

Connecticut College

Digital Commons @ Connecticut College

2010-2011

Student Newspapers

9-28-2010

College Voice Vol. 35 No. 2

Connecticut College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/ccnews_2010_2011

Recommended Citation

Connecticut College, "College Voice Vol. 35 No. 2" (2010). *2010-2011*. 18.
https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/ccnews_2010_2011/18

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2010-2011 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Connecticut College. For more information, please contact bpancier@conncoll.edu.
The views expressed in this paper are solely those of the author.



THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

VOLUME XXXV • ISSUE #2



EMILY BERNSTEIN/STAFF

Meet the Heads of the Herd: President and Vice President of the class of 2014

JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

Barack Obama may be the most well-recognized man on the planet—after establishing himself on the international stage by running on a platform of hope and change, he presides over the United States amidst economic turmoil and natural disasters.

Still, after a hard day of work, President Obama comes home, kisses his wife, and, according to '50 Fun Facts about Barack Obama,' makes his comfort food: a pot of chili. President of the United States or not, he's a normal guy, and so is Conor McCormick-Cavanagh.

Elected a week ago by the members of his class, McCormick-Cavanagh, a Pelham, NY native, came to Connecticut College for several reasons.

"This was my favorite NES-CAC," he said, splayed across two chairs in the Student Government Office on a Saturday afternoon. "Something about it is different—I felt a sense of less group-think, more individuality."

"After getting here, I ran for president because I wanted to represent a voice that is less heard. I take initiative, and I get stuff done—I thought I could do it."

The vice president, Shuyler Nazareth, who came Toronto, Canada, to Conn for its arts program has a similar answer. "I was Vice President of my class in high school, so I have the experience, but I think that I can really support a president. I'm a strong advisor, and I will work to make



TANAHA SIMON/PHOTO EDITOR

President Conor McCormick-Cavanagh, left, and Vice President Shuyler Nazareth, right, strike presidential poses.

a difference."

A modest man, it takes Nazareth half an hour to break the news that his name is not pronounced "sky-ler," but, in fact, rhymes with "boiler."

Both admitted, however, that the female-to-male ratio of 60/40 didn't hurt. For McCormick-Cavanagh, a Star Wars fan, the force—and the odds—are always with him.

Now elected, Nazareth wants to use his vice-presidency "raise the bar for the freshman class, creating even more events that

people would want to go to, than in years prior."

McCormick-Cavanagh agrees, and is looking to create change, establish unity, and push for more of his favorite food in Harris: mussels.

"I want to create class unity—not going as far to exclude other classes, but to make our class years more distinct. As a freshman, of course, you're going to want to befriend everyone, but you also want to be a freshman. It's part of who you are."

SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE 5

Trouble on the Coast

JERELL MAYS
CONTRIBUTOR

Last Saturday, September 18 around 11:45PM, a group of five unsuspecting freshmen were sitting outside of the back entrance of Larrabee House, enjoying the cool night air, when the evening suddenly took an alarming turn. A clearly inebriated member of the Coast Guard wandered, shirtless and bleeding profusely from his right temple, out of a nearby path.

Rijul Ray '14 and the bleeding student locked eyes for a moment, and suddenly the student began storming towards the group with little warning. Ray did not stick around to see what happened next: he bolted out of there, another freshman in tow. This decision proved to be a wise one.

The drunk young man lurched toward the group and began speaking with only mild intel-

ligibility. "They want me to go to the woods!" he yelled, grabbing Michael Murchison '14. Afterward, he took a swing at Alex Onik '14, who narrowly dodged it and was left unharmed. As Ray contacted campus security, a crowd began to gather around the spectacle, causing Murchison and another student, Nels Christenson '14, to remove themselves from the scene. They entered the back door of Larrabee in an attempt to seek haven in their basement room.

There was only one problem: the Coast Guard student had followed them in.

"I felt raw fear, man," Ray said following the event. "I've never felt fear the way I did that night."

Chris King '13 arrived with a few friends just as things seemed to be going even further downhill. He quickly made his way to Larrabee's basement and helped

SEE COASTIE, PAGE 5

Can't Get Hard?

Other NESCAC schools
change policy on hard alcohol



DUNCAN SPAULDING/
PHOTO EDITOR

DAVID SHANFIELD
CONTRIBUTOR

This past summer Colby College became the third NESCAC school to prohibit hard alcohol on campus. Colby was preceded by similar policies at Bowdoin College and Bates College. Colby's ban on hard alcohol forbids the possession, consumption or provision of hard liquor by any student, regardless of age. If a student is caught in possession of hard alcohol they are immediately put on "Hard Alcohol Disciplinary Probation." If they are discovered to have provided hard alcohol to other students on more than one occasion, they face suspension and possible expulsion.

So why is hard alcohol being singled out? After all, a drink is a drink, whether it be a glass of

wine, can of beer, vodka tonic or whisky sour. The problem is that most college students are not attending parties where hard alcohol is being served in such forms as vodka tonics and whisky sours. Rather, vodka and whiskey are being delivered in everybody's favorite 1.5-ounce measurement: the shot.

The prospect of "going out" on a Thursday or Saturday night generally means attaining some level of intoxication, and shots make it a whole lot easier to reach that goal. They also make it a whole lot easier to surpass that goal and wind up in the hospital, as was the case with the fourteen Colby students who ended up in local emergency rooms after a year-end celebration in 2008, an event which

SEE POLICY, PAGE 4

Die-Hards Tap Cards

Jesse Newbold '13 a Magic wizard

COURTNEY ANGEN
CONTRIBUTOR

Parallel to our world of academics there exists a world of magic, not with tricks, but with cards. It is a universe thick with wizards and beasts, spells and energy, and it is a world of strategy. Magic: The Gathering is not simply a choice, but a way of life. It travels through time, following its fans as they get older and wiser.

Since its creation in 1993, it has been extremely popular. In the years of its primordial inception, Magic was so highly coveted that the company responsible for its distribution was reluctant to advertise for fear of being unable to keep up with the ever-increasing demand. Today it is estimated that six million people play Magic in seventy different countries.

So what is it about Magic that allows it to retain old fans while attracting new ones? For one thing, the game itself is much more complex than Pokemon

and is so widely played that tournaments are held in its honor. The ranked results of such tournaments can be found on the distributor's website.

If one were to visit it, they would find that Conn's very own Jesse Newbold '13 is ranked number one in the entire state of Connecticut in constructed Magic. He won enough tournaments to be able to participate in the 2010 Nationals, which took place in Minnesota.

Now you may be wondering how he came to be so skilled at such a complicated game. I was too, so I asked him. Like everyone else, Newbold was pulled into the addictive world of Pokemon as a child, but in 2001 he journeyed to summer camp where he found his negligence of Magic to be most unnerving. After spending so much time surrounded by people who spent their free-time battling in the intense world of Magic, Newbold returned home determined to learn the rules. He spent the next

year studying tricks and honing his skills, anxiously awaiting his fateful return to camp where he would display his knowledge. Ironically, when he finally did return, he discovered that the camp had banned card games. Despite this unfair turn of events, Newbold continued to improve his skills. In 2004 he entered his first tournament, and he never looked back.

Today Newbold not only competes in various tournaments but he also hosts them. On September 19, I was lucky enough to be able to watch a booster draft tournament that Newbold hosted. The epic battles took place in Cro, where Newbold was accompanied by seven of his Magic-playing friends.

I sat down at the table of eight guys as Jesse introduced me as the one doing a story on Magic for the Voice. With a quick nod in my direction, one of them said to the others, "All right, let's watch some porn!"

SEE ARTS, PAGE 8

OPINION:

CollegiateLink: The weakest link

ADAM MILLER
CONTRIBUTOR

Gretchen Wieners: "That is so fetch."

Regina George: "Stop trying to make fetch happen! It's not going to happen."

- Mean Girls (2004)

Poor Gretchen Wieners. We've all been on the creative side of a trend that failed to materialize. Whether something as small as a nickname that doesn't stick, or something as large as a product

that doesn't sell, there are always potential cultural phenomena that fizzle before they've taken off. Whether we're talking about the XFL or Pepsi Blue, the graveyard of over-hyped products that ultimately failed to appeal to the masses stretches far and wide.

There seem to be a lot of changes at Connecticut College lately, most of them successful in their implementation. However, there is one cultural shift that seems stuck in the mud. I'm talking about our new clubs and

organizations network called CollegiateLink. It's not that CollegiateLink isn't ever going to "happen," but for the time being, it really isn't.

In trying to assess the effectiveness of CollegiateLink, we need to ask ourselves: is it necessary? By necessary I mean, does it fill a glaring deficiency in the way in which we join clubs, register events and advertise for those events? That question is not easily answered.

SEE OPINIONS, PAGE 6

EDITORIALS/LETTERS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

contact@thecollegevoice.org

THE COLLEGE VOICE

"The views and opinions expressed in *The College Voice*, as in all student publications, are strictly those of the student authors, and not of Connecticut College. All content and editorial decisions remain in the hands of the students; neither the College's administration nor its faculty exercise control over the content."

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lilah Raptopoulos

MANAGING EDITOR

John Sherman

EDITORIAL BOARD

News Editors

Jazmine Hughes
Meredith Boyle

Sports Editors

Nick Woolf
Mike Flint

A+E Editors

Racine Oxtoby
Matthew Gentile

Opinions Editor

John Dodig

Head Copy Editors

Anna Membrino
Rebecca Reel

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Advertising Manager

Rebecca Heupel

Public Relations Director

Rachel Blitzer

VISUAL DEPARTMENT

Photo Editors

Tanaha Simon
Duncan Spaulding

Creative Director

Julie McMahon

WEB STAFF

Web Content Editor

Ellie Benner

Webmaster

Ayano Elson

THIS WEEK ON STAFF

Writers

Jazmin Acuna
Courtney Angen
Molly Bangs
Doug Bernstein
Luke Carneal
Clara Chaisson
Andrew Crimer
Kris Fleming
Hahn Je
Erik LaFrance
Jerell Mays
Adam Miller
Seth Nigrosh
Melanie Thibeault
Brenner Green
Matthew Mitchell
Julia Cristofano
Nora Swenson
Alex Schwartzburg
David Shanfield
Emma Wittenberg

Copy Editors

Brittany Armstrong
Jerell Mays
Annie Mitchell
David Shanfield
Melanie Thibeault

Photographers

Ipek Bakir
Hadley Brooks
Cecelia Brown
Hoitt McAllister
Hannah Plishtin
Miguel Salcedo

Illustrators

Emily Bernstein

Contact Us

contact@thecollegevoice.org
(860) 439-5437
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

WWW.THECOLLEGEVOICE.ORG

Letter from the Editors

Getting old is tough. In the course of a week, seniors juggle the daunting adulthood of targeting resumes with the cheek-reddening adolescence of waking up on the floor feeling like a crumpled can of Keystone. The apparent normalcy of making an impassioned philosophical argument at 8 PM and shotgunning beer at 11 is unique to the maturity limbo of college life. Charged with spending well the last of the so-called best years of our lives and preparing for what I suppose is merely the rest ("real life") leaves us bouncing across a confusing range of behavior.

