Box 1727.

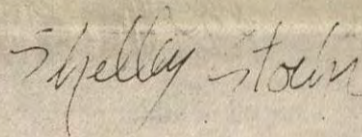
If you're interested in photography - GREAT! The more quality graphics we have, the better. If you're unsure of darkroom techniques, we can teach you.

Production? We have a great need for production and design staff - and it's probably one of the most exciting aspects of *The Echo*. We have the graphic capabilities to do anything, so the creative possibilities and learning opportunities are endless.

Finally, remember that *The Echo* is your newspaper. Please submit any letters, ideas, etc., to Box 279, or call Cary Dyer at 444-9947. Letters to the Editor must be typed, double-spaced, and are due one week before printing. Many of you have seen our press release forms - please use them! If you run out, ask us for more, or send us a note saying who you are (what you do/who you represent), what you'd like to appear in *The Echo* and who to contact. We cannot guarantee that every suggestion will be used, but we promise to do our best.

Thank you, and enjoy your first issue of *The Echo*.

Sincerely,



Shelley Stoehr  
Editor-in-Chief

## The Echo

*The Echo* is a bi-weekly newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Connecticut College.

### Editorial Board

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Vincent Candelora	Editor
Michael Kahn	Editor
Claudia Krugovoy	Editor

Letters to *The Echo* are due the Tuesday before publication. All entries must be typed, double-spaced and include a telephone number for verification.

Opinions expressed in "Inside and Out" are not necessarily the opinions of *The Echo*.

Advertising rates are \$5 per column inch.

### Financial Report

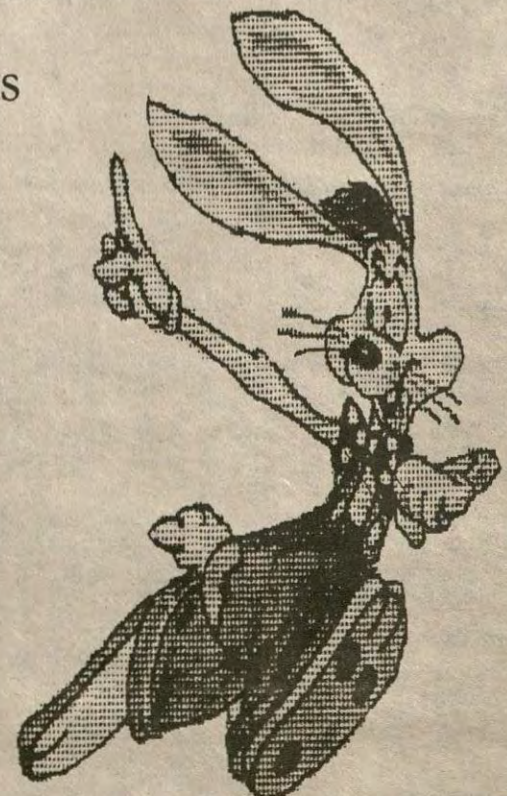
<b>Earned:</b>	
donations:	\$80.00
coffeehouse:	\$111.00
Harvest Fest:	\$60.00
total:	\$251.00
<b>Spent:</b>	
Harvest Fest:	\$40.00
coffeehouse:	\$15.00
photo/computer supplies:	\$56.00
small printing:	\$10.00
total:	\$121.00
<b>balance:</b>	\$130.00

(note: These figures have been rounded. They do not include payment and funds not yet received from advertising and SGA, nor printing fees for this issue.)

For their personal contributions, *The Echo* thanks: Don Meyer, Arthur Ferrari, Joan Chrisler, Donald Peppard, Ina Sheflott, The Admissions Office, The Office of the Controller and Tina Mazzei.

The Connecticut College Film Agency Presents

# Who Framed Roger Rabbit?



Saturday, December 10, 7:15pm, Palmer

# Inside and Out **3**

Michael Deaver, former Deputy Chief of Staff for President Reagan, and convicted perjurer, spoke to and answered questions from the college community last Thursday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. in Dana Hall.

## Listen and Be Informed

By Jon Severn

I am a bit confused about the controversy over Michael Deaver's appearance on December 1. You see, I thought I was at a liberal arts college. What about the catch phrases from the view-book about open-mindedness and all points of view converging? I believe that you can't have it both ways; censorship and freedom of speech.

I suppose that much of the problem stems from the fact that we paid Mr. Deaver for speaking. Why did we pay *him*? He should be paid because he is qualified. As Deputy Chief of Staff for five years under Reagan he is undeniably an expert on politics and the inter-workings of government. Just because he is a scumbag doesn't make him any less competent to speak on these topics, nor what he has to say any less interesting. And besides, there is the possibility that his shady past may make him more of an expert in his field; politics has a dark side, too.

Then there is the issue of subjectivity. Who decides who is "okay" to speak at Connecticut College and who is not. Abbey Hoffman was paid to speak in 1987. Remember him? I think he broke a few laws in his day. I didn't agree with a single thing that he said that night, but at least I was challenged to think. Others liked him, and they too were challenged. Some students may want to see a liar and influence-peddler. Not because they are going to follow him blindly like sheep to slaughter, but because they find this character and the issues of political ethics intriguing. If you disagree with Deaver or any speaker, I welcome you to go, listen, and challenge him. Please, just don't try to be the censor who keeps everyone else from hearing all sides of an issue. The point is that bringing prominent people here to speak benefits the entire learning atmosphere.

