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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 2



Photo by Andrew Nathanson

SMITH-BURDICK WINS CAMELYMPICS!

Climate Ride 2009: Conn Students Pedal 300 Miles Toward a New Energy Future

MEGAN REBACK
CONTRIBUTOR

On September 26, sophomore Erik Karwatoski and junior Annie Bigwood will embark on a five day, 300-mile journey from New York City to Washington, D.C. on bicycles, in an effort to promote the desperate need to combat climate change. Climate Ride, a "climate conference on wheels," provides a diverse group of so-called 'climate riders' the chance to meet and ride with leaders and speakers focused on issues of climate change, renewable energy and environmental causes.

Karwatoski and Bigwood are Connecticut College student leaders from the Renewable Energy Club (REC). Both are global citizens dedicated to promoting and practicing environmental initiatives.

Bigwood has been an active member of REC since her freshman year and cites Power Shift — a Washington, D.C. conference to which Connecticut

College sent over 130 students last spring — as one of the main factors that compelled her to join Climate Ride.

Alumni Tyler Dunham '09 and Mike Seager '09 completed the ride last year and had a very positive experience.

Bigwood views Climate Ride

instead of driving?"

What road did Bigwood and Karwatoski take to be just days away from the ride of a lifetime? Firstly, all Climate Riders are required to raise a minimum of \$2,400 to support the cause.

Thus far, fundraising this

parents' friends and friends' parents, wrote letters, wrote reminder letters, sent e-mails and sent reminder e-mails.

But by the time they arrived to Conn this fall, Bigwood and Karwatoski were still short of the \$2,400 requirement.

On Saturday, September 12,

eager to help out," and agreed to donate 10 percent of that night's profits — \$125 — to the cause.

Next, Bigwood went door-to-door in Larrabee and Katharine Blunt to fund the rest of her trip.

It was "cool to see the enthusiasm and support through Conn," and raise \$200, she said.

Finally, every member of REC sent e-mails to family and friends to support Karwatoski and Bigwood's team.

Ultimately, Bigwood raised \$3,000 for Climate Ride.

Now that Bigwood and Karwatoski have raised enough money, they look forward to joining over 150 people, including an Olympic skier, a masseuse and owners of small sustainable businesses, in the journey from New York City to Washington, D.C.

Along the way, the Climate Riders will stop at Princeton University, Phoenixville, Pa.,

SEE CLIMATE RIDE PAGE 4



Photo from Web.

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Safety Concerns on Campus

JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

Cognizant of our separation from New London, Conn. students often emphasize the "bubble" in which our school rests comfortably. Contrary to our larger, city-centered peers, Connecticut College's enclosed campus creates a sense of safety.

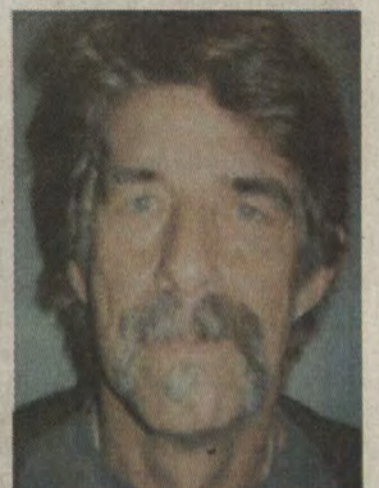
With recent events, however, the College's rose-colored glasses have finally been removed. As disclosed in campus-wide emails from Dean Briddell and Stewart Smith, Thomas Lee Walden, a man hired as a contractor for the college, was found peeking un-

derneath stalls in the women's bathroom in Cro.

Walden, who is listed on the Connecticut Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Registry, was promptly arrested, charged with trespassing, stalking and breach of peace. He was previously arrested in South Carolina in 2005 on charges of voyeurism.

While the College included the above information in an email to the campus, it came in a second email,

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 4



Thomas Lee Walden, from the Connecticut Department of Public Safety Sex Offender Registry

EDITORIALS

September 22, 2009

E-mail: contact@thecollegevoice.org

Editor's Voice

In response to last week's *Editor's Voice*

There have been several consequences of the "Great Recession," including half-hearted attempts at regulating our wobbly financial system, a difficult job market and a new American frugality that the *New York Times* covers just about every day. As part of this new American frugality, philanthropic budgets, particularly the kind that sustain programs at private colleges like Conn, have been severely downsized if not eliminated altogether.

Additionally, the Recession injected the print vs. online newspaper debate with a healthy dose of urgency. As the volume of print advertising plummets – and papers' revenues fall in tandem – people have started getting serious about finding solutions to keep our fourth branch of government alive and well. While this was happening, the digital revolution has kept on chugging, developing sophisticated news platforms for PCs and mobile devices.

It sucks that we've lost the newspapers due to a temporary gap in funding here at CC. It really does. We should, of course, express our displeasure and look for solutions to fund this project. In the meantime, however, let's take this opportunity to realize that the world has moved forward and

so should we.

Again, don't get me wrong. There's nothing I love more than manhandling a Sunday *Times* until it's unrecognizable. But I also love driving a car that gets approximately 18 mpg. Both of these are not necessarily sustainable behaviors. While print news offers some benefits, we have to look forwards at the platforms that have been developed to give us an experience that is as close to print news as possible.

The *College Voice's* website is living proof that articles can be displayed in a way that gives priority to whatever the editorial staff deems most worthy. E-readers like Amazon's Kindle continue to improve upon the screen-reading experience so our eyes aren't warped in the meantime.

While we should actively campaign to redirect school funding towards the luxuries we miss, we need to take it in stride and recognize that the news is still there, and not having a print edition is no excuse for not maintaining the intellectual rigor and stimulating conversation that should define academic and social life at Connecticut College.

- Alfred

Solving the College's Problems Through Surveillance

In last week's issue, we ran an article on the cameras being placed in Cro's snack shop. I have some strong, albeit conflicting opinions, about this topic, but there are a few clarifications I'd like to make about the article before I discuss them.

There will now be *one* camera inside the snack shop, by the cashier. It, like the other surveillance cameras around campus, will be only reviewed if an incident is reported.

In regards to the quote from Ulysses Hammond which claims that SGA supported the initiative "one hundred percent," Hammond and Ben-gochea brought the topic of cameras to the SGA executive board administrator meetings during training, and SGA President Peter Friedrichs and Stewart Smith, Director of Campus Safety, discussed the topic during the first SGA assembly meeting.

I could not attend the executive board meeting with Hammond since I was at a journalism conference, so I cannot speak for how the rest of the executive board reacted to the topic of surveillance cameras, but the phrase "supported 'one hundred percent'" is misleading. There was no formal vote at the SGA assembly meeting, or at the SGA executive board meeting.

In fact, it was less of a conversation, and more of a discussion about a decision that had already been made by the Oasis staff and administration over the summer.

These facts now clarified, I would like to state my own opinion this issue, which is actually quite complex. When I first heard that a camera would be placed in Oasis for safety reasons, I immediately agreed with the idea. I've seen plenty of drunken Conn students on any given Thursday or Saturday night stumbling and slurring their way through the snack shop, and disrespecting or verbally assaulting staff members.

"Where's my pizza, b----?" is one such expression I heard first-hand last spring on a particularly crazy night in Cro.

For staff member's safety, and overall wellbeing, I agree that camera surveillance would help to deter some incidents, and that reviewing film footage could be useful in Judicial Board hearings as evidence of misdemeanors.

However, (and this is where my confliction comes in) not everything can be resolved by relying on surveillance.

It's actually a passive way to maintain order.

Instead, the root of the problem should be addressed: how effective is our Honor Code?

The matriculation pledge we all make freshman year states: *I understand my obligation to this community under the Honor Code and pledge to uphold standards of behavior governed by honor. I pledge to take responsibility for my beliefs, and to conduct myself with integrity, civility, and the utmost respect for the dignity of all human beings.*

Therefore, disrespecting Oasis staff is a blatant breach of our Honor Code, which gives me cause to believe that placing cameras in the snack shop demonstrates the administration's assumption that students will undoubtedly break the honor code.

This nonsensical reaction from the administration would be like:

- Students cheat on a test. We'll put cameras up in classrooms and academic buildings!
- Underage students drink in their rooms. We'll put cameras up in every residence hall!

Where does it end?
I'm pushing it on this account, I know, but I really want to drive my point home: we need to get to the root of the problem (Honor Code) and look at the bigger picture instead of simply taking the easier way out.

Please note that I'm not completely against the purchase of these cameras. As mentioned earlier, I think it's a good idea for the wellbeing of Cro staff who are verbally abused. I do think, however, that students should have had a say in this both so that we can express our concerns, if any, and be more aware of the fact that behavior on Thursday and Saturday nights has reached the breaking point. It's time for some self-evaluation, and time to revisit the effectiveness of the Honor Code in our daily lives and interactions with others.

- Claire

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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CORRECTIONS

In "Hey, What Happened to the Newspapers?" in last week's issue, Corey Testa's quote should have read: "...as simple as a newspaper is no longer available to the student body." Instead of "...as simple as a newspaper has been taken away from the student body."

Letters to the Editor

We are writing about your article, "Hey, What Happened to the Newspapers" in last week's *The College Voice* (Vol. 34, Iss. 1) which provides inaccurate information. I would like to clarify what transpired given the Office of Student Life has been responsible for ensuring that our campus community has newspapers.

My office was informed that the USA Today Readership Program would no longer be supported in August 2009. Unfortunately, this did not allow an adequate amount of time to secure funding prior to the start of classes. To continue the program at past year's levels would cost the College approximately \$12,000.

As advisor to the Student Government Association, I informed the Executive Board that the newspaper program would likely not be available this year. The Executive Board, in turn, informed the Assembly. The assertion that "students were never notified that the program would not be continued" is simply untrue.

Furthermore, for students to believe "something as simple as a newspaper has been taken

away from the student body" is additionally frustrating. The Office of Student Life did not willfully take the newspapers away from students. In fact, I also informed SGA that I would work during the current academic year to pursue future funding for the program. Members of my staff have already begun working to that end.

The Office of Student Life has worked diligently to acquire and maintain the USA Today Collegiate Readership Program over the past several years. Moreover, last year when faculty asked for an increase in the number of copies of the NY Times available on campus it was the Office of Student Life's budget that incurred the cost for the additional papers. It was a cost that had not been included in my original budget request for the 2008 - 2009 fiscal year thus reducing my budget.

Finally, to indicate that Connecticut College's peer institutions offer similar readership programs "at no cost to the student body" is misleading. At many institutions who offer a readership program (includ-

ing Colby, Dartmouth and other elite liberal arts colleges) the program is specifically funded by the Student Government Association or funded by one or more departments/offices. In almost every case the program's expenses ultimately displace resources from other endeavors. The newspapers our campus has enjoyed for the past years have never been free.

Let's find a way to resolve this issue by sharing truthful information and seeking creative and collaborative ways to resume a readership program for the campus. Both the Office of Student Life and the Student Government Association are working to resolve this issue. Let's resolve it together!

Sincerely,

Jocelyn D. Briddell
Dean of Student Life

W. Scott McEver
Director of Student Activities

Sarah Cardwell
Associate Dean of Student Life

Policies for Submitting Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are accepted from any member of the college community on a first-come, first-come basis until noon on the Saturday prior to publication. They should run approximately 300 words in length, but may be no longer than 400 words.

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and

include contact information. No unsigned letters will be published.

The editor-in-chief must contact all authors prior to publication to verify that he/she was indeed the author of the letter.

The *College Voice* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, grammar or

libel. No letters deemed to be libelous towards an individual or group will be published.

The *College Voice* cannot guarantee the publication of any submission.

These policies must be made public knowledge so that every reader may maintain equal opportunity to have their opinions published.

THE COLLEGE VOICE
NEWS

September 22, 2009 | Editors: Samantha Herndon and Jazmine Hughes

Floor Governors: Friend or Foe?

ELLIE BENNER
CONTRIBUTOR

Upon arriving back to Conn, students are asking many questions about the changes that have been put in place for the 2009-2010 academic year. One of the most pressing is regarding the year-old position of floor governors: who are they, what are their responsibilities, and how will they influence our experience in the dorms?

It turns out that even floor governors are puzzled by their role in the dorms as staff, disciplinarians, and student leaders.

The Commission on Residential Education (CORE) report, which was composed of several staff members, deans and students, initiated the idea for floor governors in spring of 2008.

This commission recognized that the average ratio of ninety students to one student staff member of Residential Education and Living (Res Ed) was not conducive to a safe and healthy living environment. The commission recommended that an increased number of leadership positions in the dorm would "assist residents in their development as students and individuals," creating a larger sense of shared responsibility among all residents within the dorms.

Amy Gauthier, director of Residential Education and Living, attributed the change in floor governor responsibilities this year to last year's student staff members: "Floor Governors were saying, 'We can help more, and not just with programming.'"

One of the changes this year has been the amendment of the on-call policy. Last year, housefellows were solely responsible for all on-call duties, including lockouts. This year, floor governors are included in the on-call system.

The system is split up so that during the week (Sunday-Wednesday), one floor governor or housefellow is on-call from 8 PM - 7 AM for each area of campus. On weekends (Thursday-Saturday), the dorms are all split into pairs, thus someone either in your own dorm or a nearby dorm will be on-call at all times.