The inescapable quotation marks bookending "real life" and "the real world" highlight our all-too-acknowledged sense that life on campus somehow isn't quite real. Surreal. Unreal. Fake. In fake world, "Dylan passed out in the hall" and "I don't know where Emily went with that guy" are just good stories, and public drunkenness is a prerequisite for most evenings.

At Saturday's senior event—the primary selling point of which was free beer—I stood by the wall with a few friends, staring grimly at my Busch Light. *What am I doing here?* Everything from the tired, cop-out "80's" theme to the attending senior class whimpered, *Same old, same old*. My sophomoreic homunculus confirmed, *You're not drunk enough to enjoy this*.

Not drunk enough is a learned state of frustration, born of the bad-party panacea of alcohol. Beer after beer, life gets more fun. The sober feeling that everyone is watching you half-dance fades imperceptibly, and eventually the first ten seconds of "Beat It" are positively elating. Even disappointing company is

captivating.

Maybe it's about bad habits, maybe it's about boredom, maybe it's about trying to make the most of our time here. How much "most" is made of being *drunk enough* for every event? Of drinking to forget the last time you drank to forget? Perhaps, in fact, we have the opposite problem: we're *not sober enough* to make the most of college. Are we sowing wild oats or wasting time?

In most circles at Conn, Friday class is a fate worse than thesis. "*Ugh, that sucks!*" they all say. I'm torn between sharing the sentiment and acknowledging that it could be worse, and that for most people Friday is a real day.

Opening my eyes on a given Sunday morning, I assess my headache, sit up far enough to reach a bottle of water, and count last night's drinks. *Same old, same old*. Some small corner of me grumbles about being too old for this, about my apparent inability to have just one glass of wine with dinner. An adjacent corner cheers, with one eye hangovered shut,

You're only young once!

Certainly, one must wander into the deep end in order understand just how deep it can be. Self-control suggests an understanding of what it means to be out of control. Probably the answer is balance: finding it, maintaining it. As a senior, balancing the uncertain post-graduate with the boozier, less difficult pre-graduate present. Perhaps the ultimate act of balance is acting like a grown-up choosing to act like a teenager. I don't know, though; I'm not drunk enough to be doling out advice.

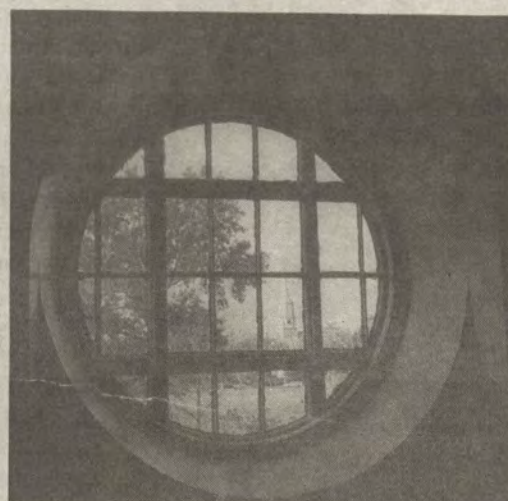
John Sherman
Managing Editor

Photo courtesy of the Connecticut College Archives

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editors,

Thank you very much for your excellent piece on Connecticut College Rugby. Both Men's and Women's teams work very hard and appreciate the support. For those interested, we practice MWF at 4pm down at Dawley Field.

Thanks very much,

Edward Fisher '12 Men's PR
Becky Tisherman '13 Women's PR

(Your opinion goes here.)

As always, we welcome letters to the editor. If you're interested in writing a letter, please read below.

Letters to the Editor:

Any and all members of the Connecticut College community (including students, faculty and staff) are encouraged to submit articles, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, photographs, cartoons, etc.

All submissions will be given equal consideration.

In particular, 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.

Please submit your letters by either filling out the form on our site at

www.thecollegevoice.org/contact-us/submitletter

or by emailing it to...

eic@thecollegevoice.org.

WANTED:

Writers.

Photographers.

Videographers.

Bloggers.

Be a Voice.

contact@thecollegevoice.org

THIS WEEK IN PICTURES



TANAHA SIMON/ PHOTO EDITOR

ART DEPARTMENT FACULTY EXHIBITION

Cummings Arts Center Galleries
SEPT 13-OCT 27

The exhibition features artwork including sculpture, painting, and photography by faculty members Greg Bailey, Barkley Hendricks, Timothy McDowell, Pamela Marks, Ted Hendrickson, Andrea Wollensak, and visiting artist-in-residence Ellen Huie.



QIMENG ZHAO/ STAFF



AMELIA SMITH/ STAFF



HADLEY BROOKS/ STAFF

WHAT THE KIDS ARE LISTENING TO

WE ASKED 5 FRESHMEN THEIR LAST PLAYED SONG:

“Wasted Daylight” - Stars
Alia Roth ‘14

“Fixed” - Stars
Ellen Heartlein ‘14

“Basic Space” - The xx
Grace Griffin ‘14

“We Made It” - Busta Rhymes ft. Linkin Park
Nicky Haik ‘14

“I Like It” - Enrique Iglesias ft. Pitbull
Rachel Salzman ‘14 and Cassandra Valarezo ‘14

WORD OF THE WEEK

XANTHOPHYLL: N.

Any of various yellow pigments occurring in the leaves of plants, giving autumn leaves their characteristic color.



QIMENG ZHAO/ STAFF

1	2	3		4	5	6
7				8		
9				10		
		11	12			
13	14					
15					16	17
19					20	
21					22	

Crossword by Jamison Hermann '11

Across:

- Lively piano tune
- _____ with Tracy Jordan
- Kills thousands every year
- Exclamation of discovery
- Actor Watanabe
- Opposite of control-Z
- Vombatus ursinus
- Pass, as time
- Leather-working tool
- British machine gun in WWII
- Trench dug under fire
- 2008 k-os album
- Online legal agreement (abbr.)

Down:

- Sirhan Sirhan's victim (abbr.)
- Top-fermented brew
- Saxboards
- Beauty's love
- Pre-post-modern movement
- 80 proof serving size
- What one might take against a sea of troubles
- Ajar
- Dealer of vintage & handmade items online
- Deceased
- Junot Diaz's Oscar
- CD predecessors

VISIT
THE COLLEGEVOICE.ORG
FOR THIS WEEK'S
SLIDESHOW AND VIDEO
COVERAGE

Campus Renewal

College sees over 100 summer renewal projects

JAZMIN ACUNA
CONTRIBUTOR

The number of campus renewal projects actualized this past summer reminds us that the College is hard at work, even when we're on break.

"It gets quite busy in here during the summer while you guys are out," said Jim Norton, the Director of Physical Plant, who monitored the construction for more than three months. This summer's renovations are part of a ten year renewal plan, incorporated into Conn's Centennial Celebrations, and have ignited an ongoing debate among the student body.

From the day after Commencement until Convocation, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, roofers and painters teamed up to take over a hundred carefully planned summer projects to completion. According to Vice President of Administration Ulysses Hammond, the largest projects are the addition of two new classrooms and a new digital photo imaging studio at the Cumming Arts Center, the renovation of Larrabee and the bathrooms in Abbey and Lazrus, the installation of a more energy efficient cooling system in the Shain Library, the refurbishment of Charles Chu Reading Room and the creation of Winchester student housing.

However, the renovations are not limited to those highlighted by the college: basement room lighting improvement, steam leak repairs and road resurfacing also add to the list of summer work. Norton explained that a college database contains a list of up to 2,000 projects that need to be put in place. Due to budget constraints and priority issues, like safety and practicality, however, only about 100 of these projects actually make it into each summer's renewal plans. Deciding what gets done and what waits is a long process that starts in September and continues until students leave in the spring, which is when the changes start getting actualized.

This summer, 105 projects were completed at a cost of \$3.8 million.

Student reactions to the campus renewal are mixed, ranging from those who cheerfully welcome the work done to those who have not paid notice at all.

SGA President Nathan Cornell '11 witnessed the renovations firsthand over the summer. "Our campus is always beautiful, but in my almost four years here, Connecticut College has never looked this great," he said. "This sentiment is not only shared among students, but also faculty and staff who have been part of this community long before our time—the campus is sparkling."

As the Housefellow of Larrabee, a dorm that went through

extensive repairs, Adam Miller '11 said, "It looks a lot better, and I haven't heard any complaints from the students."

Alumnus Brian Oduor '06 was astonished with the campus' beautification, calling the changes remarkable. "Compared to what it was like when I went here, the campus looks absolutely stunning."

While some members of the college community appreciate the renovations, many students share a rather critical view, perceiving the renovations to be largely insignificant.

"Unimpressed" was Ron Birnkrant's '12 blunt response when asked about the changes. Nate Goldman '11 found the new doors in front of Cro "wasteful."

The renovations bring up a point of contention regarding whether allocated resources correlate to the needs of the students.

On the more extreme end, some students were totally unaware that the campus had undergone any changes.

When asked if he liked the new renovations on campus, one senior student replied, "I really haven't noticed anything new." Said another, "Which changes? I haven't noticed anything at all."

Indeed, the renovations bring up a point of contention regarding how resources are being allocated, and whether it correlates to the real needs of students at the college. A general sense of divergence between college spending and student concerns was voiced by many members of the student body.

"It's about priorities," says Celia Whitehead '11. "The administration is worried about the outside look of our campus in order to attract new students, but huge gaps still remain in the college's programs that current students are part of."