Was he worth it? Only those who saw him can judge. Maybe a better speaker could have been obtained for a similar price. But, where were all of the Deaver opponents when the speakers were being selected?

I don't agree with everything that Mr. Deaver has done. That doesn't matter because I believe that every student has the right to go and decide for himself or herself. This is by no means a defense of Mr. Deaver but rather a defense of open dialogue.

## Speak Out and Inform

By Dan Cramer

Was he worth it?

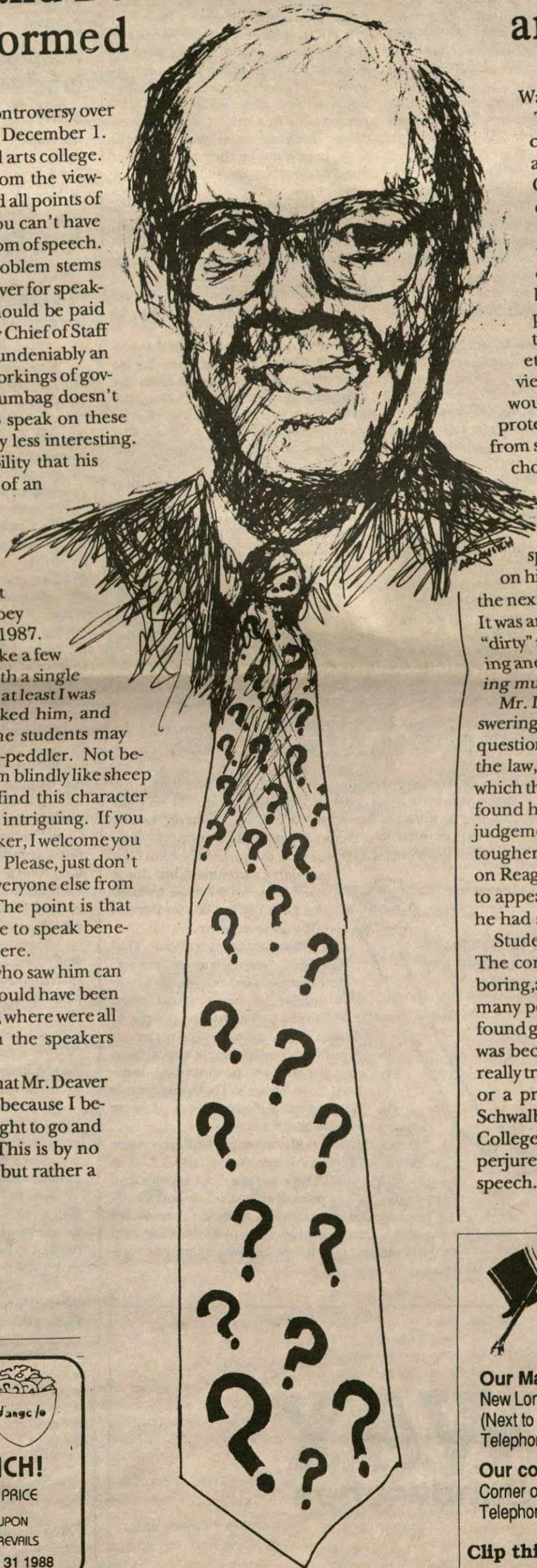
The days before Deaver's speaking were full of controversy and student interest about his past actions and whether the Student Activities Council should have paid him, as they did, over \$4000 to come.

David Grann explains that he and others were trying to inform students of Mr. Deaver's ethics, or lack thereof. David says, "No man better represents an era when money takes precedence over morals," and, "The man has the audacity to lie while under oath about his ethics." Mr. Deaver's activities will support this view. If students had not been informed, most would have apathetically accepted such a man. The protesters were not trying to prevent Mr. Deaver from speaking, although most feel he was not the best choice.

Some say Deaver was a good choice of speaker because of his political knowledge. But Mr. Deaver offered no great insights or new perspectives, as promised. Instead of concentrating on his role in the past eight years or what to expect in the next four, he criticized Dukakis and the Democrats. It was another example of Republican politicians using "dirty" and negative tactics; attacking instead of defending and claiming the Democrats are more guilty of slinging mud.

Mr. Deaver was even more slippery and biased in answering questions. In response to Doug Berensons question about ethics, he emphasized clear writing of the law, once again ignoring the moral principles on which they are based. As Dave Grann said, "A Grand Jury found him guilty of three counts of perjury, that is one judgement we can agree with." Nobody asked him tougher personal questions because the emphasis was on Reagan and Bush, and people may not have wanted to appear rude. He did not answer all the questions as he had said he would.