Gauthier stated that the changes in the on-call system were "to better serve residents." She also confirmed that

the changes were "mentioned during the interview process, but not fully understood last year," neither by Res Ed staff nor by student staff. Gauthier also noted that since Orientation, she has not heard any feedback from floor governors about the on-call policies, contrary to the buzz going around campus about floor governors and their dissatisfaction with their new on-call duties.

The change in floor governor duties on campus has

been strikingly similar to residential advisor (RA) programs at other colleges and universities, which worries some Camels. Many students at Conn pride themselves on the fact that our school's residential life has no similarities to other schools' feared RA systems.

Gauthier stressed that the goal of the floor governors is not to police their residents, saying, "We are not babysitters. Res Ed staff isn't asked to do anything more than report Honor Code violations," which is a shared responsibility of all Conn students.

Gauthier acknowledged that in regards to an RA system, it was not in the Conn tradition to impose such a model, thus the staff of Residential Education and Living "needs to design a system to fit [the Connecticut College] culture."

However, since Gauthier and two of the Area Coordinators have been working at Conn for two years or less, some students and staff members have been questioning how well they understand the Conn culture.

In speaking with floor governors, many of them had somewhat uniform answers as to why they decided to apply to be a floor governor in the first place.

Trevor Prophet '11 was interested in being a floor governor because it was "something I already did." He "takes pride in interacting socially on the floor [and] knowing everyone, especially freshmen."

Jocina Becker '10 said that her motivation was influenced by her class year: "As a senior, I wanted to come full circle and

see the freshman experience from a very different point of view."

Amy Falk '11 wanted to be a floor governor to become more social on campus because the position "really forces you to meet so many great people."

The biggest problem that floor governors have with their position this year is that they had trouble formulating specific expectations of what their day-to-day responsibilities would be.

"I would rather not be [seen] dumping out beer cans, so that a freshman will feel comfortable coming to me if he or she needs help — it's more of my job to make sure students will come and talk to me."

Many floor governors feel the tremendous shift in their responsibilities, almost as if the position that they applied for last spring is not that same one that they are re-

quired to do this fall. In terms of their expectations for the year ahead, many student workers did not expect as much responsibility as they were given.

One floor governor said that he believed the position to be "kind of a joke," while another considered the workload required to be "similar to having another class in terms of how dedicated I would be to it."

These floor governors were surprised when they returned to campus and realized that their roles were to be taken more seriously than before. Along with the changes to the on-call system, each floor governor is required to put on three programming events per semester in their dorm.

They are only allowed to sleep outside of their own rooms fifteen times per year, including fall break and any athletic commitments. Floor governors are supposed to be in their room at all times from 2 AM to 8 AM, in effect giving them a curfew.

While this rule does not seem to be heavily enforced, if a floor governor is absent in the event of an emergency, he or she could be in jeopardy of losing his/her job.

Floor governors and housefellows cannot leave their dorm during their on-call shifts, which made one Floor Governor feel "trapped" by the system, especially since her

only duties as a floor governor thus far have made her feel like a "glorified key unlocker."

Floor governors have responded negatively to many of these changes. One experienced floor governor believes that Res Ed has "definitely bumped it up a notch" in terms of floor governor responsibility. She continued, "We've all appreciated that in some sense, but once we got here we all freaked out a bit because we saw how much responsibility it was going to be, almost as if housefellows and floor governors have an equal playing field."

One of the questions she asked herself was one that many floor governors have been contemplating since returning to school: did we really want all of this responsibility?

Res Ed has also clarified, according to several floor governors, that being part of the student staff is supposed to be a floor governor's first priority. However, many floor governors are equally, if not more, concerned with their role as students, athletes, friends, club members and so on. One floor governor explicitly stated that her definition of her role this year is "a student who is also a floor governor," not the other way around.

However, floor governors do not only complain about the situation they are in, as they are also valuable resources for constructive criticism to change to the program. One valid critique of the on-call system is that there is no online resource where students can check who is currently on-call.

Because floor governors and housefellows can switch their shifts if they are unable to work one night, there is no easy way for a student to figure out if any changes have been made.

Another floor governor pointed out that there is too much emphasis from Res Ed on floor governors as individuals, whereas if all floor governors worked together in a dorm to plan programming events, they would most likely be more interesting as well as more valuable to the dorm as a whole.

She said that she "would rather have six good programs than nine mediocre ones" and that the point of the floor governor's required events is to "engage students in the dorm, not assess an individual floor governor's programming."

Several floor governors have also complained that they are not receiving enough feedback from their residents.

One floor governor said, "People aren't coming to me as much as I want them to, [even though] I try to make myself approachable. I had someone go home because of flu symptoms and they didn't tell me. That's the kind of thing I need to know about." With so many resources (SAs, FGs and HFs) in the dorm, it is difficult, especially as a freshman, to figure out with whom to speak about issues in the Houses.

Floor governors are also having trouble addressing the issue of alcohol use in the dorms.

While it is Connecticut College policy to limit drinking to inside rooms, it becomes difficult for floor governors to decide where they cross the line between a friendly resource for the dorm and a student version of Campus Safety.

While all floor governors have said they feel comfortable telling underage residents to close their doors and to keep drinking out of sight, some are having issues with the many roles they are supposed to play.

One floor governor said, "I would rather not be [seen] dumping out beer cans, so that a freshman will feel comfortable coming to me if he or she needs help — it's more of my job to make sure students will come and talk to me."

Gauthier, director of Res Ed, seems to agree with the floor governors that this is a difficult question, and said, "I don't know if I can handle tackling the issue of alcohol."

As one FG stated, "I think that a floor governor position is fine for the people who want to do it." However, it seems as if it is more suited toward students who want to be Residential Education and Living Staff first, and students second.

Avery Donald '10, housefellow of Freeman, commented that this year's floor governors were not aware of their responsibilities, whereas "housefellows know exactly what they're getting into. Housefellows are always in housefellow mode; even when not on-call, but I don't think that floor governors are always in that role. It's not supposed to be the same."



Photo from College archives.

Safety Concerns

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a day after the original email which claimed that Walden was not at all affiliated with the College.

Jennifer Manion, director of the LGBTQ Resource Center and professor of history at the college, sent an email to the student workers of the LGBTQ center that corrected the College's first message: "While the message said the man has no connection to the College, for us at the LGBTQ Center, he actually had quite a significant connection to the college because these past two weeks he was working outside our entrance to Burdick repairing the steps. I had significant interactions with him over the course of this time and I know that at least some of you have as well."

Manion, along with other members of the campus community, were upset with the College's misinformation.

The surreality of this incident is punctuated by students' recognition of the "bathroom creeper". Walden, whose picture can be on the Connecticut Department of Public Safety's website, worked on construction in Cro, the LGBTQ Center, Burdick and Hale Laboratory — all particularly public places where students were bound to run into him.

Though a "Peeping Tom" may seem somewhat trivial, this small event has sparked a conversation on the safety on our campus. Jocelyn Briddell, Dean of Student Life, reminds students that this is not cause for worry.

"I don't think that [this type of incident] is terribly unusual. I've seen it on other college campuses. Peeping Toms have a tendency to gravitate to colleges with lots of women. It happens. It's highly unlikely that he'll ever return back to our campus, as he has been declared *persona non grata*, and Campus Safety knows who he is."

Still, with the rise of assaults on college campuses, students do have reason to worry. This year's stalking and shooting of a Wesleyan student, Johanna Justin-Jinich, and the recent events at Yale University have some students concerned about the security at Conn.

"I've gone to schools in large

cities where there's a security guard at the door of every building. I think that there should be security guards at doors of some buildings, even just Cro. Even though we're in a small city, that doesn't mean that there won't be crime. People should just be more aware of their surroundings, and be on guard," said Kira Turnbull '13.

"I live in Johnson, and walking back at night alone is kind of scary," said a sophomore. "We know that the school enforces various practices for the safety of students, but things like the long, and often dark, walk back to Johnson should not be overlooked."

Dean Briddell assures us that the school is ready to take on any situation with which they are faced.

"We have an Emergency Response Team, and the Office of Student Life has developed an emergency plan for various incidents...as a precaution, so we know what we're doing. I don't ever want to get to the point where we have to trust it, but I think we're well prepared."

Briddell said she doesn't see any similarities between Conn and the incidents at Yale and Wesleyan.

"The situation that happened at Yale is more 'workplace violence'. I don't think the incidents are comparable, and I don't want people's fears to be heightened unnecessarily so. You'll hear students talking about the difference between college and the real world, but college is the real world — things that happen out in a community somewhere can happen here. We don't want to happen, obviously, but it can — and I want people to be careful, and to make sure they're always safe, and be conscious of their surroundings, and to pay attention to strangers on campus, especially if their behavior happens to be odd or out of place."

Regardless of what the college does to ensure our safety, campus safety officers carry out these practices — but they are not police. The safety of Connecticut College is contingent upon the practices put forth by both the students and the staff, and the success of such dependent on both parties working together.

Greening the Block: New London's Community Garden

SAMANTHA HERDON
NEWS EDITOR

A day of service, learning and fun — on September 18, forty Connecticut College students answered President Barack Obama's call for community action.

Eager Camels biked and carpooled down Williams Street to the FRESH Garden on New London's Mercer Street to volunteer. The students helped to beautify the city garden in preparation for the next day's Five Year Anniversary celebration, which took place on September 19, and learned about growing food locally and without the use of pesticides.

"FRESH was cofounded in 2004 by Laura Burfoot and I," said garden advocate Arthur Lerner. "Our passion was to connect people generally, not just those in niche markets, to the real food movement."

Burfoot and Lerner were reacting to "ecological illiteracy" they had encountered in their communities, among young and old alike. They wanted to create what they call "paths of participation" into growing natural foods.

The FRESH garden, located at its current site since 2006, grows a variety of produce, from fruits and vegetables to herbs and edible flowers. FRESH's being centrally located — across from the elementary and middle schools, Terra

Cycling and the New London courthouse — means that "tons of people see it," said Lerner, and that exposure is great for brining in newcomers.

Even during the Green the Block cleanup, he said about fifteen passersby stopped to check out the garden for the first time.

The garden also runs educational programming, employing New London teens at the FRESH site and at their two-acre school farm in Quaker Hill.

According to Lerner, the youth crew hold a widely-attended lunch made from the fresh produce once a week, tend to the budding garden plots, and create presentations on topics ranging from obesity to the loss of farmland to seasonal growing.

Green the Block's efforts paid off for the garden, and for the students involved.

"I think that as nice as it is to be part of a nationwide effort, the real focus for me is the local effort, and my hope is that a particular 'day of service' like this engenders regular community involvement," said Sprout organic gardening club member Celia Whitehead '11.

Whitehead continued, "The highlight of the day for me was introducing students who rarely go downtown to FRESH and Fiddleheads, and sharing the bountiful, sustainability-committed culture that is part of New London. It's a myth

that New London is far away and there is nothing to do. What we need to emphasize is our ability, as students with time, energy and dedication, to become a contributing part of the New London community; to take advantage of the wonderful things it has to offer and make connections with incredible people."

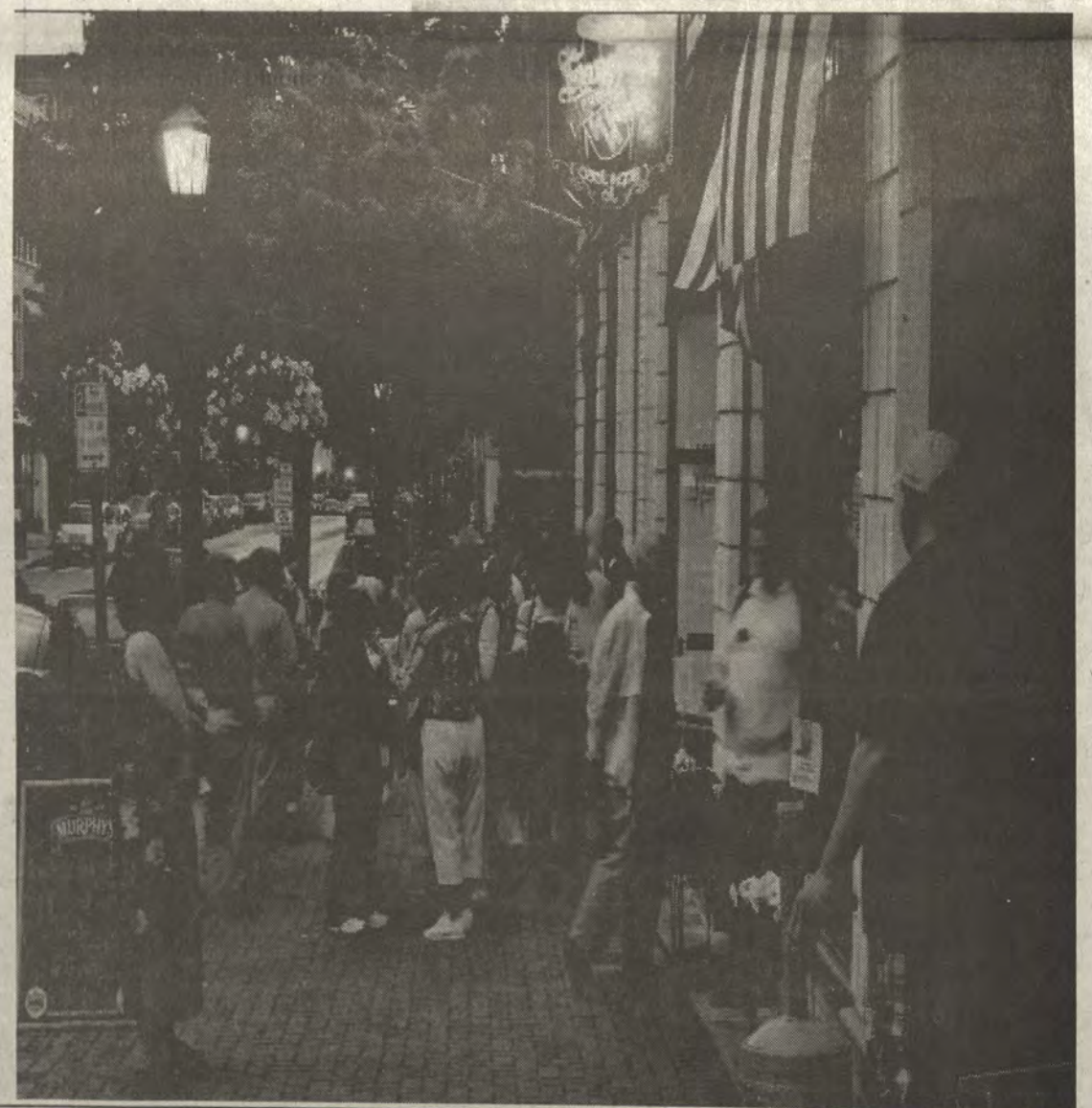
Green the Block ended in a party of warm breads, calzones and pizzas freshly baked in the wood fire oven at the site. The gardeners shared watermelon, guitar tunes and laughter as the sun set on the Whaling City.