Although the Tempel Green outdoor classroom was funded by a donation to the college, it still falls at the center of the debate, as it has come to symbolize the contradictions that some students see in the college's development planning.

"I am aware that many students pay a lot for to this college, but I am not sure to what extent we are benefiting from the outdoor classroom," a senior said.

In spite of the current debate, the renovations seem to have no stop with the Centennial at the doorstep. President Higdon's formal announcement of the Harkness café project epitomizes the college's seemingly fixed focus on infrastructure building for the years to come. This focus promises more student-driven discussion about the relevance of the campus renovations. Whether or not it will have any significant impact on the college's current trend remains to be seen.

entire face was red with blood."

"I just grabbed him, and I held him there once everyone ran away," said King. "He was trying to break into the room they were in, and I just calmed him down a bit until Campus Safety came. I have no idea what made me do it. I saw him throw a punch, so I grabbed him because I didn't want him to really injure somebody."

Spaulding called Campus Safety at 12:03 AM, and they arrived quickly from three different entrances. Once they arrived, the student began trying to explain the details of the night to the officers and King.



Thrifting for the Homeless

Homeward Bound Treasures offers a hand up, not a handout

LUKE CARNEAL
CONTRIBUTOR

Homeward Bound Treasures is a unique thrift store. Located in downtown New London, the business, one of many independently owned New London companies part of an organization called Local First, has made its mark on the community by raising money for the city's homeless and less-fortunate.

Working in partnership with the New London Homeless Hospitality Center (NLHHC), the large and overflowing store donates all its proceeds to the Hospitality Center's programs, operating as its main fundraiser. With these funds, the NLHHC is able to run a day shelter and a night shelter, as well as many assistive programs for the homeless.

Since its start five years ago, Homeward Bound Treasures (HBT) has become extremely successful. Cathy Zall, the Executive Director at NLHHC, makes it clear that finding customers has not been an issue: "People love thrift stores, so that's not a problem." Zall said the difficulties that HBT has had to face are those that affect any small business: staying focused and organized.

The store itself is an impressive sight. Situated in an old two-story New London building with the name "Carriage House" stretched across the front in golden letters, the store takes up the entire first floor, using the second for overspill storage. In the storefront window, items range from a shiny red Cannon-dale road bike to various pieces of furniture, marked at wonderfully low prices. It's hard to pass this store and not want to go in.

The inside of the store is indeed well organized, its layout maintaining a semblance of order despite the unbelievable amount of stuff, including the crowded media section, shelved with working TVs for \$15, record players for \$25, and a collection of low-priced VHS tapes, boasting an assortment of classic family flicks such as "Honey, We Shrunk the Kids" and "Free Willy".

But it is the furniture that takes up the majority of space in the store: old oak drawers for \$25, pretty floral-designed lamps for \$5. The prices may be low, but the quality of most everything in the store is high.

Sharon Hathaway, a current volunteer and soon-to-be manager, points towards an imposing,

tall wooden hutch, priced at \$40. "Tomorrow, this will probably be out on the sidewalk for free," she explains. "It's been in here for a while."

Because Homeward Bound is so well-stocked with donations, it can afford to give away a number of items on a daily basis. This type of action reflects the store's mission, which, beyond raising money for NLHHC, also encompasses the drive to provide inexpensive furniture to those who really need it. The mission statement also states that Homeward Bound Treasures will "employ and train our homeless brothers and sisters."

The need for this kind of operation is certainly evident in New London. Zall estimates that there are around 250 homeless individuals currently in city. By employing several of these people, the store provides the starting means by which those who are living without housing can begin to work towards one day being homeowners.

In addition to paid staff, Homeward Bound is also helped immensely by volunteers. "Tell your friends," Hathaway tells me, "I'm looking to get some volunteers from the students."



Coast Guard Incident

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

restrain the student, who had attempted to corner Christenson in the hallway of his dorm.

The student was banging on one of the doors, making violent threats, when King got a hold of him and managed to sit him down.

Duncan Spaulding '12 was visiting a friend upstairs, when a few students came running into the room. "They said there was a kid trying to kill someone in the basement and they needed help," he said. "We ran down and Chris started talking to the kid and asking him to calm down. The guy's

"He said that he got kicked out of a room by a couple of girls, and four Conn guys came and beat the hell out of him," said King. "He was really hammered when he was telling the story. But if I were to guess, I'd say the girls kicked him out, and the guys thought he was giving them a hard time so they beat him up."

When the ruckus finally subsided, the student was removed by Campus Safety. The only remaining sign that anything had happened was the bloodstained handprint on Christenson's shirt from where he had been grabbed.

Anyone who has ventured out of his or her dorm on a Thursday

or Saturday has no doubt noticed the distinctive blue and white uniform of many a Coast Guard student.

"I would rather Coasties didn't touch me when I'm inebriated - or sober, for that matter," said sophomore Zoë Lieb, in regards to their fairly consistent presence at campus parties. She's hardly alone; the student from Saturday's incident was on campus primarily to seek out girls.

Alternately, jabs, sneers and, as this incident proves, physical violence, are used against Coast Guard members upon their every visit. That Saturday, Conn students were heard yelling com-

ments to the uniformed like "My tax dollars are paying for your education," and "At least we've got real girls."

The Coast Guard visitors generally aren't considered very dangerous and they will probably continue to be treated with the same terse civility they always have. But on a campus where the honor code asks us to treat others with integrity, for whom is the coast less clear?

Additional reporting by
Lilah Raptopoulos

Res Life Censorship: New price to pay for funded t-shirts

NORA SWENSON
STAFF WRITER

Most Conn students are no stranger to some of the outlandish slogans that have graced the Camelympics t-shirts in past years. Last year featured controversial shirts such as Johnson's "Just Beat It," or Freeman's Morgan Freeman shirt that read, "I'm a free man."

This year, the Residential Education and Living staff decided to augment their censorship of Camelympic shirt designs.

When asked what exactly went wrong in previous years to create so many new restrictions on t-shirts this year, Residential Education and Living Director, Amy Gauthier insisted that ResLife is not actually making that many changes.

"However, because the t-shirts are coming out of ResLife's Office, and SGA is co-sponsoring and helping to fund Camelympics, the t-shirts must be done in a manner which reflects the entire community. If the t-shirts are not reflective of the entire community, it becomes problematic," Gauthier said.

After seeing many previous t-shirts referencing drugs and alcohol, the staff challenged whether such designs reflected the entire campus, and in most cases, they decided they did not.

Such was the case with Larabee's rumored design involving the slogan "size matters," because the dorm is the biggest on campus. Some students are uncomfortable wearing a t-shirt with such a design. Senior Rebecca Reel said, "I just feel like I can't wear that to a grocery store."

Some Connecticut College students have voiced concerns that ResLife is being too sensitive about the shirts and made a mistake in excluding students from the decision of what was considered "reflective of the community."

Camelympics 2009 was scheduled a week earlier into the semester, forcing Housefellows to choose their dorm's designs

without input from their house councils. This year, many hoped that by postponing Camelympics until slightly later into the semester, houses would be able to contribute to the designs. Unfortunately, due to the inappropriate content that several dorms submitted, a few Housefellows were once again forced to make the final decisions on shirts without much input from residents.

As one Housefellow stated, "I think there should absolutely be a line drawn, and I think it's totally understandable and appropriate to ask people to go back to the drawing board. But they took it too far this year, and it took away some of the traditional fun that comes with designing t-shirts."

When questioned, Gauthier was sure to recognize that ResLife has vetoed t-shirt designs every year. "That's nothing new, but as far as overstepping this year for censorship: if the college is paying for the t-shirts, there does need to be a standard in place."

Another Housefellow, equally perturbed by some of the changes this year, commented, "While the issue of censorship was certainly relevant this year as we designed shirts, the bigger issue we faced was working with such a limited budget."

For those who missed last week's article on the topic, the budget question has been resolved; thanks to SGA's support through SOFO and even some contribution from ResLife, students won't be paying for their own shirts.

The same Housefellow also expressed her disappointment in not being able to have more design choice. "More than anything, we were restricted by the actual practical limitations of making the shirts. Only one ink color, only one side of the shirt to work with and no detail design on the sleeves."

When questioned about this limitation, Gauthier answered quite simply, "We opted for a [homogeneous] pattern to make the budget more manageable. When each of the houses started

using different colors, screen-writing and patterns, it increased the costs dramatically, and there was no way we would be able to cover the costs without asking the students to pay for some of that cost."

Despite some of the problems adapting to heightened standards and limited design options, an overwhelming number of Housefellows said they empathized with ResLife and understood their difficult decision in deciding what would be best for not only Conn's image, but also the students who are required to attend events throughout the two day celebration, wearing their dorm's shirt with pride.

"In terms of censoring the shirts," one Housefellow wrote, "I think they are doing what they need to do, because school funded shirts should not be offensive to the student body. The shirts are still fun and I feel like we were not too limited by the censorship."

Another commented, "Camelympics is a bonding experience for each dorm and for the community as a whole. As Housefellows, we do understand why the shirts need to be appropriate. None of us want to risk inadvertently making any member of our community feel uncomfortable on a day that is supposed to be fun."

"That's really what it came down to," Gauthier concluded. "How do we represent our buildings on a t-shirt that everyone would feel comfortable wearing? And sometimes our job is to look out for the people who wouldn't necessarily say something."

Gauthier emphasized that the changes instituted this year were not meant to penalize students for past instances, but rather to prompt students to think more broadly. "Is this the only way we can represent our community: through drug and alcohol references? And if so, I think maybe we need to have a larger conversation."

Camelympics 2010 will run from Friday, October 1 to Saturday, October 2.

Is your Summa a Magna? GPA standards change

SETH NIGROSH
CONTRIBUTOR

Graduating with Latin Honors has always been a worthy goal for Conn students. The extra few words on the diploma signify achievement, success and dedication. In the past five years, the percentage of people graduating with Latin Honors has stayed between 46% and 52%. However, with the recently announced changes in the GPA needed to graduate with Latin Honors, this number is expected to decrease.

For students who matriculated starting in 2008, the GPA required to graduate with Latin Honors is changing. The old standards were 3.5 for cum laude, 3.67 for magna cum laude and 3.8 for summa cum laude. Presently, the standards fluctuate year to year, using what the administration is calling alpha, beta and gamma numbers. These numbers are averages based on statistics from the last four graduating classes. The alpha number is used for summa cum laude, the beta for magna cum laude and the gamma for cum laude. The new alpha number is 3.89, the beta is 3.78 and the gamma is 3.65.