Students' reactions were varied but mostly negative. The consensus was that it was bad. He was biased and boring, and they did not learn anything. A question in many people's minds is whether the reason he was not found guilty of violating their Ethics in Government Act was because he lied. Joshua Lawrence asked, "Can we really trust someone who lied? A New York Times editor or a professor would have been a lot better." Eliot Schwalb sums it up by saying, "It is a sad state of the College when SAC pays almost \$5000 for a convicted perjurer who delivers a boring, biased campaign-style speech."



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# 4 Social Issues

## Conn. Chosen as Pilot School for Mentor Program

By Eric Harnden

A high school diploma. While for many, these words represent a dusty picture frame in the back closet at home, for many youths in America, the words unfortunately mean much less. With drugs, teenage pregnancy, poverty, violence and alcohol becoming almost household words in today's society, it has become harder than ever for kids to complete high school. And who is to blame them? They are simply the helpless victims of a new society.

The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) estimates that 700,000 students aged fourteen and older drop out each year. If this trend is to continue, what will be the impact on our country and on the next generation of children?

With this question in mind, a nationwide college community-service organization called Campus Compact took action against this growing problem in the educational system of this country. It presented its 150 college members with a "mentoring" program that would pair adolescent students with college students in an effort to instill a new set of values and goals into the children. Ideally this program would not only help deter the kids from dropping out, but also would foster stronger ties between the college and the community.

Campus Compact took applications from many colleges and universities across the country to determine which schools were the best suited to tackle this new program. Connecticut College was chosen for many reasons. We not only have created strong ties with the New London school system through our Tripartite Tutorial program, but we had

already interacted with the community in such programs as the Great Hunger Cleanup, and the PALS program, which is very similar to the Mentor program.

Conn. was chosen as a pilot school for this new program, and the Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS) launched into action. With the help from a state grant given to New London to determine which students were "at risk," Conn., along with high school teachers and guidance counselors, chose a group of seventh and eighth graders from the Winthrop high-rise who were considered high drop-out risks. Winthrop high-rise was chosen as a focus area because in addition to being the lowest income housing in New London, tenants had previously expressed an interest in a program which would provide guidance and leadership for their youth.

The next step was to select the mentors capable of establishing special relationships with people from perhaps completely different backgrounds. From twenty-five applications, OVCS selected a diverse, energetic and talented group of twelve Conn. students, representing all four classes, to carry the mentor program through its first and most crucial year. After twenty-one hours of training, the first mentoring program for at-risk youth began. The pressure was on.

The newly chosen mentors were each immediately matched with a Winthrop student. Although the regular meeting times were scheduled as three-hour social interaction sessions and two hours of tutoring later in the week, the relationships between the mentors and their proteges became much more. Many mentors spend extra time with their new

friends and often call to see how the kids are doing. The group has also planned field trips and even a dance. Some kids were reluctant at first, but one child, summing up the success of the program, said, "I didn't want to come at first, but now I don't want to leave." Although parents were at first apprehensive about letting their children travel to Conn. for a program about which they knew little, they were soon impressed by the enthusiasm of their kids and by the mentors' unique integration of the parents into the program. The parents were invited to dinner with their children and were given a first-hand look at what goes on here at Conn. The parents saw their children excited about an activity free from drugs, and a rare opportunity for the kids to see what they may achieve by graduating from high school.

The triumphant success of this program at Conn., however, goes far beyond the positive response from the kids and the community. Conn. has taken such great strides toward the accomplishment of this program that Campus Compact has recognized our progress. Besides documenting the entire process, Conn. will be sending Barbara Troadec to Baltimore this month to give a talk to the entire Campus Compact on our methods in establishing a fully rewarding and successful mentoring program. We have set the standards for others to observe and to follow. However, with the success comes a heavy burden - an entire nation is watching us and our progress with this program. As Barbara said, "It is very exciting," but "the pressure is on!"

**"We hope [the Center] will be used as a resource center, where people can come and ask for help. People are welcome to read brochures and literature as well."**

## New Women's Center Fulfills Campus Need

By Vinnie Candelora

With the help of administration and faculty, a group of students have founded a Women's Center at Conn. SGA and the Women's Studies Committee expressed a need for such a campus facility. In August, Faculty members, along with President Claire Gaudiani, proposed an outline of why the Center was necessary. Soon after, Fanning 417a became the Women's Center.

The Center must share this room with the mathematics department but hopes to have its own room next semester. The Women's Center has so far acquired a phone (x9709), answering machine, chairs and lamps. Some of these items were donations. The Center is striving to get a mailing list including such schools as Trinity and Wesleyan, in order to open up communications.

When asked what the Center's main purpose is, Cait Goodwin answered, "We hope [the Center] will be used as a resource center, where people can come and ask for help. People are welcome to read brochures and literature as well." Cait acts as Correspondent to the Women's Center. Her job includes collecting literature and magazines. Dana Osoweicki and Sarah Warner act as Committee Coordinators. Their job is to run meetings, form agenda and make sure that short and long term goals are carried out. According to Cait, "The staff doesn't vote on issues, rather we look for a consensus. This way everyone gets their opinions in."

Those involved with the Center is pleased with their accomplishments. However, they wish to increase publicity, such as publishing staff hours and broadening their newsletter. "Right now it's difficult having to share a room with the math department," responded Cait. "We're trying to set up concrete hours so people know when they can go to talk or just do research."