Lerner described the students' action last Friday as "very helpful. They built the first bed, re-mulched pads" for the anniversary party, and cleaned and organized. Useful as the day was, he said, it was "mostly just food, hanging out, and celebrating our survival."

"I value my time working in the garden as a way to literally 'ground' myself and my thoughts. Being in New London is always well worth the effort of leaving campus, if only to remind me who I am outside the 'Conn bubble,'" said Whitehead.

The FRESH garden is located at the corner of Williams and Mercer Streets in New London.

For more information, see www.freshnewlondon.org.



Interested in writing for News?

Email
news@thecollegevoice.org

Or stop by Cro 215 Monday nights
at 10 PM for all staff meetings.

Climate Ride

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Holtwood, Pa., and Reisterstown, Md. to hear speakers including Dr. Ben Strauss, the Associate Director at Climate Central, Colin Beavan, a man who lived one year with zero carbon impact and Denmark's Ambassador to the US. The host of the COP15 UN Climate Conference to be held in Copenhagen in December, 2009.

Junior Emily Conrad, an environmental studies major, prospective film studies minor and president of REC will ride in a car throughout the journey to film footage for news stations, film two to four minute promotion pieces for the

Climate Ride organization and work on her biggest project, a forty-minute documentary film on Climate Ride, focusing on "the power and social responsibility of the individual as far as environmental initiatives."

Emily was compelled to make a documentary about Climate Ride and environmental initiatives in general because it is "important to, in vein with some of the very basic overarching goals of the ride, both educate the riders on various climate issues and promote what the Climate Riders believe in but also as a discussion forum. It is a way

for the riders to coordinate and communicate on different issues. Making a film will allow us to open this forum to a much wider audience."

Emily hopes to open up a dialogue to a national audience by entering her completed documentary into film festivals all over the country.

To Emily, it is crucial to "spread awareness and opportunities to people who don't know about [Climate Ride] and give them the exposure."

So what does this all have to do with Connecticut College?

Not only was Connecticut College the first college to join

the Environmental Protection Agency and the college with the oldest environmental studies program in the country, but Conn also composts and recycles, and has funded and sent students to Power Shift in the last several years.

The college also hosts environmentally-focused events like Black Out night, Bromalia and Earth Fest.

New research shows that if present trends continue, "the total cost of climate change will be as high as 3.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

According to Climate Ride website statistics, four global

warming impacts along — hurricane damage, real estate losses, energy costs and water costs — will come with a price tag of 1.8 percent of U.S. GDP, or almost \$1.9 trillion annually (in today's dollars) by 2100."

Emily reminds readers that, in the spirit of Climate Ride, "no matter where you come from, what your resources are, there are ways you can contribute and make a difference. We can't do it alone. Bringing this big of a group together can really make a difference."

Hot to the Touch

Camels Volleyball Off to 4-1 Start

MIKE FLINT
SPORTS EDITOR

Camels volleyball is off to a hot start. Before this weekend, the team was 4-1 and considered one of the best teams in the NESCAC after their trip to the league semifinals last fall.

The Camels opened the season at the Johnson and Whales Invitational during the second weekend in September. Fresh out of preseason, Conn showed they were ready to play, coming in second out of five teams.

Conn rallied off wins in their first three matches of the invitational. The Camels beat Johnson and Whales 3-1, Bridgewater State 3-2, and Keene State 3-1. However, CC fell in their final match, losing to undefeated Springfield College 3-1.

Sophomore Amy Newman was named to the All-Invitational squad after posting 61 kills on the weekend.

A star player from Los Angeles, Newman has arisen this season as the Camels' go-to hitter.

Conn continued its excellent play a few days later, as the team tackled Roger Williams in a decisive 3-1 victory. Newman

maintained her dominance, posting a double-double with 22 kills and 11 digs. Chelsea Manning '11 added 9 kills while posting a scorching .500 hitting percentage.

"We've been connecting really well and...playing with a lot of heart and enthusiasm," said sophomore Ally Terlizzi.

And so far it's paid off. But the real challenges will

Sophomore Amy Newman was named to the All-Invitational squad after posting 61 kills, and has arisen this season as the Camels' go-to hitter.

start once the team takes on tougher, NESCAC league opponents.

This past weekend, the Camels went to Boston to play a round-robin with Tufts and Bowdoin. It was their first big NESCAC test of the season, and it will be a great indicator of their standing within the league.

Speaking before she left for Massachusetts on Friday, Terlizzi emphasized the importance of the weekend.

"We're excited - especially for Tufts," she said, "because [Tufts] is more competitive than Bowdoin."

Before the weekend, Tufts was 4-1, while Bowdoin was undefeated at 4-0. Neither team, though, had yet to play within the NESCAC.

"It's good to play actually in our conference," said Terlizzi. "Hopefully we can get two wins, but Tufts is really good."

Catch Camels volleyball at home this season in the Luce Fieldhouse:

Tomorrow vs Mitchell College at 7PM

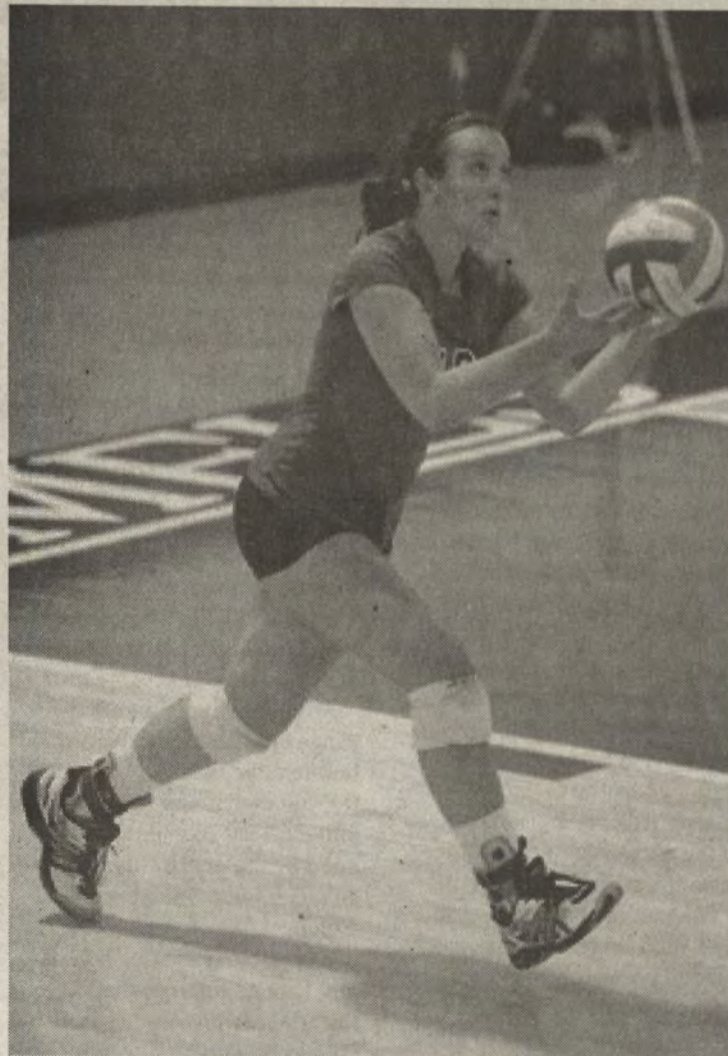
Friday, Oct 9 vs Middlebury at 6 PM

Saturday, Oct 10 vs Williams at 11 AM

Saturday, Oct 10 vs Hamilton at 1:30 PM

Tuesday, Oct 13 vs Eastern Connecticut State at 7 PM

Friday, Oct 30 vs Wesleyan at 8 PM



Amy Newman '11 has emerged as a star of the volleyball team.

Michael Vick Reinstated



Michael Vick was sent to jail for his role in organizing dog fights. Photo from Web.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

millions of dollars not even a year after they leave prison. A lifetime ban from baseball was placed on Pete Rose for betting on games as a manager, but Michael Vick wasn't banned from football for life after funding and betting on dog fights? It just doesn't sound right to me.

So should Michael Vick be allowed to re-enter society? Yes. But he should not be given what amounts to a new job in the NFL — an organization that encourages its players to be role models for children in their communities (the league's partnership with the United Way is one example of this philosophy in action).

Michael Vick is not a role model. I see both the Commissioner's decision to reinstate him and the Philadelphia Eagles' decision to pay him millions of dollars as disturbing hypocrisies.

Agree? Disagree?
Voice your opinions on
<http://thecollegevoice.org>

Cross-Country Runs Through Competition

SAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

One of the most underrated and hardest working teams at Connecticut College, the men's cross country team, began their season September 12 at the Trinity College Invitational.

Although a majority of the team did not compete, five freshmen ran their inaugural races for Connecticut College. The Camels finished in ninth place with 260 points but only ran five runners in a sport that usually requires seven runners in order to be competitive. Andrew Duarte had the highest individual finish at 47th place in the 5K.

On the women's side of the team, five Camels placed in the top 25 at the meet. All-Invitational performances were achieved by Kelsey Taylor '11 (11th), Kerry Dermody '12 (15th), Julianne Fowler

'12 (16th), Chiara Pandolfi '11 (21st) and Lindsay Paiva '12 (22nd) while Ally Bonito '12 (33rd) and Leah Demarest '13 (37th) rounded out the top 7 finishers for Connecticut College, who placed third out of eight teams.

Both the men's and women's cross country teams will compete in separate meets on September 19 but will be reunited again on Saturday, September 26 at the Connecticut College Invitational at Harkness State Park in Waterford, Conn.

With the men likely running a full team at their upcoming races and the women's team looking strong early in the season, the Camels hope to continue their success at upcoming meets.

Player of the Week: Winslow Crane-Murdoch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

that I am surrounded by a team that will put in the work to make our season a success.

Our new coach has been fantastic in getting all of us to buy into the fact that this is a new year and we have the ability to make what we want of it. There are many experienced and talented players on the team that I think will help us grow into a group that can contend for the NESCAC play-offs, and maybe even a NESCAC title.

VOICE: Do you hope to play other sports her at CC? If so, how do you expect to balance being a multiple sport athlete?

MURDOCH: I am a one sport athlete, so I spend the winter and spring preparing for the fall.

"Scoring a goal in my first college game was extremely exciting...I'm lucky to be a part of a great group of guys who have welcomed me in to the team, and who constantly push me to keep improving."
-Winslow Crane-Murdoch

VOICE: What are the main differences you have noticed between high school/club soccer and NESCAC soccer?

MURDOCH: The main difference I have noticed in NESCAC

soccer is the extreme level of competition for all ninety minutes. There is never a dull moment, and the speed of play, and physicality is something that I am still getting used to. It's a lot of fun though, and I love the challenge of the league, so I'm looking forward to the rest of the season.

Make sure to catch men's soccer's first home game Saturday at 2:30 PM on Tempel Green vs. Amherst.

Senior captain Colleen McPhee 10.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

September 22, 2009 | Editors: Racine Oxtoby and Kris Fleming

All Tomorrow's Parties 2009: A Retrospective

SAMANTHA HERNDON,
JUSTIN LEVY, &
DAVIS MCGRAW
STAFF WRITERS

A well-run music festival with a collection of artists sparklier than the family jewels can invigorate the spirit and can bring a soul back from the edge of Top 40-saturated despair. This year's All Tomorrow's Parties in New York was exactly this sort of festival.

With musical acts hand-picked by the Flaming Lips and myriad gorgeous films screened by the Criterion Collection, ATP blew brains out of the ears of its some 3,000, certainly odd attendees.

Wayne Coyne, the Flaming Lips' lead singer and nappy-headed host of this year's mid-September madness, described it, in a promotional piece for the festival, as "a collection of unprecedented phenomenal entertainment."