The Dean's Honors requirements are also changing. Where in the past, 3.3 was the standard for honors and 3.7 for high honors, the gamma number is now used for honors and the beta is used for high honors.

"I believe the changes support the idea of rigor and challenge that is fundamental to the value of a liberal arts education," says Dean Theresa Ammariti. "Students who achieve Latin Honors have distinguished themselves as being truly outstanding. The previous standards were right

for their time; the new standards are appropriate for the academic environment we live in now."

While most seniors this year will not be affected by the new requirements, some will be. Transfer students, because they entered the school in or after 2008, will receive Latin Honors based on the new, higher numbers, while most of their fellow seniors will be held to the old, lower standards.

At the SGA meeting on Thursday, a resolution by senior Adam Sleeper was passed concerning the new requirements. "I'm not against the new standards," said Sleeper, "I just want them to be implemented in an equitable fashion."

The proposal does not ask to stop the new standards from being used, but it does call upon the administration to adjust the requirements for this year so that seniors will be treated equally and held to the same standards.

One possible solution Sleeper suggested stems from a typographical error in the information about Latin Honors posted by the Registrar's Office. The typo states that the new standards will be implemented in the 2011-2012 school year, not the current 2010-2011 school year. If the implementation of the standards is put off for another year, more students would be held to the same standards. After next year, the new standards would apply to every graduating senior. This possible solution might make Latin Honors more equitable to all, while still keeping standards rigorous.

"Transfer students are students here too, and we should be held to the same standards," claimed senior Adam Miller.

Hard Alcohol Policy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prompted the school to tighten its policy on hard liquor.

While it might be expected that Colby students would reject and resist the prohibition upon returning to campus this semester, many "realize that it is probably for the better, considering shots are the main reason why so many kids get transported to the hospital," said one Colby student.

A committee comprising of Colby faculty, staff, alumni and students drafted the new policy, meaning the student body took part in the decision. Of course, there are students who still choose to consume hard alcohol on campus, but when they do, "it's in their room sneakily and pretty quietly" in order to avoid getting "screwed by security," said the same Colby student.

So, assuming Colby is aware that hard alcohol is still, at some level, being consumed on campus, what is the school hoping to achieve by prohibiting the substance?

C.C. Curtiss, Director of Student Wellness and AOD Education at Conn speculated, "After extensive evaluation, Colby instituted the ban on hard alcohol to support the mission of the college and for the health and well-being of their community. Policy change is only one aspect of environmental prevention strategies and health promotion on a college campus."

According to Curtiss, the ideal outcome of the new policy would be a change in the culture and behavior surrounding alcohol usage.

A few years ago, Connecticut College experienced its own policy change regarding alcohol on campus in response to a change in Connecticut state law. Though the new policy is commonly

thought to have placed a ban on kegs, in actuality, it simply establishes a set of procedures in order to host a social function, and defines the context in which a keg can be present.

"The policy forces students to have to clean up after themselves," said Nathan Cornell '11, president of SGA. As Cornell sees it, the "role of the social function policy is to put responsibility in the students hands."

Striking a delicate balance between banning kegs altogether and emphasizing student responsibility, the policy requires that party hosts first attend a workshop called Keg 101, and that while hosting a party with a keg present, the host may not consume alcohol.

Whether Conn's keg policy really promotes student responsibility, though, is up for debate.

"I don't think many students who are twenty-one go to Keg 101," said Julie Sizer '11. "I think most of the larger parties on campus are unregistered and involve other forms of alcohol, not kegs." For Sizer, kegs promoted socialization and an opportunity to meet people, and she believes there has been a noticeable increase in floor parties on campus due to the absence of kegs.

In his email to the student body last Thursday, President Higdon wrote, "Already this semester, several students have had to receive urgent care because they've had too much to drink." Clearly the issue of student irresponsibility with alcohol is not resolved at Conn. There needs to be more accountability on the part of students in order to prevent more strict authoritative measures — like those already taken at Colby — from being instituted at Conn.

Freshmen Elect Pres. and VP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He adds, "But really, I love the mussels in Harris. Underrated. Try them."

Nazareth suggests the ravioli al dente.

Though they've only been a presidential pair for about a week, the team has lots of ideas for their class and plenty of faith in each other and the rest of their council members.

"I think that there's a lot of freedom and potential for working within class council—we can do almost anything, and we will do a lot," said Nazareth.

Future plans for class activities include s'mores nights, another ice cream social, and attempts at an all-freshman dance. "When we go to dances, they're very upperclassmen-centric—it can be tough to weave your way into the main scene of the dance, and it become impersonal. Sometimes it can be good, but sometimes you want to know the people around you," McCormick-Cavanagh expressed.

"I know that Conn students can get the reputation for being apathetic, but we're here to make people, particularly the freshman, more enthusiastic about our school, and to foster a strong community."

McCormick-Cavanagh can already feel it, explaining his commitment as sort of religious experience. "On the sixth or seventh day of school, I was walking around at night, and it just hit me—immense camel pride. I felt like a real part of the community, and I want other students to feel that too."

"Students have been enthusiastic since orientation," Nazareth believes. "All of the cheers and events, letting everyone represent



Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. We're cute."

"Or maybe like Lindsay Lohan and Lindsay Lohan in *The Parent Trap*," Nazareth suggests. "We don't take drugs, though."

Taking on these positions can be a bit intimidating, particularly for students three weeks into college. Are they afraid of anything?

"I'm not," said McCormick-Cavanagh, who later admits to me that his initials—CMC—might make a decent rap moniker.

Nazareth says he fears the dark and spiders, which sparks a side conversation after McCormick-Cavanagh states that he doesn't like to kill anything.

I should've clarified my question.

When it comes down to it, I ask them, do they really think they can accomplish anything? "We wouldn't have run if we didn't think so. We absolutely will," asserts McCormick-Cavanagh. He expressed a desire to get input from his class. "Help us help you. I know it's clichéd. Sorry. I can't say it better."

At the end of his first presidential interview, I ask CMC if he sees himself and Nazareth as an Obama/Biden pair. "We're more Churchill/FDR," he tells me. Another fun presidential fact? CMC likes chili, too.

what dorm or section of campus they're part of, got people really excited. Now we're here, and we want to do the same thing."

The two have already garnered some fans. Whether describing them as "motivated, hardworking," "working hard to play hard," or "as good as sundae Sunday," the general consensus amongst their class is positive.

I asked for outside opinions of their character. Nazareth left the room, saying that he had friends downstairs, and McCormick-Cavanagh whipped out his phone and dialed a number. I get to talk to Colin Puth '14.

"Honestly, Conor is the most motivated and hardest-working guy that I've met in our class," said Puth. I tell him I hope he's telling the truth. He says he wouldn't lie to the paper.

Nazareth returns from Oasis with a paper full of quotes. "My friends are too lazy to come up here, but this is what they said," Jake Schwartz '14 calls Nazareth "chill, smart, and a just guy. He'll make an excellent VP."

These sentiments extend out of the duo's friend circles. "I haven't met them yet, but I read their speeches. I'm really excited to see what they can do," said Brooke Cragan '14.

"We liken ourselves to Jay and Silent Bob, because they're pretty cool," McCormick-Cavanagh thinks further. "Maybe even

CollegiateLink: The Weakest Link

Social network better in theory than in practice

Event Flyerboard

Show: Add To Your Site



A typical CollegiateLink home page featuring an "Event Flyerboard."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I don't know much about economics, but I do know that the marketplace works through supply and demand. With CollegiateLink up and running, the supply side of the equation has been taken care of. For many of us in various clubs and organizations, we have been encouraged to try it out. In doing so, we have been asked to "demand" it, if you will.

I myself decided to participate. I logged in, requested membership in all of the clubs that I participate in, joined my dorm's page and listed myself as a Housefellow, and then... nothing happened.

Pinned to the digital bulletin board were flyers I had already seen on real bulletin boards around campus. In order to see an event a club had planned, I had to browse the directory, then go to that organization's page to

search for any events they had listed.

I saw member lists of the clubs I'm a part of, but I already knew they were members from attending meetings. I realized how little I actually understood about why I was using CollegiateLink (and I've been trained to use it!).

I could not figure out what I was gaining from the experience. As I looked at the lists of my peers on pages such as Hillel and Larrabee, I felt as though they were there for the same reasons I was, simply because someone told them to be.

It was then and there that I realized the central problem with the demand side of the equation: it simply doesn't exist at the current time. The problem could be with the structure of the site or it could be the way in which it has been advertised, but it is likely some combination of the two.

The SAC Representative

of the Class of 2012, Alex Schwartzburg, sees the problem as largely related to the structure of the network.

He said, "It would take away the duty my friend has to his

Not only is CollegiateLink disruptive to our current social structure; at its heart, it's un-collegiate.

band to put posters up. It would take away the small talk that you need to do before an event. [These interactions], if nowhere else, should exist on a college campus."

There are certainly others among our student body who feel the same way Schwartzburg does. They believe not only that CollegiateLink is not merely disruptive to our current social structure, but also that at its heart, it's un-collegiate. To some

degree, I agree with them.

At the current time, we're just fine with our dorm bulletin boards, our Facebook groups and our personalized e-mails from club presidents (even when they occasionally forget).

We aren't ready to change those aspects of our club participation.

However, Schwartzburg makes it clear that, as a member of SAC, he does recognize potential benefits to certain aspects of CollegiateLink.

He mentions the advantages of being able to "stay in your room to submit a request to reserve a room for an event." This idea of registering and booking events might be the future of CollegiateLink, even if organizational networking and event advertising is not.

In truth, this convenience will not make CollegiateLink a failure, but a success. It is common in the world of trends for the initial, groundbreaking product of a company to succumb to unseen flaws while a later, simplified version of the same model from another company becomes a total hit (just look at MySpace and Facebook). We should not rule out the possibility that CollegiateLink might need to adjust both its mission and its format in order to be successful.

The other missing ingredient from CollegiateLink's gradual introduction to the community has been publicity. When the college switched to our new feisty, sporty camel last April, the new logo rode the old happy, gangly camel off the bookstore shelves and halfway to Providence before the cheering crowd had even cleared the unveiling

ceremony. And while the upperclassmen have mixed feelings about the new camel, you see it on sweatshirts and shorts everywhere. That is because the campaign to make it the default athletic logo for our college was speedy, widespread and aggressive.