Currently, a Rape Crisis Training Course is being offered at the Center. Sarah Wilson, an employee of the New London Women's Center, heads this course. Marylin Taylor also operates the Rape Training Crisis Course.

With the Women's Center in gear, the College should be hearing a lot more from this needed organization. The Women's Center is located in Fanning 417a, Box 1286 and extension 7909.

The funding of the Center is through the Women's Studies Department, however, the Center does have its own account.

## Gay/Straight/Bi Alliance Supports and Educates

By Stephanie Bewlay

I walked into the meeting, homophobia intact. I'm not a lesbian. Do they think I'm a lesbian? Is he gay? What about her? I was wandering around, chatting politely as we waited for the movie, *Parting Glances*, to begin. Here I was, at the Gay/Straight/Bi Alliance meeting. My first one. After the popcorn was passed and the VCR plugged in, the movie began. It was about two people who were in love. They loved each other so much that one was willing to leave to see if absence really does make the heart grow stronger. The theme seemed to be that everyone has the freedom to do what he or she wants. Pretty typical movie. Except for one thing. The couple was homosexual. Two guys.

Many homophobics find the thought of this repugnant, unnatural. It's not. It's only repressed in our society. That's why we have the Gay, Straight, Bi Alliance at Conn. Years ago, it was the Conn. College Gay Community and met weekly at the top floor in Fanning, open to both members of the community and Conn. College residents. As the need arose, it transformed into the GSBA and moved to the Chapel basement.

Susan Warner, the president of GSBA, seemed very ex-

cited by this year's turnout. With over sixty members, this year's attendance has nearly doubled last year's. More than half the members are straight, "Which is important," added Warner, "in order to educate. We need their support." The fears and problems of AIDS seem in the past to have hurt the gay rights movement, but this is even more of a reason to keep the GSBA going. To support, to talk and to educate.

What sort of education? That sexual preference is more than sex. That homosexual relationships are very similar to heterosexual ones. GSBA hopes to encourage people to understand gay relationships better. It hopes to allow a comfortable atmosphere where anyone with an open mind can learn more about homosexuals. That's all. Simple really. "The meetings," says Warner, "are to support, but also to educate."

Besides their weekly meetings, GSBA sponsors the Bi/Gay/Lesbian Awareness Day (B-GLAD) in the spring. Through a series of speakers, movies, and informal talks, GSBA promotes education and awareness of the homosexual community. Also this year, GSBA hopes for a student/faculty get-together, a film festival, and networking with other gay, lesbian, bi clubs from other colleges and communities.



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## Interview: Soviet Exchange Students Living and Studying at Connecticut College

By Claudia Krugovoy

**C**onnecticut College is home to two Soviet Exchange Students this year. Denis Kovalev, from the Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow, and Mae Veskis, from Tartu University in Estonia, are participating in a new student exchange program. Organized by The American Consortium for East-West Cultural and Academic Exchange, this program involves 24 Universities. Both students spoke to me about their views on the United States and the U.S.S.R.

**Claudia:** Before you came here, how did you perceive American young people or teenagers compared to the Soviets of that age?

**Denis:** I know for sure that they behave exactly the same at stadiums and rock concerts, so I can't really say that they are different, but they *are* different at the same time because I think American students might be more free and less dependent on their parents — something like that.

**Mae:** I expected American students to be even more free and informal than they really are, and now I consider that they sit in the classroom and listen to the professor like we do. I also thought that American students would be less diligent but now I've seen that they take their studies very seriously.

**Claudia:** What message would you like to give the American people?

**Denis:** Well, I'd like to say that I feel really friendly towards Americans and I came to the United States without any stereotypical view on the American system and the American people and the American youth in particular. So I invite American students, as well, not to generalize about the Soviet people and the Soviet students and I invite them to regard each person individually when they try to make an opinion about the



photo by Kristy Tyndall

Soviet individual in our society. I think it would be much more helpful in finding understanding between the two sides. I'd like for the American students to avoid making assumptions and generalizations, because assumptions and generalizations are very dangerous.

**Claudia:** What do you think is the biggest barrier that exists between our two nations?

**Denis:** Fear. I would say fear, probably, and mistrust. I think this fear and mistrust, and I am positive now that this is fear and mistrust, comes probably from previous generations and from some of the mistakes of politicians. I think that we should try to eliminate this

fear and mistrust and I think that we are succeeding here because I feel a lot of friendship and positive reaction on the side of American students and I am positive that they will find things about the same in the Soviet Union.

**Claudia:** Undoubtedly, you miss your family and friends, but what else do you miss about the Soviet Union?

**Mae:** One should appreciate the chance to live in a different environment for a year and not think about missing anything because you'll go back anyway and continue the life that was inter-

**"I invite them to regard each person individually when they try to make an opinion about the Soviet individual in our society. I think it would be much more helpful in finding understanding between the two sides." - Denis Kovalev**

rupted, so I think that there's no point trying to regret anything. You must enjoy this moment and then enjoy another moment.