Coyne seemed genuinely excited about all the acts his band had chosen, like hard-rocking old-timers Jesus Lizard.

"Jesus Lizard are probably as potent as they ever were," said Coyne. "By my guesstimation, it'll be one of the greatest musical events humankind has ever known."

While few, besides the late, great Les Paul, have been around enough to evaluate such conjecture, ATP certainly comes darn tootin' close to hitting Coyne's mark.

Anticipation ran high as music fans from all over the world converged on Kutshers Country Club in Monticello, NY, a well-preserved vestige of what must have been some Orthodox Jewish Rat Pack heyday. With a stranglehold on local hotels for the weekend, show goers flocked to late-night diners and brewhouses, confusing the locals and drooling too-hip

music criticism across the hills and valleys of the beautiful Catskill Mountains.

It is not without import that the Kutshers site is mere miles from Woodstock, famously first overtaken for a similar brand of festival debauchery in 1969.

Forty years on, a legion of obsessive music fans can still manage to work up the patchouli and caffeine to wake by noon and catch a surprisingly eclectic range of acts.

From mellow to metal, the range of musicians involved lent itself to incestuous creativity; collaborations abounded, and each act seemed strengthened by the energy of having so much talent in one small venue.

"My name is Sufjan Stevens and I am going to play all of my *Seven Swans* album. That should be a good early afternoon hangover sort of thing," the uncharacteristically tied-dyed troubadour spoke to an appreciative audience before flowing into a note-perfect rendition of the 2003 album.

The musical melding of No Age and Hüsker Dü frontman (and hardcore hero) Bob Mould, a near musical antithesis to the whispery Stevens, was every bit as hypnotic.

Their set, built around a mix of Hüsker and No Age tracks, culminated in an adrenalized blast through Johnny Thunders' "Chinese Rocks," featuring an additional guest spot from the seemingly omnipresent Bradford Cox of Deerhunter and Atlas Sound.

One of the more surreal moments of the weekend involved a rack of mounted guitars and a spastic drummer being carried to the stage through the crowd like a long lost pagan god. The Boredoms, a Japanese collective recently renowned for their Boadrum experiments (77 drummers played together on 7/07/07,

and 88 on 8/08/08), split ears and inspired awe. Singer/cult leader Yamantaka Eye led the drummers like a crazed Dadaist witch doctor, alternately dancing and screaming towards the heavens.

Film and comedy fans were likewise sated. Ongoing screenings were augmented by a lengthy Q and A with fêted director Jim Jarmusch. In addition, a comedy lineup was curated by David Cross, of *Mr. Show* and *Arrested Development* fame.

Electro-thrash duo Crystal Castles' Alice Glass stormed the strobe-lit stage looking like a possessed doll hell-bent on destroying her audience. One of the most energetic of many high-energy shows, Castles chased listeners through a terrifying Zelda-gone-wrong escapade.

The list of superb performers goes on and on; if everyone got a summary, we'd need our own newspaper (that only we would read...). These brief paragraphs could have just as easily been devoted to Iron and Wine, Grouper, El-P, Deerhoof, Malcolm McDowell, the Circulatory System, Caribou (complimented by a star-studded orchestra including legendary sax virtuoso Marshall Allen), punk heroes The Feelies... etc. Ad nauseum.

All said, three days of love and music culminated in the Flaming Lips orgiastic, confetti-drenched headline set, where Coyne was so freaked-out and effervescent with joy that his smiles could have spawned a thousand giggling glitterkittens.

So ask yourself: do you enjoy loud music? Do you like free ice cream? Do you like scary movies, skinny jeans and throngs of burly dudes that look eerily like Ben Coleman, all in one too-kitsch to be true pastiche heaven? ATP 2010!

Farewell, Johnny Castle An Ode to Patrick Swayze

RACINE OXTOBY
ARTS EDITOR

During the past number of months, we heard ongoing reports about Patrick Swayze's pancreatic cancer and subsequent declining health.

Sadly, twenty months after diagnosis, Swayze has passed away from his illness.

It's a sad death, but not an unexpected one; we knew he was dying for some time, so, like Farrah Fawcett or Paul Newman, we were reluctantly awaiting the sad news.

Still, Swayze left a lasting mark on American cinema in the 80's and 90's. So many of his movies are memorable and timeless, and all of his characters are unique. Who else but Swayze could claim to have played a dance instructor, a ghost, a bouncer, a drag queen, a surfer/skydiver/bank robber, and a motivational speaker/pedophile?

Patrick Swayze was the man who inspired couples around the world to start using the pottery wheel, to practice their smoldering dance moves in a lake, to fight against invading Soviet troops in Colorado.

Sure, the third choice isn't as romantic as the first two, but who can resist the battle cry of "WOLVERINES"?

He was a great actor who completely embodied his characters. Even though he was 35 when he played Johnny Castle in *Dirty Dancing* and Jennifer Gray's character was supposed to be seventeen, you never doubted the sexual chemistry between them.

Re-watch the Chippendales sketch with Chris Farley from *Saturday Night Live* – the man never breaks character, even when Farley's pants are starting to slide down mid gyrating. Now that's commitment to your craft.

He had the versatility to play ultra-feminine (Vida Boheme in *Too Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!* Julie Newmar) and



Photo from Web.

kick-your-ass cool (Dalton in *Road House*).

Probably the coolest character on his resume was that of Bodhi in *Point Break*, a surf enthusiast and "ex-president" who strikes up a bordering-on-guy-love relationship with Keanu Reeves's "EFF-BEE-EYE agent."

Their turbulent bromance was so over-the-top that it was parodied, to hilarious effect, in *Hot Fuzz*.

Movies aside, Swayze was a rarity in Hollywood: a faithful sex icon. He was married to the same woman for over thirty years, a small slice on the pie graph of Hollywood.

The man also landed a twin-engine Cessna on a dirt road when it was experiencing pressure problems. Had he been nominated for an Oscar or two and/or endorsed a couple of food products, he might as well have been the Baby Boomers' Paul Newman.

We are not only left with the sad news of Patrick Swayze's death, but with his entire career. It was a career that ended too soon, that never really reached its full critical potential. For those who want to revisit his catalog, I recommend the classics: *Dirty Dancing*, *Ghost*, and *Point Break*. We can sleep peacefully knowing that Swayze has gone off to spin that great pottery wheel in the sky.

Beatlemania 2.0

Rock Band and Remasters Renew Interest in the Fab Four

STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

John, Paul, George and Ringo. Surnames are not even needed here: the Beatles are that epic.

Considered by many the greatest rock band of all time, this fab foursome is still widely popular to this day, attracting fans from all generations with their iconic songs.

While the band always holds a special place in modern entertainment, the September 9 concurrent releases of *The Beatles: Rock Band* video game and the remastered discology placed the Beatles right back where they belong: front and center.

We all want to be rock stars, and regular *Rock Band* allows us to do just that. However, only *The Beatles: Rock Band* transforms its players into legends as they strum, drum and sing through the band's ten-year career.

The game, created with the support of Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison (John Lennon's and George Harrison's widows, respectively), includes 45 hits spanning the band's evolution from its mop top days of 1960 to the more avant-garde tracks of '69.

Presented in their original order, the songs take players alongside the Beatles as they conquer the music world.

Many famous appearances are included; players get to wow America on *The Ed Sullivan Show* and say goodbye to public performances on the Apple rooftop.

As the band then shifts from concerts to studios, the game smoothly replaces concert venues with more psychedelic, dreamlike sequences that showcase the band's sheer creativity in the later years. With parts for guitar, bass, drums and up to three singers, six at most can jam away; one can even go all out and purchase special controllers designed after each member's signature instrument.

Also, downloads of full albums will be released periodically online, beginning with *Abbey Road* in late October.

While the release of *The Beatles: Rock Band* is news in itself, the recent digital remastering of the Beatles' collection is a huge deal.

Not since the 1980s have these songs received any sort of tune up, and most obsessive audiophiles will whine that the original CDs did not live up to caliber. This is what they have been awaiting for the last 22

years.

What exactly does remastering entail? This is not a remixing; you won't buy the Beatles' CDs and hear completely different songs.

Instead, the tracks will have been digitally polished, with any original imperfections in the recordings tidied up for a cleaner sound. The songs are still the same classic tunes; they now just are a little crisper in quality, with more

something other than my terrible MacBook speakers. Then I remember how I am a poor college student and the notion quickly vanishes.

All twelve of the Beatles' studio albums have been remastered, along with their two-disc collection of non-album singles. Packed with the original UK track listings and artwork, each album features both original and newly added liner notes, rare photos, and

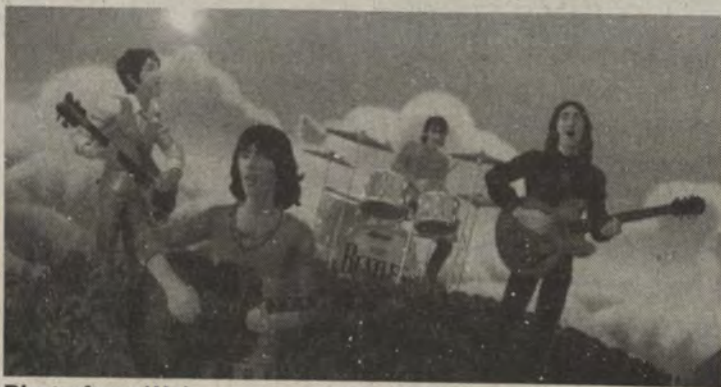


Photo from Web.

punch.

Even I, who never had any fault with the original CDs, could hear a difference on the YouTube bootlegs that already have infiltrated the internet (I know I shouldn't be surprised, but really? People, it's barely been a week).

It's almost enough to make me want to shell out the \$200 just so I could hear them on

an limited-time documentary about the making of the album embedded on the disc.

They can be bought individually, but for those looking for the whole enchilada, there are two box sets to choose from: Stereo and Mono.

The Stereo set includes all fourteen CDs in a new stereo mix and a DVD with all the "making-of" documentaries

gathered in one place.

For fans looking for a more traditional collection (and who are willing to spend an extra forty dollars), there is the Mono version, which includes the first ten studio albums (*Yellow Submarine*, *Abbey Road*, and *Let It Be* were all mixed in the more modern stereo fashion) and the *Past Masters* collection of singles in their original mono-mix, all packaged to look like CD-sized versions of the original LPs. The Stereo and Mono sets run for \$200 and \$230 respectively on Amazon.

The Beatles are the best rock band of all time, and with these simultaneous releases, hopefully a new generation will discover the truth of that statement.

However, the true legacy of these four Liverpoolian men who revolutionized music-as-we-know-it is not just the sheer brilliance of their songs, but their overwhelming power to transcend eras. Over forty years later, we still love them. Mothers, daughters, fathers, sons, aunts, uncles, grandparents, friends...all have listened to the Beatles.

Can you imagine another band that could bring generations fifty years wide together to play, of all things, a video game? I know I can't.

New Album Reviews

The Flaming Lips - *Embryonic* Band Suggests Rebirth with New Album

KRIS FLEMING
ARTS EDITOR

No band in recent memory has been weirder than the Flaming Lips.

With song titles like "Psychiatric Explorations of the Fetus with Needles" and a live show that is in essence a three-ringed circus, it is no wonder they attract such a loyal following; they are unique, an experience unlike any other. Many people in the indie world are aware of their second-to-last album *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*, featuring tracks "Do You Realize??" and "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots Pt. 1". This album and the one after, *At War With the Mystics*, are marked as being more electronic in sound than their previous works, with a heavy emphasis on synthesizers and samples.

When listening to their newest album *Embryonic*, however, it is apparent that the group has removed the keyboards from the limelight and returned to a more traditional rock sound. If fans are frightened by this news, there's no need - the group still maintains its appeal.

This album is a return to the band's past, since they haven't released material this rough or

raw since *Clouds Taste Metallic* back in 1995. For those not familiar, the band is rooted in psychedelic pop-rock, and they've succeeded in modernizing that sound on this record. Outside of the band's own discography, the Flaming Lips are able to capture a sound similar to peers the Arcade Fire and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, offering plenty of eerie anthems to keep you satisfied. It is, at its heart, a truly melodic album with many downright haunting pieces; the catch is that the guitar distortion is turned up and may be abrasive to some.

The best way to explain the album is track by track.

"Convinced of the Hex" has a Middle-Eastern vibe with lead singer Wayne Coyne lifelessly belting out personal issues.

"The Sparrow Looks Up at the Machine" is rougher, but provides a soft piano in the background to create a rugged yet angelic atmosphere.

"Evil" sounds like a swamp song from an old horror movie, and may be their saddest song to date.

"Aquarius Sabotage" is an instrumental that starts like a powerhouse with a squealing guitar and thumping bass and then breaks into an almost theatrical ballad.

"See the Leaves" has two parts; what begins as a hard-hitting march turns into a music box version of itself.

Coyne really shows how high his voice can go in "If", bearing resemblance to Neil Young's slower material while still maintaining his own personality.

"Your Bats" has a blues bass backing a spacey orchestra mirroring work done on *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*.

The song "Powerless" is very reminiscent of bands like Interpol and Joy Division, complete with balanced guitar melodies and hollow sounding lyrics.

"The Ego's Last Stand" begins in a darker tone that becomes more upbeat and then ends with a wave of soothing ambience.