I would be willing to bet that among the four classes the logo is probably most popular among the freshmen. Why would I guess this? Because it is the only logo they've ever known here.

As for CollegiateLink, I have met very few current freshmen who know what it is or what it does. This represents a great failure of advertising and a sign that CollegiateLink has moved backward rather than forward this semester. As is the case with the new camel logo, the impression of CollegiateLink among the older members of our student body may never be fully corrected. However, if CollegiateLink is introduced to incoming freshmen during their orientation, before classes start and clubs have their first meetings, it seems highly unlikely that it will continue to be ignored as a resource among our future club members and presidents.

If we accept that CollegiateLink might need to simplify and clarify its mission, if we aggressively and positively promote it and if it is introduced to new members of our community as they matriculate, CollegiateLink can be a success and can make our student involvement experiences better. And, I think we can all agree that that would just be so, well, fetch.

What's Everybody Raving About?

MELANIE THIBEAULT
CONTRIBUTOR

There are only two words that come to mind when I think about the night of the infamous rave in Cro last weekend: disturbing and disgusting. After writing this, I hope to suppress all related memories and never conjure them up again.

I am not an avid fan of dances or alcohol or ecstasy or any combination of the three, and so the very idea of going to the rave shouldn't have crossed my mind at all. However, my love of glow-sticks and my curiosity as to how this shindig would go down overpowered my fear.

Dressed in jeans, a cardigan and sunglasses (the ideal rave outfit?), I ventured to Cro with two of my friends. None of us knew what to expect, but we had been warned to "watch out" and "not get molested." Always comforting words.

When we finally located the correct room, we were forced to jam ourselves up against the banister of the balcony and shimmy our way through a crowd of overly sweaty, excited people, all too eager to join the massive dance party.

Dressed in neon colored shorts and t-shirts and sporting glow-stick necklaces and bracelets, the students of Connecticut College looked like they had been sucked into a time machine and sent back to the '80s, but with dancing far from anything in *Footloose* or *Flashdance*; we'll get to that in a minute.

After shoving our way through the mostly intoxicated crowd, I began to have second thoughts about entering the dance floor. The only way I was going to make it through the mass of people is if I suddenly developed

a Moses-like ability to part them like the Red Sea. And nothing short of promising them free alcohol on the first floor of Cro was going to make them budge.

I cowardly scurried to the uninhabited side on the second floor of Cro and watched the madness unfold. People were shoving themselves into others in an effort to make it into the dance to get their grind on with strangers who they may or may not remember seeing in the morning.

Others were shamelessly fondling each other in public; one girl was holding hands with a boy with a faux-hawk, and proceeded to drop his hand and follow another boy to the dance floor. Nearby, a guy decided to jump onto a table next to the balcony and sway back and forth until campus security forced him down.

After watching other alcohol-induced shenanigans unfold, I decided to try my luck inside the dance. What a mistake.

Walking into the dance was like walking into a burning building filled with people scrambling to get out before they asphyxiated, except people were charging through the doors both ways, making the process next to impossible to navigate.

Once I successfully shoved my way through the crowd, and by successfully I mean I was only punched five times and violated three, I paused at the beginning of the dance floor, unsure where to go from there.

The music was blaring, people were dripping sweat like they just took a hike through Death Valley and there was so much unnecessary and uncomfortable physical contact, that I immediately turned around and marched out.

Well, that would have been the ideal situation, but as soon as I tried to leave, I was faced with a massive bloc of people also trying to exit. Naturally, everyone's first instinct was to push and shove the others out of their way, so rather than walking, we were all aggressively floating out the exit.

If I thought I'd been uncomfortable trying to get into the 1941 room, I was traumatized (and again violated) trying to find my way out. If someone had told me that I was going to be physically attacked while at college, I would have never expected it to be at a school-sponsored dance. Jogging alone around the green at night? Maybe. Joining the

martial arts team and trying to fight an experienced black belt? Yes. But at a dance? Madness.

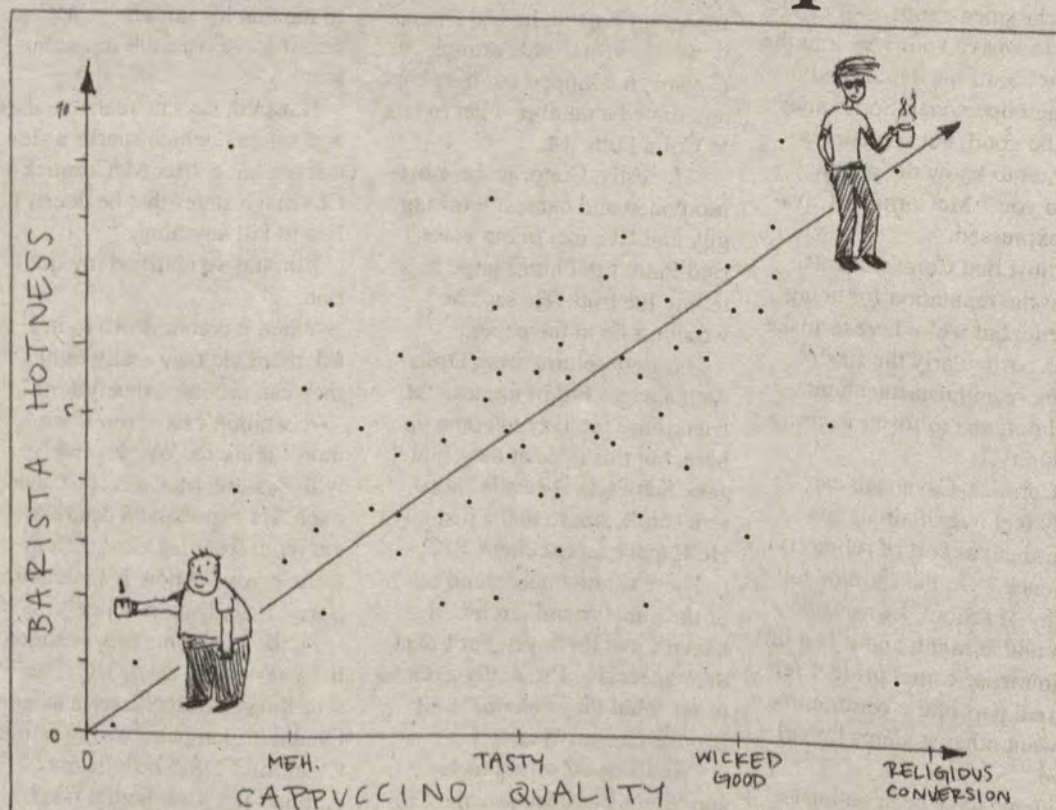
After dodging a few punches from some drunk boys, I decided to be aggressive and fight my way through the throng of people, so I flailed my arms, grabbed onto my friend's arm in front of me, held my breath and charged.

That may have been the scariest experience of my life. Everyone was so tightly packed, it was actually difficult to breathe. (It doesn't help that I'm only 5' 2" and everyone within a ten-foot radius of me was an Amazon.) For the thirty seconds it took to leave, I seriously believed I wasn't going to survive. I would

die at the rave, trampled under a herd of brightly-colored Camels who had a little bit too much to drink. What a tragic way to go.

In case anyone wasn't sure, I did make it out alive and with a greater fear of crowds, dances and jungle juice. I hope never to find myself in such close physical contact with that many impatient, sweat-drenched people again. No matter how desperately anyone wanted out of that room, it took some time and aggression. The only way the experience could have been worse is if someone had shouted, "Fire!" Then, unspeakable chaos would have ensued.

My Life in Graphs



Sherman's extensive fieldwork and research indicate that the "hotness" of a barista is directly proportional to the quality of his/her brew.

JOHN SHERMAN / MANAGING EDITOR

Freeman's Frightful Facelift

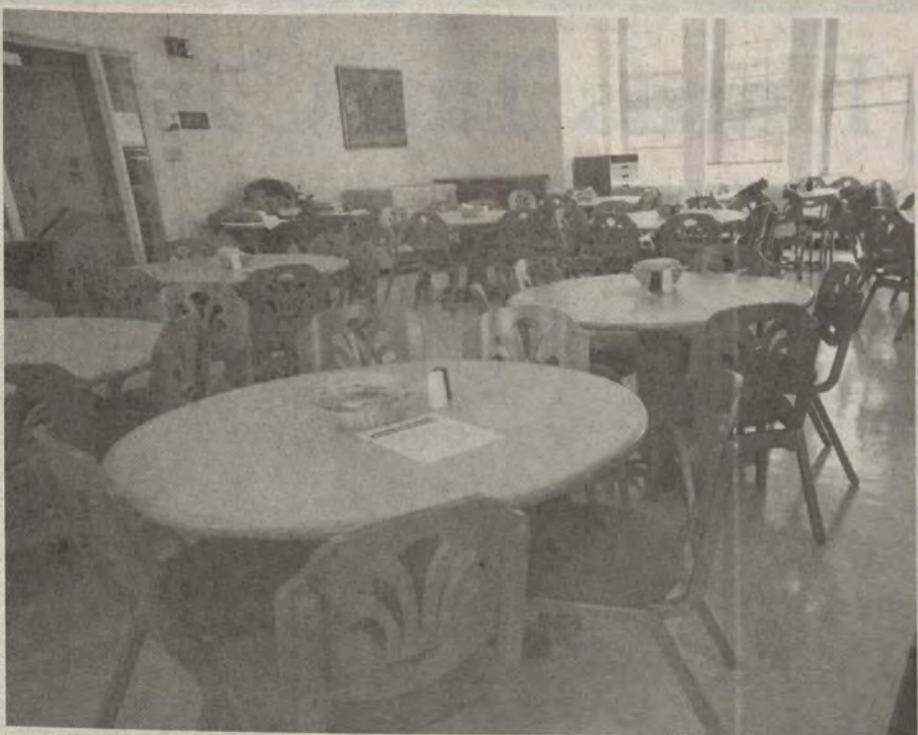
CLARA CHAISSON
CONTRIBUTOR

Attention soup and bread enthusiasts: if you have not yet visited Freeman Dining Hall this semester, or spoken with someone who has, you are in for a rude surprise. The warm, autumnal red walls have been painted a generic, waiting-room variety light blue. Instead of the dark wooden tables, there are Harris-style Formica-topped tables. There is no longer a carpet, but instead hard tiles. The random, yet endearing pictures of fruit? Those are gone, too. In short, everything that made Freeman a cozy respite from daily Harris visits has been replaced with a much less homey alternative.