**Claudia:** What is campus life like in the Soviet Union, socially, for example?

**Denis:** Moscow University has a big campus which has a set of dorms which are very close to each other...life in the dorms is about the same. I have friends who live in dorms and I was several times at their parties. One aspect which is not legal at all is having drinks in your dorm with a big number of people. It used to be that people didn't really take it very seriously, but now under the latest legislation, they raised the drinking age as well and they're really strict about it.

**Claudia:** What's the drinking age?

**Denis:** Twenty-one. It used to be eighteen and in some areas sixteen.

**Claudia:** So do students in the Soviet Union really not drink or have parties anymore?

**Mae:** They do, especially in the summer.

**Denis:** I don't know, in Moscow, they do it throughout the year! You can't disturb people and play loud music...you don't have to drink when you're walking down the corridor...it's more private, not the big, huge parties.

**Mae:** So it's not the case that people are teetotlers!

**Claudia:** When you're not working, or studying, how are you likely to find a student?

**Mae:** Well... my university has a university club and you can become a member of it and join different pop groups, singing groups, dancing activities, the college film society or theater groups.

**Denis:** My college does not have such a big number of groups. I believe that my college is a little bit dull in this reference, but it's not very typical.

**Mae:** At dancing parties people in my college usually dance in pairs, not like here in America just moving however one like, but mostly a guy and a girl...slow dancing and quick dancing, but in pairs.

said this is like a chess game and a circus. What we see on the screen, I think, is more like a circus than a chess game...

**Mae:** I'm glad being here at the time of the presidential election...I find it a little bit, not funny, but weird that every day [when you opened] a newspaper there [was] a kind of mutual accusation



photo by Kristy Tyndall

of the points of one candidate to the other. They pick up a small issue...Dukakis accuses Bush of that and that, and Bush accuses Dukakis of that and that, so it's kind of weird but of course it's a very crucial thing. People are worried about who will become president and so it's not a laughing matter.

**Claudia:** What kind of effect can the exchange have on keeping peaceful relations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R?

**Mae:** This exchange of students is a good thing, but I'm not very optimistic about the contribution it makes to the possibility of nuclear war. I don't think that any people want war, so that this is still the matter of the government, on the higher level.

**Denis:** No, but I think in general that it helps a lot actually because a lot of students when they get posts later, will bring these good experiences with them. From my college, probably 80% go abroad to different countries...I think student exchanges are very crucial...I'd like to have broader exchanges.

**Mae:** I also approve of broad exchanges of people which reminds me of a peace march that happened this summer between people of the Soviet Union and Americans. I don't exactly remember in which state it was, Indiana, I think, but common people from both countries marched like 300 miles together and the weather was very hot and so they had a common experience. I guess this is something that helps to promote peace because people come to know more about each other and their ways of thinking...so these kinds of ties should also be broadened to help prevent this fear and the possibility of war.

**Denis:** Estonia is much more European. The diversity inside the country in general is just huge - there's much more diversity than in the United States.

**Mae:** Especially between the Northern part and the Southern part.

**Denis:** We don't have a single Soviet culture...each republic has its own culture.

**Claudia:** Do you think that people here aren't aware of other cultures?

**Denis:** This is very sad, but I think it's true...people who do not take special courses or do not take foreign languages are not prepared to meet people from other cultures.

**Mae:** It seems to me that we know more about the States than Americans know about the Soviet Union. I've got such an impression because one of the questions that has been directed to me is, "What has surprised you in America?" But, I've seen so many movies about America [by Americans] and have read about it, so I really can't say that it has been a culture shock.

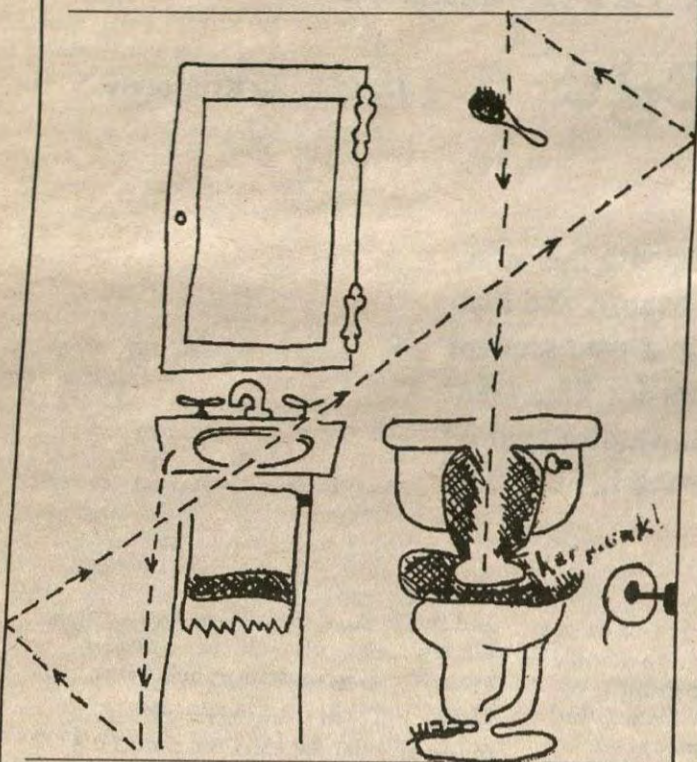
**Denis:** In a lot of European countries, as well as in the Soviet Union, people know more about states which are close to their borders, at least, or about different cultures... Americans turn out to be unaware of things which are going on not only in the Soviet Union but in your country as well.