In a cross-over that only the Flaming Lips could conceive, "I Can Be a Frog" featuring Karen O of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs is among one of the most surreal songs that exists; in short, Karen O provides noises in between Coyne's smoky narrative. It's not a traditional collaboration, but remains a notable one.

"Worm Mountain," with MGMT, is like Yoshimi on acid as Ben Goldwasser and Andrew VanWyngarden pound synth notes into your ears.

"Virgo Self-Esteem Broadcast" sounds like something sponsored by Animal Planet, in small part due to its use of various animal sounds within the song.

The last song titled "Watching the Planets" again makes unconventional use of Karen O, and acts as an anthem embodying the new spirit of the band.

Thanks to Stephen Colbert, you can stream the album at www.colbertnation.com. *Embryonic* is slated for an official release on October 13th and will be a double LP (single compact disc) with eighteen songs that will total over 70 minutes of content.

Kid Cudi - *The Man On The Moon*

JEFF BAIRD
STAFF WRITER

Take a trip into the mind of Kid Cudi, and you might not find what you'd expect. For his debut album, the Cleveland rapper and former film student born Scott Mescudi constructs a five-act journey through his life, illuminating his suffering and the dream world it created.

In a ringtone era of pop music, full-length releases are losing their character, often becoming nothing more than a tactless collection of songs backing up a single. Here, we find the exact opposite — the tracks actually sound better as a whole than they do individually — which gives the hour-long listening experience more fluidity, also helped by a narration from Common that appears in between acts.

Originally planned to include the subtitle "The Guardians", *Man on the Moon: The End of Day* was chosen as the official title after Cudi failed to acquire a handful of desired guest appearances. As a result, the storytelling aspect works very well — aside from Common's narration and a few random guest appearances, Cudi is the lone voice on the album — however, this also proves to have negative effects.

Cudi makes it clear that most of his suffering surrounds his father's death, making frequent mention of this on various tracks ("Took a turn for the worse when my father left me lonely" — "My World"), but the actual suffering isn't the premise of the album — the album's purpose is to explore the metaphorical landscapes and dreamlands that arose from this, as his suffering as a youth left him feeling distant from society.

The problem is that Cudi does this with too broad a stroke, rarely diving with any depth into his emotions, and giving an ultimate feeling of dilution, like he is trying to wring



Photo from Web.

out all that he can to fill the production (which is notable work from hit-makers like Kanye West, Rattatat, MGMT, Emile and more).

Don't get me wrong, there is a lot of good stuff going on here, and as an entire listening experience it is both promising and fulfilling — but ultimately we're left with few standout tracks, as lyrically each does little on its own rather than add up to the whole.

Musically, the album is phenomenal, as Cudi's impeccable ear for melody shines throughout the album, making it a compelling listen no matter what the subject matter. But this is far from a party album — the one radio-ready track on the album (the Lady Gaga-sampled "Make Her Say" featuring Kanye West & Common) feels out of place, and while added to the mainstream hype of the album (along with megahit "Day 'n' Nite"), adds nothing to the story.

As the album progresses from venting ("Why must it feel so wrong when I try and do right" — "Solo Dolo") to conceptual journeying ("Reaching out to outer space dancing to awesome sounds" — "Enter Galactic") to hope ("I'm on the pursuit of happiness and I know everything that shines ain't always gonna be gold/ I'll be fine once I get it" — "Pursuit of Happiness"), Cudi is rarely optimistic, which makes it all the more precious to hear him coming to terms with the cards he's been dealt on "Up Up & Away" — the album's closer and first concrete sign of him moving on.



Photo from Web.

Theater Foundation

MATT MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

The drama club at Conn has always been a very fluid and frenzied entity, changing to suit the diversity of students and theatrical interests on campus. What was once known as Group Art Attack has been renamed Theater Foundation, yet the passion for supporting student productions and unique theater projects continues.

Back are popular events such as the One-Act Festival, Dinner Theater, and 24-Hour Theater (in which a play is conceived, written, directed and performed all in the space of a day). There will also be a winter theater night in Coffee Ground as well as numerous other theater productions sprinkled throughout the year.

Theater Foundation is headed this year by Bianca Bloomfield and Matt Gentile who, though both sophomore English and film majors, respectively, have together both established a strong theatrical presence on campus. Both had roles in numerous high school productions, yet, when it was only when they arrived at Conn did their yearning to direct plays emerge.

Last semester, Matt directed Eric Bogosian's black comedy *Talk Radio* while Bianca served

as a co-director, providing him directing advice and general assistance.

This year, the roles have reversed, as Bianca directs Jack Helfner's all-female-cast coming-of-age story *Vanities*, opening October 16, with Matt as her co-director.

When asked why they wanted to lead an organization like Theater Foundation, they stressed their aspiration to encourage student productions on campus and how important it was to have a student group that is, for better or for worse, separate from the formal theater department at Conn.

The name change, which was Matt's idea, stems from a desire to present a more serious organization that will not be misinterpreted by would-be directors or incoming students.

Bianca recalls being initially confused her freshmen as to what Group Art Attack was and what purpose it served on campus.

Matt also emphasizes that the group will provide a "foundation" upon which student productions can build on in their early stages and utilize as a constant resource. Theater Foundation will be a means to promote and sustain regular theatrical events around Conn that are free for the public and extremely enjoyable for the audience and everyone involved.

Top 5 Movies of the Summer

MATT GENTILE
STAFF WRITER

In the summer of 2008, the blockbuster season set the bar high, when excellent movies like *Iron Man* and *The Dark Knight* drew in crowds.

However, this summer did not meet the same expectations. It was probably one of the worst series of summer blockbusters in a very long time, but if you looked hard enough, there were some hidden gems. Here's my top five picks:

1. *Inglorious Basterds*

Quentin Tarantino's thrilling, epic war tale had an excellent effect on viewers and critics alike. His compelling usage of dialogue and the performances all around were excellent. The production value was phenomenal too, and the movie is an extraordinary hit. Brad Pitt was hilarious, and Christoph Waltz should win an Oscar.

2. *The Hurt Locker*

One of the most overlooked movies of the summer, *The Hurt Locker* was an incredible visceral war thriller, and really has become the only Iraq war-based movie to achieve excellence in the cinematic arts. This story of the danger of bomb squads gets to be so in-

tense and compelling that this movie becomes a must-see.

3. *District 9*

From first-time director Neil Blomkamp (best-known for directing the Halo cinematics) comes *District 9*, a science fiction thriller ride that brings an incredible story with unique, visceral effects that are very innovative. Featuring no big-name actors, and a relatively modest budget of only \$30 million (miniscule compared to other science fiction films), *District 9* succeeds in every way, and Peter Jackson has yet another excellent entry in his



Photo from Web.

extensive body of work.

4. *The Hangover*

The Hangover did not go away this summer after it be-

came immensely popular and since its release, has become the highest grossing R-Rated Comedy of all time. Every part of *The Hangover* is hilarious and *Old School* director Todd Field distinguishes himself in the comedy genre as the "master" of situational comedy. The entire cast delivers, especially newcomer Zach Galifianakis.

5. *Up!*

No top list of annual or seasonal movies is complete without a Pixar film. Ever since *Toy Story* hit theaters in 1995, Pixar has been officially unstoppable, releasing only good or great movies yearly. *Up!*, which was a great theatrical experience with the recent persistence of three-dimensional cinema, was a hit on all levels, and its wonderful animation, story-telling techniques, and voice acting really sets itself apart as a film.

While these five films were exceptional, there certainly was a shortage on good films this summer. With duds like *I Love You, Beth Cooper* and *Year One*, and disappointments like *Public Enemies*, let's hope that next summer will be better for blockbuster season.

SPORTS

September 22, 2009 | Editors: Sarah Haughey and Mike Flint

Field Hockey Downs Bates

Opens Season with Victory After Trip to Vancouver

SARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Connecticut College women's field hockey team kicked off the season with an important NESCAC victory over Bates College last Saturday, September 12.

After the Bobcats surprised the Camels with a quick goal, junior Abby Hine upped the momentum and sent the Camels on a 5-0 scoring run.

Freshman Kelsey Nickerson further ignited the Camels by scoring the next two goals while senior Jen Wallace fired an insurance goal past the Bobcats. Only a minute passed before Wallace assisted Hine for her second goal of the match-up, giving the Camels a comfortable lead of 5-1.

While the Camels seemed to be dominating the game, the Bobcats were able to score two goals as the final minutes approached. Determined to come out with a win, the Camels' strong defense stepped up to hold onto a 5-3 lead.

Returning to the program for her final year, senior goalkeeper Steph Quinn collected four saves in the second half of what proved to be another intense NESCAC competition.

Senior tri-captain Kristen Dirmaier has extreme confidence in her team, stating that they are better prepared for NESCAC competition this season after their preseason trip to Vancouver.

"Since the trip was scheduled at the end of August, we essentially gained an extra week of preseason to play together and fine tune things before heading up to Bates last Saturday," said Dirmaier.

The trip to Vancouver proved to be effective for the Camels as they had the opportunity to attend training sessions with the Canadian Men's National team and play three games against highly skilled competition.



Abby Hine 11 sparked the Camels scoring spree against Bates.

In addition to their added preparation time, the Camels bring a plethora of talent to the field for the season.

Dirmaier reported that the seven new players joining the

"I definitely believe we have the talent and determination to beat any team in the NESCAC this year, and we expect to be playing at home in the first round of playoffs," said Dirmaier.

ranks of thirteen returning Camels "have already shown their ability to make an impact in the NESCAC league."

Despite a tough overtime loss at home against Springfield College on Thursday, September 17, the Camels continue to

have confidence in their ability to make a name for themselves in the NESCAC.

Their main goal for this season is to gain a spot in the playoffs, a position they have not attained since the 2005 season.

"I definitely believe we have the talent and determination to beat any team in the NESCAC this year, and we expect to be playing at home in the first round of playoffs," said Dirmaier.

With the strong leadership of three great senior captains, Ellen Cavanaugh, Kristen Dirmaier, and Kelsey Fredericks, and their determination to win, the Camels will inevitably be a mighty presence in the NESCAC this season.

<http://www.conncoll.edu/athletics/fieldhockey/>

Reinstating Vick: Why It's Disturbing

NICK WOOLF
STAFF WRITER

Sports fans across the nation have reacted in different ways to the recent reinstatement of Michael Vick to the NFL. During the summer, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell determined that Vick had been cooperative while he served his 23-month prison sentence, and he also thought that Vick had shown "genuine remorse" for what he had done.

As a result, Goodell has allowed Vick to join and play for the Philadelphia Eagles beginning in week three of the 2009 season. Members of the ASPCA were very displeased.

Two years ago, my initial reaction to the news of Michael Vick's involvement in a dog fighting operation was one of disgust, and my opinion hasn't changed much since then. He provided funds for the vast majority of the operation's costs, took part in the dog fights, and profited directly from what resulted in the

deaths of several dogs.

He has denied the accusation that he killed some of the animals himself, but even if this is true, he knew what was going on and continued to willingly participate anyway.

Despite the heinous nature of these crimes, many people support Goodell's decision

Vick, like several fallen sports stars before him, did not think about the fans or his teammates when he decided to commit such a terrible crime. No amount of PR or "genuine" apologies can ameliorate that betrayal.

to reinstate Vick. They claim that Vick has paid his debt to society, and he should now be allowed a second chance at the game of football.

While I do agree that Vick has paid his debt (he went from being a multi-millionaire to filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in less than a year), I find the fact that he

is now allowed to return to a profession that pays well over six figures per year quite disturbing.

Michael Vick made a promise when he decided to become a pro football player almost ten years ago. No, I'm not talking about any of the promises he made in his contract, I'm talking about the promise he made to the people that saw him as a role model.

Once you step into the public spotlight, most people expect that you won't go ahead and fund an enterprise that brutally maims and kills dogs.

Vick, like several fallen sports stars before him, did not think about the fans or his teammates when he decided to commit such a terrible crime. No amount of PR or "genuine" apologies can ameliorate that betrayal.

I should clarify here: I am not against the idea of second chances for people who deserve them. What I am against is ex-con sports players making

SEE VICK PAGE 5

Player of the Week

Winslow Crane-Murdoch '13 Reflects on Game-Winning Goal Against Bates

EMILY WEBB
STAFF WRITER

Winslow Crane-Murdoch, a rookie member of the Connecticut College Men's Soccer Team, scored the only goal in his first NESCAC game against the Bates Bobcats and led the Camels to a 1-0 victory on September 12. After hitting the ground running, it looks like Murdoch will be a key player in the Camels offense for both this season and future seasons.

VOICE: How long have you been playing soccer?

MURDOCH: I started playing soccer when I was five for a local co-ed team, and I've been playing ever since.

VOICE: How has your soccer career at Connecticut College been thus far?

MURDOCH: Well I haven't been here for very long, so to start the season off the way we did against Bates has definitely been the highlight. Scoring a goal in my first college game was extremely exciting. It was a great ball in from Isaac, and the team worked exceptionally hard to get the result. I'm lucky to be a part of a great group of guys who have welcomed me in to the team, and who constantly push me to keep improving.

VOICE: Do you have any specific pre-game rituals (a certain meal, music, superstition)?

MURDOCH: I don't really have any superstitions before I play. I do like to have a couple minutes to myself to sit and collect my thoughts about what needs to be done on any given day. But besides that I just try to stay relaxed before a game starts.