Dining Services decided carpeting did not belong in a dining hall for sanitary reasons which, I admit, is understandable.

However, the reasoning behind the disappearance of the rest of the details that gave Freeman its characteristic charm was simply

CECILIA BROWN / CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



An updated Freeman Dining Hall greeted students returning to campus

an attempt at a newer, more updated look.

There are plenty of cases in which new things are good things; the refurbished bath-

rooms in Lazrus House, for example. I don't think anyone could be upset about those, or argue that the old ones were "homier." But new does not always

mean improved, and in the case of Freeman, the new look is definitely a downgrade.

Granted, it is now sparkling, spacious and bright, but from a student's point of view, this campus is our home. It shouldn't come as a surprise that most of us do not want our home to look like sterile, institutional places like the Plex. Sadly, Freeman Dining Hall has joined these ranks. Older touches are pleasant, comforting and welcoming. And they can be just as functional.

There was nothing wrong with Freeman's décor other than the fact that it was old. And

if students actually *liked* the atmosphere in Freeman and felt more at home in it, why couldn't the school have spent its money on something more useful that would not have taken away one of the few cozy spaces we have on campus?

Unfortunately, students were not consulted about the changes. Had our opinions been considered, the response would have been pretty clear. When I asked other students what they thought of Freeman's new look, I got responses like, "It's upsetting." Another student said, "If I wanted to eat in Harris, I'd go to Harris." A third response was a candid "it sucks!"

With that said, the damage has already been done. All we can do now is reminisce about the cozy soup and bread days of yore, and hope that in the future our opinions will be considered. And while it's still warm out, I'd rather take my soup out of Freeman and eat it on the green; at least that still has some character.

In Defense of Sports Teams' Shenanigans

ALEX SCHWARTZBURG
CONTRIBUTOR

Lately I have been hearing a lot of talk about initiation rituals. Most of it comes from the mouths of non-athletes and implies a negative attitude toward their practice.

Ultimately, I cannot pretend to be unbiased in my reporting, because I only had the opportunity to interview athletes and not their critics; indeed, it is very hard to find people who are willing to go on record criticizing teams or groups on such a small campus as ours. Since I myself have no criticisms for our athletes or their behavior, I cannot claim to validly report on the other side of this issue. All I can do is speculate about my perception of criticisms going on.

That being said, I think the disapproval of team initiation rituals stems from two main types of judgments: (1) Worries about hazing and (2) Resentment of drunk people's behavior.

I sat down with one lacrosse player, who requested his name be withheld, to discuss these issues. He told me, "In every situation, freshmen have the choice to participate in initiation, and/or to drink. Membership on the team is not contingent upon that choice."

"After choosing to participate, can you opt out?" I asked him.

"You can choose to say 'I've had enough,' and you won't be looked down upon."

He also pointed out that very few groups on campus do not hold some form of social drinking or initiation ritual.

His point may be a valid one. As I have been told (and my knowledge is limited), the a cappella groups bring their initiates through far more bizarre routines than the sports teams. My sophomore year, I watched freshmen be blindfolded and brought into a blue lit room with eerie music

playing. I don't know what happened behind that door, but that freshman's experience, to me, seemed a bit more uncomfortable than the experience of a freshman soccer player giving himself a mohawk.

In any event, as my interviewee pointed out, "These experiences are often looked back on as 'the good times' by 90% (or more) of their participants."

A freshman on the club soccer team told me that "team shenanigans" (as I called them) build unity. He recounted his experience with team initiation. "People drank. It was optional, but a lot of people showed up. It was a low-pressure environment."

In fact, only one athlete said that there might be even the remotest chance of "a stigma attached to someone who does not participate in team rituals."

Most athletes I have informally discussed the subject with agree with the above responses. In fact, only one athlete said that there might be even the remotest chance of "a stigma attached to someone who does not participate in team rituals," otherwise, he was in favor of their practice.

So why then do we perceive so much criticism?

I maintain that it's because there's a lot out there. Most of the criticism I overhear is between friends sitting in dining halls, whispering back and forth, or in rooms with narrowly-open doors. In sum, they are private situations.

The pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus once said that "Dogs bark at everyone they do not know." His point: Ignorance breeds aggression. And while that aggression may be passive and non-confrontational in

nature, who — of the judgmental lot of us — is to doubt that it exists?

So all the freshmen on the soccer team have mohawks, so what? Does this affect us? Does this threaten us in some way?

No.

Let us consider for a moment who tells these negative stories we hear. Who exaggerates the activities of the athletic community to a point where impartial observers start judging their behavior?

If no one else, I think it's the small number of people who don't have their own stories to talk about.

It would be very hard to take the biography of Heraclitus and appropriate it into everyday conversation—only a true intellectual like myself can do that! However, his statement might beguile your mind into thinking that you can't make small talk with those around you.

A much easier alternative for someone in that tragic position, however, is to relate to others on the basis of gossip. It is easier, but void of any real relationship or esteem building. This is because judging the actions of other people offers a shared common experience, one that is ultimately grounded in one's opinion about the life of another. Unfortunately, it is not grounded on a shared experience between himself and the other person present.

I think that the real reason people judge athletes for their team shenanigans is the sense of loneliness or inferiority any of us feels during moments of isolation. In moments when we feel like an outsider, see others having fun, and feel excluded, we get jealous, then resentful—then angry—then possibly depressed—and consequently judgmental.

That being said, I think there are a fair number of judgmental people on this campus, athletes and non-athletes alike.

Mr. G's Restaurant



**452 Williams Street
New London, CT**

**Open 7 days a week!
Now serving breakfast on
weekends!**

**Now offering delivery to
Connecticut College
Sundays through Thursdays
4 PM - 11 PM**

**Gift Cards Now Available!
Parents, the perfect gift
for your student!**

**860-447-0400
www.mrgsrestaurant.com**

Visit us on

facebook

facebook.com/mrgsrestaurant

WE KNOW YOU HAVE OPINIONS.
WE THINK YOU SHOULD SHARE THEM.

OPINIONS@THECOLLEGEVOICE.ORG

Die-Hards Tap Cards

Jesse Newbold '13 a Magic wizard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now, I am sure you can imagine my surprise at such a statement. However, it was quickly followed by another player explaining to me, "Porn is what we call Magic. So if you hear one of us saying, 'I watched some great porn yesterday,' or, 'Wanna get some porn?' we are talking about Magic." I laughed at their clever deception.

They began shortly after that, as each opened one of the three "booster packs" (a pack of fifteen cards; one rare) that lay in front of them, carefully choosing the card they wanted most and passing the rest on. When all cards from the first packs were gone, they moved on to the second and then the third; this is called drafting, as they strategically chose their cards based on color combinations and "cost." I could tell this process took immense skill, as they had very little time to make their decisions and they had to think long-term as to which cards would work best together.

I also discovered that they struggled with the concept of passing the rest of the deck to the right or the left (as they alternated with each pack); sorry guys, but it's true. After all eight of them completed their decks, which contained forty-five cards, they randomly selected pairs to play in. Each pair played three matches (or at least best out of three) and then moved on to play someone of equal rank.

I got a chance to watch the individual matches and found them all to be extremely interesting. However, I must admit that the rules escaped me for the greater portion of the night.

Before attending the tournament, Newbold had attempted to explain as much of the rules to me as he could. Each player starts with twenty points (the object being to reduce your opponent's score to zero), seven cards in hand and a "library" of cards to pick up throughout the match. There are two types of cards: spells, which you use to attack your opponent, and lands, which give you "mana," or points that allow you to use your spells. Spells have colors that signify what it "costs" or what kind of land is needed for their use.

There are five colors: white, blue, black, red and green; but there are also multicolored cards (hard to play, powerful when



TANAHA SIMON/PHOTO EDITOR

used) and colorless cards (easy to play, less powerful when used). When a player wishes to attack with a spell, they "tap" (turn sideways) the spell card and the land card to indicate its action.

Okay, so it's getting complicated and if you are beginning to despair, stop for a moment and think of the immortal words spoken by the Blowpen commercial-guy, "But wait! There's more!" In fact, there is a lot more because some cards have their own rules which take pre-

cedence over the general gaming rules, adding to the unpredictable outcome of a match.

"With a quick nod in my direction, one of them said to the others, 'All right, let's watch some porn!'"

Also, every year 800 new cards are introduced to the world of Magic, and if you want to par-

ticipate in tournaments, you generally can't use any cards that are older than two years. With so many new cards introduced, how does one know how to alter their deck, or even how to use them? According to Newbold, there are many online sites where players contribute their own explanations of the best way to use a new card. On such sites, players can view recommended/example decks so that they can improve their own strategies and game play; Newbold is one such contributor.

The epic tournament of Sunday night finally came to a close four hours after it began and, surprisingly to me, I stayed the whole time. Watching each match and seeing the guys have such a great time was so entertaining for me, it was clear that they were all there to have fun. Attitudes like that make all the difference in having a good time.

Also, the friendship between them all was intriguing to watch; whenever one of them had a question about a card's use or the rules, they would venture over to Newbold who would always have the answer. I watched all of Newbold's matches with the understanding that the other seven guys acknowledged him as the best; one of his opponents said to me, "If I beat Jesse can I be in your article?" Although he didn't manage to beat the champ, he did come fairly close, so I at least put his quote in here.

Regardless, Newbold did manage to come in first in the tournament, allowing him to choose the best rares to take home and add to his own personal deck.

Newbold is definitely Connecticut's go-to-guy when it comes to Magic. So what wisdom does he have for beginners? He recommends starting simple. In other words, learn the basic rules first and then worry about the others.

Also, try going to "Friday Night Magic" at Sarge's Comics, where they alternate between booster and constructed tournaments. Sarge's is small and can only accommodate about twenty-five people at a time; however, the games are not too competitive, making play less challenging and thus more fun for beginners. For those who consider themselves to be Magic-savvy, you should join Newbold in attending the tournaments hosted by Arkham Asylum in Norwich.