**Claudia:** You came at a time when there [was] a race for the presidency. How [did] you feel watching this whole thing?

**Denis:** Some guy, I think a journalist,

# 6 Campus Life

## The Fourth Law of Newtonian Physics: Bathroom Gravity



An object (especially a hairbrush, comb, or toothbrush) dropped near, or in, a bathroom, will defy the first three laws of physics in order to land, ultimately, in the toilet.

By Evan Lewis

## Personals

All personals in *The Echo* are due two weeks before publication (Jan. 24 for our next issue). The fee is \$1.00 per 30 words. Submit to Box 1727. Entries should be typed, to assure that we won't make errors in copying.

## Ride Board

All ride requests/announcements are due two weeks before publication (Jan. 24 for our next issue). There is no charge. Submit to Box 1727.

## Notes From Abroad:

### Modern Taiwanese Offer Their Ancestors Beer and Twinkies

Guys,

Where I live now there is a night market down the street, which is always fun, and there is a vegetable market right outside the door to my building. It is kind of hard to describe what these markets are like—just lots of people with tables and all their goods on them.

I've decided that Taiwan is a capitalistic-bureaucratic-dictatorship. One thing is that the congress is still dominated by people permanently appointed from the time the government was still in the mainland. These people are all expected to die in the next 10 years though, and will be replaced by elected officials.

I have decided that there is a clash between the old and the new here. The other day was a day to put out food and burn incense over it to give it to your ancestors. Along with the fruit and the cooked dishes some people were putting out stuff like a six-pack and the Taiwanese equivalent of Twinkies. Hell, when I'm dead I suppose I'll want beer and twinkies as much as anything else, right?



## From

Jeff Bent  
c/o Mandarin Training Center  
National Taiwan  
Normal University  
162 Hoping East Rd, Sec 1  
Taipei Taiwan 10610

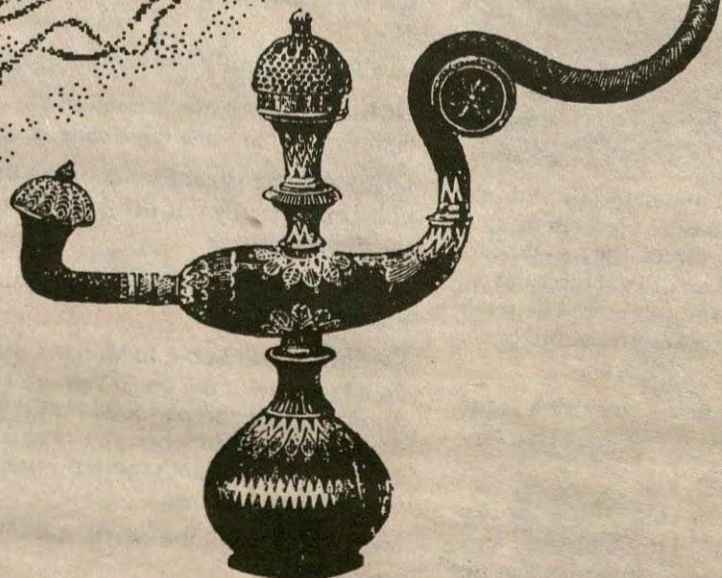
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## Dance Department Reperatory Concert:

### Pandora's Bag Entertains and Surprises Its Audience

By Shelley Stoehr

*Pandora's Bag*, an evening of dance, theater and comedy, was presented by the dance department in East Studio on December 2nd and 3rd. The concert included works by graduate students Peter Bramante and Kendall Pickenpaugh, Conn. graduate Mary Barnett, and a selection of guest artists.

Peter's and Kendall's piece, "Junctures", was fascinating in its simplicity. The selection of movement was essentially limited to walks and runs, and the spacial pattern followed strict geometric figures. Yet the superb body and especially facial expression well conveyed the sense of relationships between people. We see and understand the energy generated by people at different stages of physical and emotional closeness.

"He Made Her Do It", choreographed by Daniel West and danced by Mary Williford, was terrifying. One got a sense of a character possessed. Yet the piece often verged on the erotic. I got a strong sense of a rape being committed, possibly a recreation of a

rape, since the dance was a solo. Diamanoa's music heightened the atmosphere of pain and fear. The screams and jumbled speech were so unsettling, it was a relief whenever it paused. At one point, one can pick out the words, "I hate men," supporting the image of a rape. Student Amy Larimer commented that it must have been hard to dance such a frightening piece, and said, "Even watching it I have trouble being that scared."

Perhaps the most shocking piece was B.J. Goodwin's "Shrimp Cock Black and Blue Side of Rings," which she performed wearing only an apron. However, as the piece progressed, one forgot that she was nude. More a theatrical monologue than a dance, the piece was funny, and conveyed a statement as well about young actors who waitress while waiting to be "discovered." The nudity seemed to show the rawness of that lifestyle, and the feeling such a character might have of giving up all she has to pursue her dream, perhaps of "selling-out." The monologue was well constructed, having a satisfying and dynamic rhythm as well as content.