VOICE: Who/what inspires you to keep playing even when things are not necessarily going

your way on the field?

MURDOCH: I've found that especially here at Conn, there are so many things to keep me motivated on and off the field. Whether it be the guys on the team, the coaching staff, or the college community, there is a great supporting cast that helps me to focus, and makes me want to continue to work hard. If I'm having a tough day on the field the guys and the coaches have been great at getting me to pick my head up and move on.

VOICE: Outside of soccer, what are your other interests?

MURDOCH: Since I first got here most of my free time has been taken up by soccer, so when it's not I've spent a lot of time, sleeping and relaxing in my room watching /Entourage/ with my roommates Eli and Mike. Other than that though, I'm big into skiing in the winter, and I kayak a lot in the summer. I'm interested in studying international relations and film here at Conn.

VOICE: What is the most important lesson soccer has taught you about life?

MURDOCH: I'd say the most important thing soccer has taught me is the value of hard work. I have always found that the harder I work the better I play, and I think that is a lesson that can be applied to all aspects of life.

VOICE: What are your hopes for this soccer season and for you future as a Connecticut College athlete?

MURDOCH: I have very high hopes for this season. I'm only a freshman, so I still have a lot to improve upon and a lot to learn, however, I feel confident

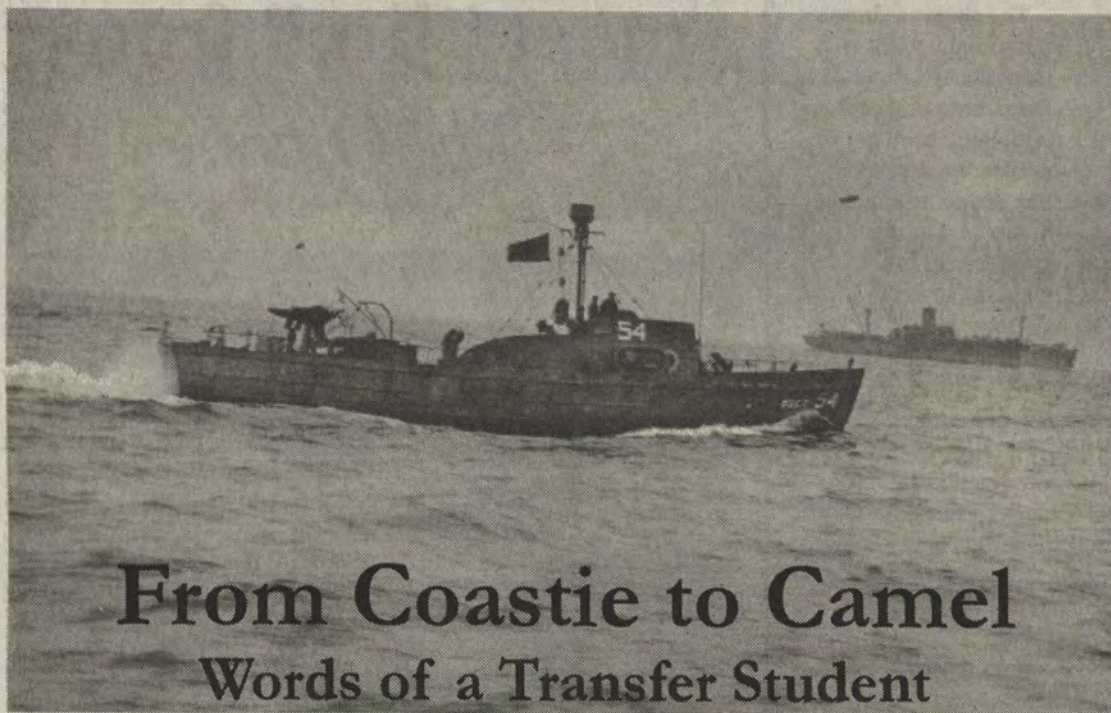
SEE MURDOCH PAGE 5



Michael Vick is out of jail and back on the playing field as a member of the Philadelphia Eagles. Photo from Web.

OPINIONS

September 22, 2009 | Editor: Alfred DeGemmis



From Coastie to Camel Words of a Transfer Student

STEVE BLOOM &
DENNIS BARRETT
COLUMNISTS

Clouded in mystery, though not too far from here, stands the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA). In fact, the distance between the two schools can be thought of in terms of stone throws. Six, maybe seven, tops. We puzzle over the degree of strictness enforced on their campus and the corresponding punishments for rules broken. We know that because it is a military institution, the security is more rigid than our own, and we can assume that the party scene is limited.

But we never think to stop a Coastie and ask: what has your time at that prestigious institution on the nether side of Route 32 been like?

Here is where Eric "Tak" Moss comes into play. Moss '10 transferred to our Connecticut College from the USCGA after his sophomore year. He is the diamond in the haystack that broke the camel's back: he is the first ever to make this transition.

Q: While a Coastie, what was it like to visit the Conn campus?

Tak: Uh, I went to Conn probably three or four times to walk around and just wander. A few times friends and I tried to party.

Q: Were you successful?

Tak: We didn't have any party in mind and my friends were not particularly well connected. Actually, no, no, we weren't successful. I ended up climbing a tree and hanging out up there. We once went to a dorm and watched a movie.

Q: What movie?

Tak: *The Departed*.

Q: Was there one single event that prompted you to transfer?

Tak: Well, it's more that Conn fit my criteria when I decided to leave the Coast Guard Academy. I had the realization that I was trapped. I was sacrificing way more than I was willing to. You couldn't say that your mom was dying and then be guaranteed to see her. It's not freedom.

Q: Why did you choose Conn rather than try to escape New London?

Tak: It seemed to offer good financial aid. They pulled through for me this year too. The financial aid people are good. And then also Conn has a math program. I didn't really know about it, but the math department is good. Oh, and I like small schools.

Q: Do you still have great friends from the CGA?

Tak: Not so much. Not really close. Uh...Yeah. Oddly enough, not really. Anytime I see anyone from there, they are friendly and familiar interactions occur. But the closeness died.

Q: Do you experience jealousy from those you left at the Coast Guard Academy?

Tak: I don't think so. No. Not really.

Q: I've been wondering, what do Coast Guard men say about Conn women?

Tak: Um. Lets see. Uh. Well. I don't remember talking about it too much. But I got the impression that everyone thinks they are attractive and plentiful in their existence. There's quality and quantity at Conn.

Q: What is the party scene like over there? Is there one at all?

Tak: Let's see... party scene... party scene.

Q: It sounds like you have a handbook you're looking at.

Tak: My mind is a handbook.]

Tak: Lets see... much of the party scene is to be as covert as possible. If there is any word of underage drinking, you get kicked out at the drop of a hat. Someone once had pictures on a digital camera and handed it in and got everyone in trouble. Some people drank alcohol or whatever. Sometimes they had senior bar night or something. But that wasn't often.

Q: Was there music at these covert parties? Or just a gathering?

Tak: I suppose they had music... we would watch movie. There was no alcohol allowed in the dorms. And for the most part no alcohol on campus.

Q: Can you give us some examples of penalties for some punishments at CGA? Like if there is a noise complaint?

Tak: Um... I think the officer would tell you to lower your music. But it wouldn't get far along the table of command.

Q: That was a bad example on my part, what if you are late for a class?

Tak: It was somewhat of a deal. It should only happen once a semester. You would probably get a dirty look at first. Then they would talk to you and prod into your life. If you don't give them good reasons you accumulate demerits.

Q: Demerits?

Tak: A demerit is a point against you. If you get enough in a short period of time, you become restricted. You must wear your uniform all day. You don't get to put on your gym gear which is normally allowed at 15 hundred (time). Re-

stricted cadets are not allowed liberty. They have to do marching tours where you march around with your rifle outside for an hour. They make you do community service or volunteer. Demerits also discount a portion of your GPA.

Q: Were substances such as marijuana or heroine abused on campus?

Tak: I've heard of some recent use of cocaine and marijuana and those students got kicked out. And this is just what I heard. While I was there, I didn't see or hear of anyone doing it. They give you random drug tests. I didn't notice anything in particular myself.

Q: What happens if they find out you are a homosexual?

Tak: I don't think I knew anyone who was a homosexual. Uh, but so I don't know what would happen. You are probably not supposed to advertise it. If it causes problems, you can be discharged for it. It's like don't ask, don't tell.

Q: What happens when you lose your hat?

Tak: Depends on which hat you lose. If you needed it the next day, you would borrow one from someone else. Or sometime they have extra hats. There are different uniforms. One time I lost my hat. I lost the cover. So I wore a garrison cover instead. Someone called me out on it and told me to change your hat. It's not always an authority that will yell at you. Your classmates will tell on you. We call them tools.

Q: So do we, how happy are you now at Conn?

Tak: Very happy.

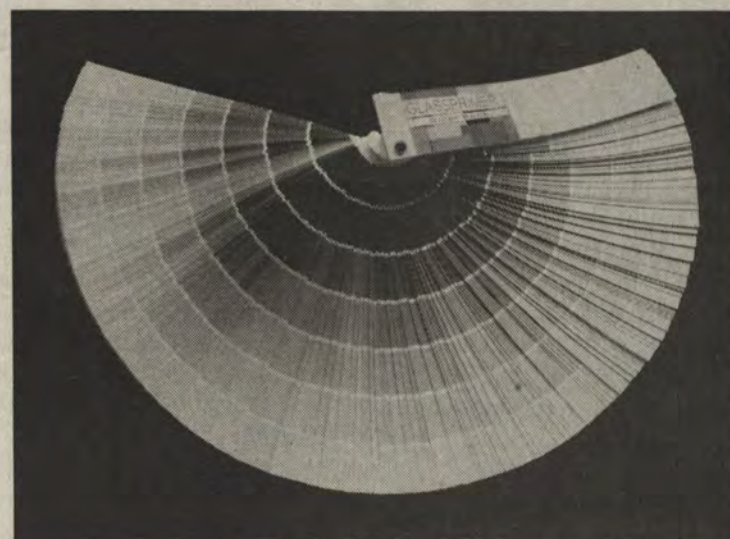
Q: Would you ever go back?

Tak: No, I wouldn't because of the obligation and lack of freedom. I don't mind a regimented day as long as its during the school day but if you interfere with the rest of my life that's where it becomes a problem. But it was a cozy environment. Everyone was close. 1,000 students. Doors had to be open until sixteen hundred (time). You could have a conversation with anyone.

Q: Could you make out with girls who had their doors open?

Tak: There is no PDA. Depending on what grade a girl is in you may not date her. I know a kid who got kicked out for that. It's called fraternization. If you are a freshman, you can only date freshmen. A sophomore can date a sophomore, or junior. A junior can date a junior or senior or sophomore. A senior can date a senior or junior.

SW6385: Dover White



LILAH RAPTOPOULOS
MANAGING EDITOR

This month I spent all of my money on four cans of paint from Home Depot, three brushes, two trays, four rollers, an extension rod, electrical tape, and a tape measure that immediately broke. I spent all of my time painting my wall "Riviera Paradise" blue, a color I chose because in the moment, faced with forty feet of color swatches, I was feeling particularly bold. Three days later, a friend looked into my eyes and said, "Lilah, every time I step into this room I feel like I'm drowning."

That was the day of Convocation, when Higdon was given that giant pair of scissors to snip a ribbon off our new crystal palace. The setting sun was reflecting off the river, casting a glow over the weight pumping recruits on display inside. Higdon smiled like a proud daddy as he looked up at the new structure, commenting that *This Building* shows our commitment to the body to be just as strong as to the mind. A touching moment, ruined immediately by a girl a table over who whispered, "Ten million dollars for this? My bathroom ceiling has been raining for a week."

It was a sweaty, unkempt, unhappy day the day I repainted my room. Bottom stripe: Mellow Yellow. Center: white. Top stripe: Candied Yam (read: Mac & Cheese Orange), my arms rolling and rolling over one section of wall until its blue tint finally disappeared. At 10 PM I knocked on my neighbor's door, and the second he walked inside he said, "I like it. Just don't continue with that stripe or it'll start to look like a fast food restaurant."

To which I responded, Jesus Christ, my room looks like a fast food restaurant.

I remember this day, too, actually, because it was our first *College Voice* writers' meeting, and the office was humming with complaints about various things, specifically the loss of the *Times* on campus, blaming the administration for deeming them an unnecessary expense. The general consensus was, we're finally showing intellectual curiosity, and you can't come up with ten grand? And while students are losing the financial aid promised to them on a yearly basis, you dropped ten million on the glass Rubik's Cube across Route 32?

I would return to my room and essentially face the same issue the campus consistently confronts: instead of thinking, perhaps consulting, I'd hit the walls blindly and only notice my mistakes after I was done. It took weeks of trial and error before I even realized my end goal. Here, if something needs changing, we forget the importance of understanding the process behind the issue before we start flapping gums. And this causes the administration and SGA to yell right back at us, creating an unnecessary disconnect. Sometimes I imagine that all the money that flows through the College is thrown into some huge vat in the basement of Fanning, which Higdon and Dean Briddell take an elevator down to and scoop handfuls out of at their convenience. But s---'s delegated here, to a T, and each department controls the money they have: admissions separate from Res Life, separate from Student Life, separate from specifically directed donations. The grant for the newspapers does not come out of the budget, but a fund that has since expired. The \$10 million was a donation directed specifically at building a new AC. Whether the budget is evenly distributed is a legitimate question, as is whether each department uses its money effectively. But the issues are separate.