Magic is definitely a game worth trying or at least watching. After attending the booster draft on Sunday, I found that I knew much more about Magic and the awesome people who play it than I did before. Thus, I leave you with this: although it can be complicated at times, you should give Magic a try, after all, you only live once - unless, of course, you are a Magma Phoenix, but then again, that one's rare.

ROLLING STONE TITLE

One man's journey into the magazine industry

MELANIE THIBEAULT
CONTRIBUTOR

Not many people are fortunate enough to fulfill their childhood dreams, but for Kris Fleming '11, the opportunity presented itself this past summer when he interned in New York City for Rolling Stone magazine, the popular publication for politics, pop culture and music.

The publication contains everything he's interested in: culture, music, government. "When I had the chance [to intern for it], I went with it," Fleming said.

"I've loved Rolling Stone since I was a kid. After watching the movie *Almost Famous*, the dream of writing for [them] stuck with me."

Lucky for him, a friend's father is the vice president of the magazine. Fleming took a shot, asked about the opportunity, went on a few interviews and one successfully led to an internship. At the magazine, he worked with the advertising and sales team, making copies and doing office-work.

"I wish I could say I hung out with rock stars, but it was office-like. Though I did have to deliver a cake once to another ad agency. I walked very slowly; I was so afraid of dropping it."

Fleming worked with his intern coordinators, who provided him with tasks, and in turn, they worked with the publishers and sales representatives. Working also with other ad/sales interns and assistants, he didn't see much of the higher executives, but he did enjoy his time working with the other



Photo from Web.

interns.

"Some days were busier than others, and jobs ranged daily, but we always managed to band together and have fun while doing our work right," he said.

Unfortunately, Fleming didn't have a chance to see any of the celebrities that were in the building. Apparently Bruce Springsteen's son was an intern, but Fleming didn't see him either.

"One day they were filming an episode of 'White Collar' right across the street from the office, and I saw the two lead actors which was pretty cool. Apart from that, the craziness was mainly kept out of the office and saved for bar hopping."

The article about General McChrystal was released at the end of June 2010 during Fleming's internship with Rolling Stone. He believes it was the most issues sold in one day, but he doesn't have a number to back up that conjecture.

"When the McChrystal article exploded, so did the office. That might have been our busiest day, only because everyone wanted the issue and we had a lot of demands to distribute them," he said. Fleming's experience at Rolling Stone was an enjoyable one. "Everyone there is very friendly. I can't stress that enough," he said. When his stint was over, one of the head executives gave Fleming his card. "Hopefully, there's something to look forward to," Fleming said.

An English major and government minor, Fleming knows that he wants to work with music and in publication post-Conn. He has always been a writer, even in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Summer Music Fever

Five albums you should still be listening to

KRIS FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

Yes, music is subjective. No, I am not an expert on music by any stretch of the imagination. I do, however, feel compelled to write about the five albums of the summer that you should 1) have already listened to, and 2) still be listening to. Hopefully I can persuade a few others out there to check them out as well.

Arcade Fire - *The Suburbs*

Suburban life is not particularly interesting, but somehow these anthem rockers managed to portray the suburbs in a rather epic way.

The album begins with a honky tonk piano and Win Butler crooning his remembrance of the subtle things in life in the album's title track. "Grab your mother's keys, we're leaving" rings true for anyone who sought to escape the boredom of their clean-cut cul-de-sac.

"Rococo" continues with this theme but also manages to poke fun at the very audience they're looking to draw: "modern kids" acting as a synonym for "hipster." Only Arcade Fire could get away with such an obvious jab without losing credibility or fans; if anything, they're more acclaimed now than when they first started playing "Wake Up."

"We Used to Wait" hits the most at home for anyone who can remember a time when cell phones and technology were not the focal point of our society with "I used to sleep at night/Before the flashing lights settled deep in my brain."

The album ends where it began, offering the final word on the suburban experience; "If I could have it back/All the time that we wasted/I'd only waste it again." After all, who wouldn't want to be a kid again?

Best Coast - *Crazy For You*

This album is the epitome of dreamy surf rock. The songs utilize a Spector-esque fuzz that makes the music sound as if it escaped a vault from the 1960s, the track "Our Deal," in particular, sounds like a B-side of The Supremes.

While the topics of the songs aren't exactly diverse – ranging sporadically from boys, weed and both – frontwoman Bethany Cosentino delivers with a Courtney Love style bite that doesn't stop at the vocals; the girl can play guitar. But there's no flashy sense of superiority here, as Cosentino chooses to take a subdued, cheeky approach as opposed to an ultra serious one.

It's doubtful that we'll ever hear the lyrics "I wish my cat could talk" anytime soon, but that's the draw of the

album, as it manages to act as the soundtrack to any trip that calls for some fun, upbeat music.

As a side note, Bill Murray is said to be a fan of the group, and you don't want to upset Bill Murray.

Crystal Castles - *Crystal Castles II*

This album was supposed to be released in June, but a leak forced the group to move the date up to April. Off-putting to some, those who can push through the rough



Top: The Arcade Fire in concert. Bottom: Crystal Castles II. Photos from Web.

exterior will find an electronic gem.

Furthering the darker feel of their debut, the album sounds like its album cover looks – a walk through a cemetery.

The first and last tracks serve as abrasive bookmarks, using shrill yet melodic noises to grate the ears of the listener. The last track on it's own sounds like assorted sound-clips from the movie *Gremlins* after significant sound degradation. Intriguing, right?

If that doesn't sound particularly appealing, there are a multitude of pop-influenced tracks, ranging from "Celestica" to "Suffocation." In the latter, singer Alice Glass reveals her spotty past with volatile relationships with "I'm wasting my days as I've wasted my nights and I've wasted my youth/you're waiting for something you've waited in vain because there's nothing for you."

While the lyrics themselves are not particularly outstanding, her delivery is what makes the group unique; much like Karin Andersson of The Knife and Fever Ray, Alice drastically warps her voice to such an extent where it is barely recognizable. "Violent Dreams" exercises this skill thoroughly, in which her voice sounds like it's wallowing in a layer of mud.

Kylie Minogue - *Aphrodite*

As David Bowie and Lady Gaga can both attest, sometimes it's just plain fun to dance, and Kylie Minogue shares these sentiments on her new powerhouse pop album. Rarely offering a dull moment apart from the sleep-inducing first track "All the Lovers", the album is packed with songs you would expect to find in any night club worth a damn.

Lazor-like synths, reverb, and thumping bass all add to Kylie's pristine vocal work while focusing your attention to everything except the cookie-cutter love-drunk lyrics ("And all resistance is illogical, when your love's nice." Is it really?) Then again, you very rarely buy a pop album for the lyrical content.

Wavves - *King of the Beach*

A surprise to anyone who listened to the band before, this album chooses to ditch the lo-fi (a.k.a. shitty) production value of the last two albums to make a punk rock hit that's fitting for any dorm room or, as indicated, beach.

Front-man Nathan Williams calls out to all his haters on the title track, gleefully singing, "You're never gonna stop me." He's not overtly an egomaniac though, as indicated by tracks "Idiot" and "Green Eyes." Both contain lyrics that highlight his self-deprecating manner, blasting both himself and his network of friends. But, as he says himself in "Green Eyes," "Who cares?"

The guitar work is spot on, the late Jay Reatard's backing band add a level of punk sophistication to the songs, and most importantly the sound is relatively accessible. If their comparisons to Nirvana are any indication, this is a band to keep your eyes (and ears) on.

Time Crisis Album Review

Conn hip-hop group releases debut to high marks

ANDREW CRIMER
STAFF WRITER

Hip-hop isn't too often given to experimentation. Genre conventions shift slowly and artists move in packs – perhaps due to the collaborative nature of the music, ideas tend to crop up across the field all at the same time. A fresh approach is either embraced widely or ignored before it reaches any broad audience. You can imagine some studio employee holding the phone up to T-Pain's monitors, calling Akon and exclaiming, "It's your cousin! Marvin Kon! You know that sound you were looking for?"

That's why first-timer duo Time Crisis' debut stands out. A collaborative effort from Jon Markson '12 and Will Brown '11 with rappers and musicians from

their Boston-based Fameless Fam collective, it is thirty-two minutes of dense textures that alternate between floating vibes and pounding beats, without a single moment of stasis. They're not given to aping current trends or banking on the innovations of other artists guaranteeing them success. It's not that they're without their influences – just that their treatment of those influences recontextualizes and manipulates them to carefully curate the moods and emotional rhythms of their album in ways that are generally outside the scope of hip-hop producers.

A lot of the diversity of the album stems from the backgrounds of the members, both Conn students. Most notably, guitarist/singer Markson's experience in nerdy indie with his former band Unique New York comes through strongly in the album's frequent vocal harmonies, which owe more to American Football than to Nate Dogg. The intricate guitar work that recalls his Allentown scene-mates' constant noodling.

On some tracks, the Sunny Day Real Estate tendencies can be a little too much, even for those of us still given to an emo afternoon or two, and for some listeners the singing might be a pretty serious turnoff. The chorus of "Pen to Pa-

per" is powerful, for example, but the melody for the verse is aimless enough that the whining qualities of the delivery demand more attention.

Fortunately, there's at least as much rapping. Fellow Fameless Fam member Virtue's delivery is dynamic and interesting, and his flow, which recalls Blackalicious' Gift of Gab as well as LA indie rappers like Subtle and Busdriver, peppers the album with many of its best moments. His verse on "Blue Lips" cuts through the weight of the wasted

atmosphere and slurry hook with engaging word-play and confessional musings: "What's the difference between co-dependency and addiction?" is an excellent line to drop into a relationship song this druggy.

The album's biggest strength by far is the lush production. Every layer has room to breathe, yet the overall sound is perpetually full and gorgeously put-together. It's

more Pro Tools than studio, definitely, but the feel suits the material: the opening track lets a spoken word piece fade into a cut-up xylophone arrangement, like a poor man's Phillip Glass. Ambient keys, understated percussive accents and abstract textures fill out the sound from start to finish, and that's important: the album's emphasis is definitely on the backing as the track itself rather than as support for the vocals, whether rapped or sung.