Other pieces in the concert included "The Living Room," by Mary Barnett; "You've Dressed Nicely," an improv. music piece performed by Martha Partridge and Tigger Benford on the amadinda, a type of xylophone; "Fitness digest", by Claire Porter - possibly commenting on the tendency for people to go through the motions, never pausing long enough to be aware of the smaller things like seeing, smelling and heartbeats. She seemed to feel we needed to exercise our fine-tuned awareness'. In contrast was "Beat," by Mary Williford. "Beat" was also a piece about exercise, but was high-energy, and more dance than Porter's comedy monologue.

## Students Studying The Synthesis of Electronic Music Compose and Perform Works

By Claudia Krugovoy

Wednesday, December 7, students in Music 203 (*The Synthesis of Electronic Music*) along with members of Music 331-334, will hold a concert in Dana Hall at 8 p.m. All the pieces performed were student composed. Glenn Dunner, Brian Field, Heather Haskell, Dean Philips and Steve Teti, who are taking 203, wrote the music to be performed. Professor Noel Zahler described Course 203's music as using "experimental, new ways of projecting musical ideas."

Music 203 was first introduced in the Fall Semester of 1986 and this semester is the second time it has been offered. Students learn how sound works when tape recording, as well as how synthesizers make sounds. Professor Zahler said that, after having taken the course, students find out that there is a lot more to making music than they had initially realized and "their definitions of music grow enormously."

## Derron Wood's Happening: A Night of Edgar Allen Poe Misinterpreted as Sacreligious



Reed Berkowitz as The Old Man

photo by Heather Arcovitch

Harkness Chapel. Monday, November 29. Derron Wood and friends perform his senior project - a theatrical production of Edgar Allen Poe's "A Telltale Heart." Many students are offended, feeling it was sacreligious to hold The Happening in the Chapel.

"No," says Wood, "Religious ideology is based on the individual, not the building."

Your Hand in Mine, Dear," a hunchback clumsily waltzed with a bloodied, dismembered hand. The "Maschicism Tango" also was humorously repulsive, but in the Chapel? The audience shifted uncomfortably, and still, the disturbing old man glared into nothingness.

Culminating with Poe's "Telltale Heart," things became much clearer. The previous scenes were thoughts and ideas flowing through Charley's mind. Charley, played by Derron Wood, was quite realistic as he retold the series of events which led up to the murder of this disturbing old man. The same old man who had been making the audience so uncomfortable.

And the lights went on. That was it. Reality was thrown back in our faces, away from the warped mind of Charley. The clapping was stunted, then rung on with a little more assurance as people realized, "Oh, that's the end."

But was it sacreligious? "No," says Wood, "religious ideology is based on the individual, not on the building. This is not anti-reli-



Wood applies make-up to Sharon Shaefer

photo by Heather Arcovitch

gious." When I asked why it was not held somewhere less controversial, he replied, "I love the chapel. The lighting gives the right effect, and we wanted to create an uncomfortable feeling."

Uncomfortable it was, and, I may add, well done. It was an hour's entertainment and an hour of highly intellectual thought, well-planned and well-rehearsed.

Students find out that there is a lot more to making music than they had initially realized and "their definitions of music grow enormously."

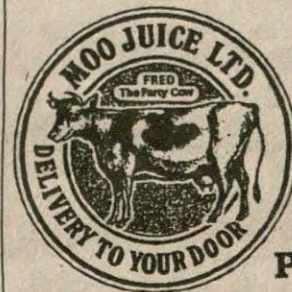
Students attend class and study in Connecticut College's Center for Electronic and Digital Sound (CEDS). The Center, "one of Conn.'s best kept secrets", is a place for recording electronic and digital synthesis of music.

CEDS houses very sophisticated equipment, including full tape recording facilities for half-track, four-track and eight-tracks stems. There is also a Mac II which digitally controls several synthesizers, and a Fairlight CMI III which is "one of 450 direct digital synthesis computers that exist in the world today." In the CEDS is also a terminal that ties into the Micro Vax II and Va X 8350 computers, which are also located in the Computing Center. Musical programs are run from MIT and IRCAN in Paris. Six students are enrolled this semester. According to Zahler, there is a good mix of people - not just Music Majors. No electronic background is necessary. Students must take a Theory One Class, Music 111 as a prerequisite.

Next semester, students who have taken Course 203 will qualify for Course 204, which deals with Computer Music. Completion of these classes can lead to programs of Independent Study.