The criticisms themselves are fantastic. They're usually funny, and always represent significant student concerns. It's clear that we want the changes made to be less flashy, instead reflecting what we strive to be as an institution: diverse, intellectual curious, creative. But the way we're asking for them is uninformed and messy, which causes the administration to have difficulty hearing it. This leaves us stagnant and unchanged, sleeping in paint fumes for weeks, while if researched and well articulated, this *drive* can be what induces change at our school.

The responsibility goes both ways: our ignorance angers the administration, and students are blamed for what is seen as inherent laziness. And yet our *Cans* and our email inboxes tell us that SGA public relations and the deans are unafraid of mass communication. Here's hoping that they'll begin to use that authority to do their job: clearly informing the student body of changes made on our campus and the reasons behind them. Students should not have to be part of the college's executive process to receive that information. If this dual communication can be achieved, we'll be that much closer to attaining a real dialogue, one between students and the administration that serves them.

After a week of damage control, my room is now the opposite of bold. It does look like a Goodwill store full of my grandmother's old crap, which is much more my speed. So, taking the initiative to paint my room: moderately impressive. Just settling out to paint: incredibly unproductive. Now my room is warm and I'm surrounded by my favorite things, which means that ultimately, the best changes I made were the ones that resonated with my character and my needs.

Physical plant, please don't use this article against me.

Swine Flu Everywhere!

LELAND STILLMAN
CONTRIBUTOR

There has been much ado about a certain member of the influenza A family which I will abstain from naming because you are probably tired of hearing the name. In the midst of hysteria, flagrant and insulting paternalism, and disingenuous concern for everyone with a runny nose and a cough, I hope to bring a few new facts to your attention, ones that may put your mind at rest, or maybe freak you out even more. Who knows which it will be, but you'd better keep reading — Jesus and the CDC agree that it could mean your life.

Let's have a quick recap. Swine flu is a member of the influenza A family. It rarely affects humans, but somewhere in Mexico something went horribly wrong and it has made the jump. It now threatens to engulf the world in an apocalyptic pandemic. Impressive measures have been implemented, from the installation of hand sanitizers at a higher density than Starbucks, to volumes of email rivaling those freshmen receive from their mothers (*In loco parentis* yet lives; somebody kick it again). But I digress. Here are a few



important things you probably don't know about the aforementioned virus. 36,000 people die every year from the regular flu and 200,000 are hospitalized. There were 5,011 "confirmed and probable" (in other words, maybe swine flu) hospitalizations and of those 302 died. I'm no epidemiologist, but those figures mean that six percent of all "suspected" hospitalized swine flu victims have died, versus eighteen percent of hospitalized influenza victims last year.

Also, while those spiffy new hand sanitizers loom from every available surface just begging to be squeezed, you might think twice about using them. Your skin is actually more than just a water-proof surface that prevents you from spilling your precious bodily fluids everywhere or being literally washed out when you go swimming or run through the

sprinkler systems in the swamp behind Cro.

The skin is a complex microbial habitat with its own delicate ecology. Disturbing that ecology with hand sanitizer or antibacterial soap is like dropping a nuclear bomb on a perfectly good forest. (And if you want me to defend that analogy in light of natural disasters like forest fires, I will, but I don't have the word count here to fly off on such tangents).

Anyway, the natural microbial ecology of the skin can aid the body in fighting infection, and using hand sanitizers and antibacterial soaps destroy all hope of that.

So by all means, wash your hands after contact with icky things, but otherwise you may do more harm than good.

In addition, hand sanitizers often contain Triclosan, a chemical that does all kinds of nasty stuff. It also happens to be a pesticide. Isn't your FDA responsible? And last, as if the disease itself wasn't enough, you should be wary of the swine flu vaccine.

Seriously, the doctors and nurses won't take it, so why should you?

Sources can be found on <http://thecollegevoice.org>

I turned down the opportunity to meet "Jim" from *The Office*.



M.J. ANTOINETTI
CONTRIBUTOR

He was surrounded by 10-15 women at the back entrance to the Coolidge Corner Theatre. The ladies were a constant laugh track. The guy could have picked his nose and rubbed a booger into somebody's eye — it would have been hilarious. But I got to give it to him — what magnetism.

There was something about the pointy-ness of his leather shoes — yeah, he's probably got a big one.

Cleaning up his disgusting mess backstage put me out of the mood — What was I to say? Hey there, Mr. "Jim", wow, I had no idea how much you loved guacamole! — in a bowl of which he'd left long and meditative fingerprints. There were similar disruptions in the salsa and salmon pâté. Cheese littered the table in chunky streaks.

Apparently the famous don't deal with utensils. At parties he's known to sign autographs by sticking his dick into the birthday cake: Love, "Jim".

This summer I worked at a creative writing center in Roxbury. I made up stories with 2nd graders about two-necked giraffes coming to realize the power of friendship, and sold Loch Ness monster excrement in our crypto-zoological store (The Greater Boston Bigfoot Research Institute). Author and screenwriter Dave Eggers founded our program, and because of him we occasionally

had relatively hip and high-profile events like this one, a pre-screening of *Away We Go*.

So that's fine and dandy — the movie tickles a few indie-prone nerves, and I'm fond of the Alexi Murdoch soundtrack. I even get to sneak in a friend. She just about shits her panties when she realizes "Jim's" real-life brother is seated two rows in front of us along with other "Jim" family and high-school acquaintances. I lean over and whisper, He's here.

--Who? Is he really?

--Yeah. He's in the building.

--Oh My God!

A Q&A follows. After a few minutes, all questions about the movie have been ditched for ones about "Jim" and "Pam's" pregnancy. At that point I'm already out of my seat and backstage to start cleanup. It's walking out into the street holding a tremendous trash bag that I see "Jim" with his admirers.

I'd like to say that we made eye contact — that for a brief moment he came unhinged, like when someone hiccups into their coffee. I walk past their circle, and toward the dumpster. He may or may not have seen me. But I still get to think, you know, it could be nice to be a janitor, to have faceless duty. Maybe it's something that even an actor could miss.

So I've Been Thinking...

ELI MANGOLD
CONTRIBUTOR

... a lot about stoats.

You know, *mustela erminea*, the ermine? I was recently trying to decide whether I would want to have a frenetic or docile pet stoat. At first, the answer should be a simple "docile!" because all pets are supposed to be friendly and tame. But then I began to think about the implications of a domesticated stoat breed.

Stoats are frenetic, yet slightly monkish. Determinedly they scuttle about in the middle of the food chain, dodging predatory birds while severing the spinal cords of rabbits with razor-sharp incisors.

Would docility turn these playful creatures into something like the domesticated ferret, scorned by most of society and mocked in films such as *The Big Lebowski*? Would the stoat, previously prized by European nobility for its plush fur and hunting ability, lose its esteem if it were turned into a pet?



I have attempted to start this discussion on various ferret forums (by the way, <http://forum.ferret.com> is a very good one. You can find me by my username, st0at10rd) and the few responses I've gotten have been lacking in factual arguments, and the forum participants are generally mistaken. I figure I'll just put my position out here for anyone to critique:

It is my opinion that the only way to truly appreciate a bond with a stoat without compromising its integrity as a species is to study its habits and then

develop ways of winning their trust. I think this can be done through a process that utilizes scent recognition with the cyclical offering of a stoat's favorite snack over a long time (definitely rabbit!). Offering food to these skittish stoats in the winter months, while they are especially desperate (due to its high metabolism even during the winter) would be a good

strategy. I could probably track down some grant money for this, and the research seems pretty straightforward (I am not a science guy). Essentially I would track a stoat throughout the winter and offer it food a few times a day. The experiment may be a failure, but the payoffs could be incredible. It's a lot like this Bruce Willis movie called *Pulp Fiction* where Bruce Willis knows he should throw his boxing match but ultimately he risks life and limb to win a bet.

Regulatory Reform

DANIEL HARTSOE
CONTRIBUTOR

The United States is currently absorbed in a national debate on whether, how and to what degree the current way that healthcare is provided to the people of this country should be changed. While words like 'public option', 'individual mandate' and 'national insurance exchange' are bandied about in the nation's capital and town halls across the nation, those in power seem to forget the primary issues confronting them: that 46.3 million individuals lack health insurance because it costs too much, and that the price of health insurance coverage is so high because the market for health insurance is not competitive.

Competition among health insurance companies is currently being strangled by the way health insurance companies are regulated. Every state has its own regulatory code

applying to the sale of health insurance. Any company wishing to sell health insurance in a given state must offer consumers a plan that conforms to that state's regulations and be certified by the state's regulatory body.

Thus, any company wishing to sell insurance on a national scale must offer fifty versions of each plan: one for each state's population. The administrative costs of a company that attempted to do this would sky-rocket — and indeed, 31 percent of all healthcare spending in the private sector is administrative. Because the cost of offering health insurance plans in multiple states is so high, insurance companies choose only to offer insurance in one or a few states. The result of this is a lack of competition in each state's market for health insurance — and, according to Professor Monika Lopez-Anuarbe, the economics Department's expert on health economics,

"thirty-four states have such a concentrated health insurance industry that two to three companies dominate over 75 percent of the population in those states".

In these states, consumers have almost no choice regarding from whom they can buy insurance. This allows companies to hike prices without fear of losing their customers; and, since all the companies selling insurance in a given state can very easily collude to raise prices, health insurance for many has become unaffordable, forcing people to go without it.

And because health insurers can raise prices without the threat of losing their market share, they have little reason to cut their costs — if their profits go down, they can always just jack up their premiums.

To solve this problem, Congress should create a system of rules governing all health insurance sold across the nation to replace the fragmented

state-based system of regulation. Congress could pick and choose which of the regulations currently in place in many states to include under this system — the most important issue is not what these regulations are, but whether they are implemented uniformly on a national scale.

Implementing these national rules, and legislating out of existence the authority of the states to choose who can and can't sell insurance within their borders, will open the health insurance market to competition as every company currently able to sell insurance in only one or a few states is able to sell it in every state. This competition will force insurers to lower their prices to attract more customers; then, as prices drop nationwide, insurers will be forced to find new ways to cut their costs in order to continue making a profit or go out of business.

Competition will cut healthcare costs in the private sector

across the board, and leave those companies that have the lowest costs with the largest market share.

The issue of the lack of coverage for so many Americans can be traced to the high costs of health insurance, and the surge in these costs over the past three decades can be traced to the lack of competition in health insurance markets.

Tearing down the barriers to a national health insurance market will open health insurers to competition, creating a race among insurers to cut costs in order to offer a lower price for their insurance coverage.

It is not the private sector itself, but rather the strangulation of competition in the private sector, that has made healthcare in the United States the complicated mess that it is today.

NEWS FROM THE RAINFOREST

No a la Minería!

Choosing Between Development and Environment in Junín, Ecuador

VICTORIA MURPHY
CONTRIBUTOR

My study abroad experience with the SIT program in Ecuador, "Comparative Ecology and Conservation," is already an unforgettable one. Ecuador is one of the most diverse places on earth, but sadly enough, it also has the highest rate of deforestation in South America due to agriculture, livestock, growing populations, etc. I am currently in Ecuador's capital, Quito, a city inhabited by nearly two million people and nestled in a valley between four huge volcanoes.

I just returned from a weeklong excursion in *el bosque nublado en Intag*, the cloud forest. We had an eight-hour bus ride, and an hour walk to the cabins where we stayed. We studied the flora and fauna of the forest during our daily long hikes. We saw a large variety of orchids and learned about a lot of trees and plants with medicinal uses, and were able to catch birds in mist nets as well as observe them in their natural habitats. The rivers, waterfalls and mountains of the area were absolutely breathtaking. They were home to endless interesting birds, animals and plants.

The cloud forest is one of the most ecologically diverse places on earth but it is also one of the most vulnerable. The settlement of Junín is currently fighting a Mitsubishi Corporation open pit copper mining project. Previous mining projects had destroyed several streambeds, cleared



forests, allowed for easier access for loggers and dumped dangerous toxins and raw sewage into the rivers. There is also the concern for the destruction of the natural habitat of the endangered spectacle bear, the cock-of-the-rock, the spider monkey and the ocelot.

These companies violate the rights of the people of Junín who want to protect their land. It has been a long and hard fight for these citizens, which has included violent confrontation with paramilitaries of the mine. The mining companies in the past were able to convince the people to agree to the project by giving them gifts and modernizing their town with promises of better education and better living conditions.

The highlight of our excursion was our rural homestead. We stayed with women of an organization that raises money to finance their children's education and other needs so they do not have to rely on money from the mining companies. The women sell amazing handcrafted bags and other things made from *cabuya*, many of which I bought and helped make!

The students that come to visit have donated computers to the school and given money towards transportation so that the kids don't have to walk. The kids that I stayed with were smart, and happy to go to school every day. It was great to know that I could do something to help save the destruction of habitats and land as well as help the community.

News from the Rainforest is a weekly column brought to you by members of the Conn Coll Forest Justice Club, written interchangeably by five students studying abroad in South America and Australia.

Lady Gaga: Pop Antics Gone Awry

NORA SWENSON
STAFF WRITER

Lady Gaga has always been known for her audacious style and infatuation with sex, but as of lately, it seems Lady GaGa has become more of a Lady Gag.

With a birth name like Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, it's easy to see why she'd need a stage name.

And with a stage name alluding to her vagina, her raucous behavior should come as no surprise.

But in my opinion, Gaga's taken a turn for the worse.

At nineteen years old, Germanotta was first signed to Def Jam Records where she worked in New York City's Lower East Side, along with Interscope records where she met Akon. It wasn't long before Akon, after hearing her distinctive and yet quite powerful vocal chords, convinced Interscope to sign her to a contract.

"Just Dance", arguably the most popular song associated with Lady Gaga, hit the scene on April 8, 2008, and has since topped the charts in over six countries. Not only was this song extremely catchy, but also fairly tame in many regards.

Sure, it came with drinking and sexual implications, but those seem to go hand in hand with any song making the Top 40 list these days. Free of swearing and any real obscenities, it seemed as though "Just Dance" and many of the other songs featured on Gaga's *The Fame* album were fairly respectable.

But it certainly wasn't just those chords that got Lady Gaga to the celebrity status she holds today. If anything, her voice comes last when one takes a look



at music videos of her humping an inflatable blow up whale in a kiddie pool, or a Yahoo! celebrity fashion thumbnail showcasing the latest eccentric outfit she was caught wearing.

Since her debut, Gaga's outfits have always pushed the envelope by making a statement and being outlandish. Hefty shoulder pads, mechanical jagged edges, and a knack for accentuating every possible curve on her (gender disputed by some) frame.

In May 2009, Gaga appeared on the cover of *Rolling Stone's* 'Hot 100' issue in an outfit of "bubbles," behind which she was very clearly nude. Most recently, the four outfit changes she had throughout the Video Music Awards all caused considerable controversy, ranging from the white ensemble that she proceeded to drench in fake blood after her Paparazzi performance; to the red see-through laced sheath that covered her face, worn even as she accepted her Best New Artist award.

In a world where very little seems to shock us anymore, save for, oh, say, blatantly rude interruptions during award accepting speeches – it is fairly impressive that Lady Gaga has been so constant in her ability to jolt our conservative fashion sense.

I personally am quite a fan of a number of her songs, and always am supportive of those celebrities who dare to be different from the typical Hollywood mold; but I think at this point, she's taken it a few too many "can't see straight anymore" steps too far.

Only time will tell whether Gaga's style and demeanor will manage to survive the public's approval in the long run, but in my opinion, it might take a few steps back for that to happen.

A Poem

W. K. MOTA
COLUMNIST

if poets are philosophers,
then philosophers are poets,

and we, we too are rare imitations of what we will.

apiece
photographer and painter
curvy dancer and curvy guitar,
contribute to this narrative classified as
art.

And so it is avowed by your reflection,
That evolution has granted you
Ephemeral mortality –

For you too reside on land and have left behind an offbeat history.
Finally, you are a painter of muddy landscapes, and an
unbosoming inhabitant
with an intent
on the prolific –

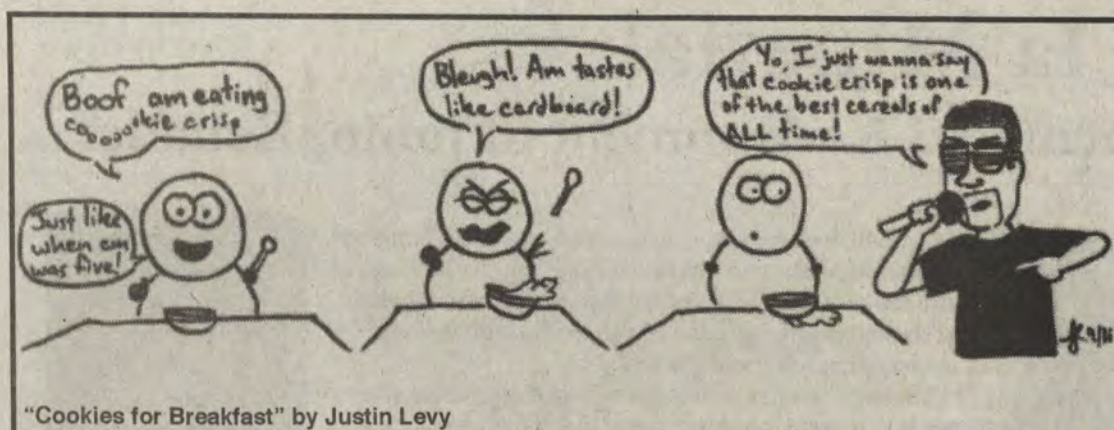
but in the end,
the poets say it best.

INTERESTED IN OPINIONS?

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or stop by our weekly
writers' meetings:
Monday 10 PM, Cro 215

No One Wants Cookies For Breakfast



"Cookies for Breakfast" by Justin Levy

MATT BAUM
CONTRIBUTOR

I consider myself to be a fine surveyor of cereals; it is not uncommon for me to debate the merits of several cereals with friends over dinner. My personal, and rather unconventional, favorite is Kix. Everyone knows the catchphrase, "Kid tested. Mother approved," but Kix's place in my heart lies in its subtle sweetness and persistent crisp core even after the puffed exterior has long been soggy.

A good friend of mine, and a frequent interlocutor, prefers something a little more to the point. Cap'n Crunch, characterized by a peculiarly neckless but nonetheless friendly sailor, is cherished for its abrasive effects and variety of flavors (French Toast, Peanut Butter, Crunch Berry - "Give me that Berry Crunch!").

An oft-explored option is the combination of different cereals. A medley of cereals is a pleasing alternative to the hot-line any night in Harris. On an ideal night a mix of crunchy Grape Nuts, Honey Nut Cheerios and a little Cracklin' Oat Bran goes a long way to making up for the Beef Thai Juan. As an aside, the aforementioned entree is an insult to my palate and payment.

But to get to my point: upon my arrival to Harris it took me about thirty seconds to realize that the transition from some semblance of an enjoyable dining experience to a depression-inducing walk to north-campus was complete. Twice, in this

short year, has the line into Harris stretched outside into a winding stream around the Opatrny Family Plaza. The dining facilities' last touches of homey comfort, Crackle and Pop, as well as the Smacks frog, have been removed; and where their sun-stained bodies' outlines may have stood for freshman to question, a fresh coat of paint has been applied.

This egregious behavior may have gone without consequence except that it seems that the removal of these

Rather than have each of you test this for yourself I only ask that you take my word for it so as not to promote a false belief in the popularity of this insult to sensibility: Cookie Crisp is below you.

mascots correlates also to their removal of the represented cereals. I understand the process, as I am sure most do by now; we have the opportunity to vote for cereals at the end of each year at the Taste of Harris.

It seems, though, that by a mean-spirited conspiracy of the Class of 2009 we are all subject to Cookie Crisp in place of Rice Krispies, Cracklin' Oat Bran or Life among other classic and delicious cereals. We have "Cookies for Breakfast" instead of some of the most versatile and highly rated cereals of all time. I understand

that our current selection of cereals is currently diminished and that we might otherwise have Rice Krispies (or other cereals). This is an absurd replacement, though. Instead of being able to make Rice Krispie Treats in the microwave when we would otherwise have stale donuts, we have little puffed corn cookies with chocolate chips.

I decided to test my long-held hate for Cookie Crisp recently. My initial reaction was not immediately negative. I gave it a fair shot. Upon a second bite, though, once the milk had seeped into another mock-cookie, I knew that I was done with my experiment. Rather than have each and every one of you test this for yourself I will only ask that you take my word for it so as not to promote a false belief in the popularity of this insult to sensibility: Cookie Crisp is below you. I believe it is appropriate for a student-ban on the consumption of Cookie Crisp to be enforced in all dining areas. It is time that we move on from childish notions of what makes a cereal good and enjoy cereal for the right reasons: a mysterious relationship between cereal and milk; a changing experience of the contents of our bowl as the milk and grain become one; the subtle flavors; and finally the realization that cereal really might be the best dining option in our dining halls.

Note: A recent napkin-note response offers the hope that Rice Krispies, at least, will return to the cereal offerings.

Conceptualizing Birth

JENNIE EDGAR
CONTRIBUTOR

*I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different. -T. S. Eliot*

Has it ever occurred to you what the process of your birth was like for your mother? Did you ever ask her? Or how about your grandmother, or her mother? Birth isn't something to be taken lightly.

As a woman, I'm barely sure how I feel about its process, let alone how a man could comprehend all the complexities of the formation of life and the physical and emotional transformations that take place. As I've learned more about the process of birth, I've found myself continually intrigued; however, I've found some facts to be disconcerting.

As a pre-med student with a passion for alternative medicine, I find it annoying, yet typical, that modern doctors today treat pregnancy as an illness, rather than a natural progression. More than one would think, woman very often do not have a choice in the process of their delivery.

As one woman put it, "I felt as though I had no control. I was lying on my back, surrounded by nurses and looking up at a doctor who was saying things I could barely comprehend. All I could do was nod my head."

Giving birth can be an intimidating process, but I'm curious to know if it has to be this way.

The history of birth gives the medicinal practice of it a skeptical reputation. When I asked my grandmother what it was like for her, she incredulously said, "I was strapped to a table and left alone for hours!" That's probably what it was like for your grandmother, too.

Genevieve Damaschi, who bore three girls in the 1940s and '50s, explained how she was gassed during the birth of her first daughter, slipping in and out of consciousness on a stretcher in the hallway of Hartford Hospital. She screamed. The nurses told her to "shut up." She didn't see the baby for three days, per standard hospital infection-prevention policy. Her husband was barred from the room while she labored.

At first I was shocked to hear of stories like this, where women are treated so horribly and where pregnancy is treated as a taboo.

The more I learned, the more questions I had: How did midwives go from being burned as witches to vaunted by the rich? Who let men in the room? Were cesarean sections really named after Julius Caesar? Could it possibly be true that even in the early twentieth-century America, women delivering in hospitals were more likely to die there than if they had given birth at home? That poor women were used as obstetrical guinea pigs? That doctors use drugs to confine deliveries to banker's hours? And, that some women have orgasms during vaginal births? (Yes!)

The answers - the surprising, frustrating, tantalizing answers - helped me realize that the childbearing experience was merely a reflection of its time and place. How then, is America second in infant mortality rates for industrialized nations? We rank forty-first in maternal health. More than half a million women die in childbirth every year, a figure that has changed little in twenty years, despite the United

Nations Millennium Development Goals. It appalls me that 90 percent of those deaths are preventable. How is this possible?

The only conclusion I can assert: we must be doing something wrong.

From my investigation on the topic, it seems that women are treated as though they don't know what they're doing. Women may be nervous about a birth they know will be painful and scary, with possibilities of complications, birth defects, prolonged recovery, etc.

But in reality, women have been birthing babies for thousands of years. When women succumb to the natural and sacred experience of their pregnancy, they will find their body really does know, all on its own, when to push, when to relax, when to contract, and when to lay motionless from exhaustion. So thank you, doctor, but really, I'll take it from here.

Midwives, actually, have a remarkable history; mostly they've been exiled for speculation of witchcraft, but in spite of it all, midwives have maintained a higher survival rate for their patients (mother and baby) than the OBGYN's at the big, fancy hospitals.

The American society has been taught to think of them as dirty and unqualified, but midwives have delivered most of Europe, which even has superior postpartum support; in Sweden, mothers are given a two-year maternity leave. I suppose that is because their government understands the importance of family.

So, to understand this phenomenon of pregnancy as the equivalent of illness, I had hoped to really delve into this conceived topic of pregnancy and give birth to a new way of thinking. I aspire to create an exuberant amount of support for women and the process of birth. For many women here on Conn's campus, pregnancy is much closer than we think. But it doesn't seem to be on any of our minds; most college girls are on birth control so there is little worry, anxiety or thought involved. The college campus, though, is an important factor in shaping how we perceive sexuality and pregnancy. Our concerns seem limited to finding someone in Cro on a Saturday night and not contracting an STD.

The reality is, however, that we are at the age where our bodies are trying their hardest to conceive. College students give pregnancy little thought unless it's focused on the desire to avoid it, but let's think about it; rather, let's care about it.

So to halt this nonsense before I really become unable to fathom it all, I encourage you: ask your mother about your birth; ask your grandmother. Not only will they be happy to tell you, it will instill within you a remarkable appreciation for the true beauty of life and the first nine months of its process.

Women and society have traversed many a milestone, but there is much more to be accomplished. Maybe it doesn't seem important to you now, but I implore you to ponder the future nativity of your own precious child and the measures you can take to ensure it is a gentle and holistic process.

This Weak at Connecticut College

ALFRED DEGEMMIS &
LILAH RAPTOPOULOS
OPINIONS EDITOR,
MANAGING EDITOR

We've been told that the best way to issue a complaint to the school is by involving hyperneurotic parents. With our pride in mind and *The College Voice* at hand, we will

double-handedly express the needs of the entire third floor of Larrabee here: our ceiling is rusting and raining in ways only fully describable through the photos provided, and a video posted on thecollegevoice.org. We've been told that it realistically won't be fixed until winter break, and yet we cannot walk in the door without being dripped on, and our paper towel dispenser is out of commission because it soaks our paper towels before they reach our hands. As of now we are taking an iron oxide shower on our way out of a fresh one. Deans, please bring this forward in your next meeting. Don't avoid our beloved rusty Larrabee, your biggest dorm on campus. We are not beyond repair.