# Happy Holidays...

From *The Echo*



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Coming Next Semester



# 8 Sports

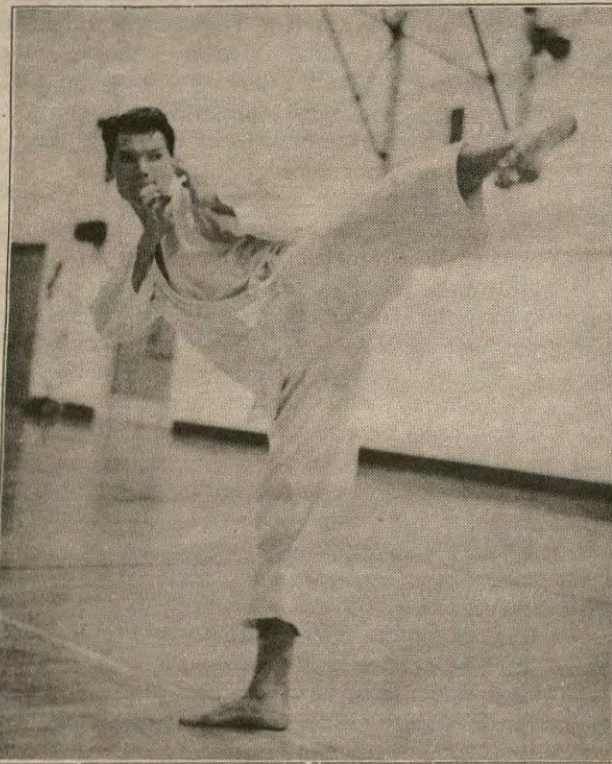
## Conn. Now Offers Both Sport Karate and Taekwon-Do

By Vinnie Candelora

Del Rio's Taekwon-Do ITF meets Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the west gym on the second floor of Cro.

Marc Lazare, a black belt and member of the New York State Taekwon-Do Team, began teaching Taekwon-Do earlier this semester. Marc volunteered to teach this club after several Conn. students showed interest. Conn. has had several other types of martial arts classes, but this is the first year for Taekwon-Do. Marc, a qualified teacher and ten-year trainee, made this club "an official school, recognized throughout the world, by joining the International Taekwon-Do Federation (ITF), founded by General Choi Hong Hi, and the United States Taekwon-Do Federation (USTF)."

In his class, Marc teaches fighting, form, street self-defense, weaponry, women's self-defense and the discipline of the art. The club consists of approximately ten members, but attendance is increasing now that fall sports have ended.



Shown is John Leamon, a member of the Sport Karate Club, often confused with Taekwon-Do. Sport Karate meets every Monday and Wednesday, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Cro. Gym, and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Sport Karate competes in meets here, and at Springfield, Mass.

## "The Camelettes" Change Their Image

By Michael Kahn

A new club has been created at Connecticut College. It was formerly "The Camelettes", a figure skating club which used to skate between periods of the hockey games. The new club will include accept anyone interested in skating.

President Beth Munger wants to "create a community of interest where everyone who wants to skate can do it without feeling self-conscious." At this time, Munger and Treasurer Jill Avery are still trying to find a convenient meeting time for interested students. Munger hopes to find "an hour or two during open college skate time, [which is] eight a.m. to one p.m., Monday through Friday" when everyone can get together.

The club is still looking for members, and will be, according to Munger, "informal". Students interested in learning to skate are encouraged to become involved. "It will be more formal next year," Munger said, "and maybe more like a precision team in the next two years."

Last year, eight skaters graduated, and Munger was made President. Avery said that Munger is "a trained professional and an excellent skater not only with a lot of talent and experience in skating but also in teaching." Avery agrees with Munger that the club is just for fun, and that anyone interested in learning to skate or in skating more should come.

The figure skating club was given \$200 from the SGA budget, which Avery said will be used "to benefit the Connecticut College skaters and maybe to get costumes, if we can get an act in the spring skating ice show this March."

## Equestrian Team Expects to Score Well

This year a new division has been created; and since Conn. no longer has to compete against schools with more extensive riding programs, such as Mt. Holyoke and U.Mass.



By Claudia Krugovc

Did you know that Conn. has an Equestrian team? About ten students are regular members of the team, and co-President Kristen Plehn says that anyone can join at any time.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association organizes four shows in the fall and three in the spring. Each show is hosted by a different school. Connecticut College's team participates only in Rhode Island and Connecticut. The team used to compete in Massachusetts as well. This year a new division has been created; and since Conn. no longer has to compete against schools with more extensive riding programs, such as Mt. Holyoke and U.Mass., its chances of success are better this year. Recently it competed at the University of Connecticut. In April our campus will host a show at Mystic Valley Hunt Club in Ledyard.

Most members of the team take riding lessons at Mystic Valley as well, and so there are no formal practices. Some students keep horses of their own there, but they may not use these in competition. In the interest of fairness, all riders are given horses at random to use in competition at inter-collegiate horse shows.

Part of why Conn. has difficulty placing as a team in its shows is due to the sparsity of the team's members. While each of Conn.'s riders does well, the team is not big enough to place riders in all classes, and therefore cannot earn enough points to score as high as other, larger teams. If you are interested in becoming involved, contact either Kristen Plehn or Sarah Henry. As one teammate Cary Dyer commented, "Being a part of the team takes up only a few weekends in the year and it's a lot of fun."

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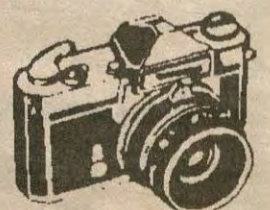
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