So when "Heaven's" synthline kicks in, the thrill of the hook and the beat instantly grab the ear, a groove made of G-Funk swagger and stab sublimated into the postmodernism of today's electroacoustic and synth blog darlings. It's the closest the album comes to straight hip-hop and it's a good starting point. By the denouement of closer "Resolve," the album's covered some serious musical ground. Taking cues from Portishead's triphop and the avant-garde approach of Anticon's roster, Time Crisis treats the history of hip-hop as a suggestion box rather than a manual. Top 40 it ain't, but for a first album it's an accomplished and confident attempt at broadening horizons and giving a historically flat genre a shot of the experimental.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSICIANS

Jon Markson '12 (left) and Will Brown '11 make up Time Crisis.

Rolling Stone

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

elementary school, though he admits his writing then "wasn't that great."

Even though English is his strength, he entered Connecticut College planning to be a Japanese and International Relations double major.

"I'm glad it didn't work out. I love the English department here. The professors are amazing and you get to read great literature," Fleming said. He admits he has a soft spot for Dickens and the last book he enjoyed was the popular Swedish novel *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson.

As for his writing career at Conn, Fleming is a contributor to *The College Voice*, was co-editor last year and will be an Arts & Entertainment editor during the spring semester.

Fleming claims he has an eclectic taste in music. He's adverse to some things, but for the most part, he can find an artist he likes in every genre, though he joked, "Diehard hipsters would be ashamed of my taste in mainstream music." Such artists include Katy Perry, Ke\$ha and Lady Gaga, who "hold a mystical place in [his] heart."

Fleming is also a huge Kanye West fan and he almost had a chance to meet him while at *Rolling Stone*. Only one of the interns was allowed to stay on Fridays, and the schedule saw Fleming and another intern leave early the day Kanye made an unexpected visit.

"He came in to *Rolling Stone* unannounced and was telling people 'look at my shoes' in typical Kanye-fashion. I was upset that I missed it."

As for interning in New York, Fleming loved the city and encourages anyone who has the chance to go there and work.

"I went to a Flaming Lips concert there this summer, and they were filming it for *Spin*. Confetti was falling; the lead singer was in a giant plastic bubble crowd-surfing. It was amazing."

After graduation, Fleming plans to send out his resume to every music publication and advertising agency in hopes of scoring a job. "I'm not sure if I'm terrified of not having a plan or if I'm right where I should be," he said.

His advice to anyone looking for an internship and eventually a career is simple yet useful: "Never stop trying. Connections are important, but without hard work and discipline you won't make it through the first door. If you follow your dreams and give it your all, opportunities will present themselves to you."

Halo's Swan Song

Latest installment of popular video game garners rave reviews

DOUG BERNSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

When I was 11, a game called *Halo: Combat Evolved* spearheaded the launch of Microsoft's new video game console, the Xbox, and it changed everything forever. Well, not really, but it did redefine video gaming.

Never before had a first person shooter so elegantly synthesized a gripping and original story, polished and ridiculously fun gameplay, beautiful sound and music, and, at the time, unbelievable graphics. But, above all else, *Halo* made gaming a social affair. Wholesale virtual slaughter became a bonding experience, assuming you had four controllers.

Nine years and \$1.7 billion in sales later, the franchise which brought us Master Chief, getting "stuck" and double-kills has entered its final iteration: the much anticipated *Halo: Reach* for the Xbox 360.

For the most part, *Reach* does not disappoint. The gameplay has been fleshed out, polished, and expanded. Enemies and allies are smarter and deadlier. The graphics are second to none, particularly the particle effects from explosions. The sound effects are fantastic; every noise one could find on the battlefield of the future is represented.

Reach's soundtrack is another excellent entry in the *Halo* franchise's fantastic musical repertoire. Tribal percussion and heavy guitar riffs coalesce beautifully in the game's "psych-up" tracks while strings and a full



Photos from Web.

choir add a deep element of emotion to the tragedy befalling the planet Reach. All of it resonates with that iconic and unforgettable "Halo" leitmotif, which is as recognizable to many as the sound of their parent's voice, something which says a lot about where our society is headed.

Major changes to the game include swappable armor abilities, such as temporary invincibility, invisibility, sprint, the bubble shield, and even a jetpack. The classic battle-rifle has been replaced by the semi-automatic Designated Marksman Rifle, or DMR. The assault rifle has received a predominantly visual makeover, while the iconic sniper rifle is more deadly than ever. The game's best weapons though, are part of the revamped Covenant arsenal which includes

the new needle rifle, the plasma repeater, a very loud sniper laser and a bazooka which fires plasma that locks onto enemies.

Additions to combat dynamics include weaker human shields and the return to a health bar system like that of the original *Halo*. The lack of magically recharging health necessitates a more tactical approach to combat, especially on higher difficulty settings. In fact, *Halo's* infamous Legendary difficulty returns in its toughest incarnation yet.

Finally, assassinations have been made more rewarding, as their proper execution now treats viewers to a highly satisfying third-person view of the whole sequence.

Vehicles have always been one of the defining elements of the *Halo* series. Venerable

fan favorites like the Warthog, Mongoose, and Scorpion tank all make a return. As do the classic Covenant Ghost and Wraith. New vehicle additions include the Falcon - a tilt-rotor helicopter which packs an autocannon and can carry a squad of Spartans, a new type of Warthog which fires volleys of missiles, and the Covenant Revenant - a fast moving hovercraft with a plasma cannon that can take out a Warthog in one shot. Until now, vehicle combat in *Halo* has been limited to inside the stratosphere, but for the first time in the series, players take the fight out of the atmosphere and into space. One of the game's most entertaining missions is predominantly spent in a human star-fighter blowing up Covenant spacecraft.

The single player campaign is all fine and dandy, but it wouldn't be *Halo* without multiplayer, and multiplayer has received some major upgrades. The ability to customize your character, a la *Halo 3*, has been completely revamped. *Reach's* new Armory feature allows players to customize numerous aspects of their character, from their armor parts to the ability to have confetti explode from their head upon being killed. However, unlike shooters such as *Call of Duty*, character customization has no impact on actual gameplay. The end result is hundreds of thousands of unique, purely aesthetic, character customizations. In addition, there are a plethora of new maps and game modes.

The cooperative firefight mode from *Halo 3: ODST* is now a matchmaking mode and boasts a number of improvements and additions. Completely new to matchmaking is the Invasion game mode in which a team of

six Spartans take on six Covenant elites in slayer or objective gametypes. Player progress is tracked through a revamped ranking system with higher ranks allowing for greater character customization. *Halo 3's* Forge feature has been improved in *Reach*, allowing players to make their own unique maps and gametypes. *Reach* even allows players to upload their creations onto the internet where other players can download them onto their own Xbox 360.

Halo: Reach is far from perfect. The game can often suffer from a low framerate, especially when in pitched combat. The ability to dual-wield weapons is conspicuously absent. The new multiplayer maps, for the most part, seem less inspired than those of past iterations. The campaign is too short. One of the original appeals of *Halo* was the sheer size and seeming vastness of the individual campaign levels. While *Halo 3* captured this feeling, *Halo: Reach* does not. Most of the action takes place either within buildings or noticeably constrained outdoor environments. Finally, despite being told in *Reach's* opening cutscene that your character's "lone wolf" exploits are over, and that Noble team, your new unit, fights as a group, you still spend much of the game, in the immortal words of Sarah Palin, "Going Rogue!"

All in all, *Halo: Reach* is a fantastic game, a significant source of procrastination from more important things like schoolwork or going to the bathroom, and a fitting swan song for one of video gaming's most beloved series. And so, *Halo: Reach* gets nine new aggressive camel mascots out of ten.



It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia Faces a Chance of Showers

SETH NIGROSH AND
ERIK LAFRANCE
CONTRIBUTORS

Charlie: "We'd be two cool, straight dudes married together."
Frank: "Oooh. Well, I never thought of it that way. Two dudes getting married, that doesn't seem very gay."

It's offensive, moronic and downright enjoyable. The new season of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* premiered Thursday, September 18.

Before we continue, it is important to remember what we've loved about the show in the past. Right off the bat, it has always been pretty damn funny. The characters are blatantly ridiculous. The show never pulls any punches and instead addresses delicate topics with a sledgehammer of comedy. Mac, Dee, Dennis, Charlie and Frank partake in total debauchery, and we eat it right up. Guilty pleasure? Perhaps. Do we care? Not at all.

The newest episode is called "Mac Fights Gay Marriage." Mac sees a post-op transsexual that he used to date before her operation, and he learns that she is now married. Mac, infuriated that she never called him after her surgery, decides to



Photo from Web.

fight her marriage on the basis that it is unnatural and immoral. All of the talk about marriage gets Dennis thinking about his old flame Maureen Ponderosa, who he meets again and hastily marries. Within hours he regrets this decision. Charlie and Frank begin the process of getting a domestic partnership so that Charlie can get health benefits and Dee sleeps with Maureen's brother, who is now far from the

attractive high school student he once was.

This episode, like many others, deals with an issue that is deeply important to many people. Regardless of which side of the marriage debate you find yourself on, most people are pretty passionate about it. Instead of dealing with gay marriage in contemplative seriousness, however, *It's Always Sunny...* gives us a nonpolitical and com-

pletely self-centered view and doesn't add substantively to any sort of rational debate. But that's the point, isn't it? This show is not about moralizing or human rights. This show is pure escapist humor. In this comedic universe, it's perfectly okay to be a fool, to ignore social norms, to laugh at serious subjects.

However, in all fairness, this is not our favorite episode. It comes off a bit formulaic. An issue sur-

rounded by controversy is taken and the gang exploits each side. Though the individual gags are hilarious, as always, the main plot seems fairly trite. It is still our favorite show and is better than most trash on television, but this episode is somewhat mechanical. It is not the worst episode, but for a season premiere for such a veteran show, many were expecting more. We are absolutely not deterred from this series and this season should be great as always, but as this program ages, it needs to employ some new tricks.

So whenever life gets too serious or makes too much sense, come on down to Paddy's Pub, where the atmosphere is chaotic and absurd and the good times are endless. The bathroom may include a glory hole and a urinal that sprays in one's face. The service is... nonexistent. If you want to get involved in crazy arguments, schemes and get rich quick plans, this is the place. If decency, manors, logic, intelligence and avoiding offensive issues are important features for a bar, turn the other way. While it may not always be perfect, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* never fails to deliver some laughs.

Ultimate Frisbee: Huckling Fantastic

EMMA WITTENBERG
CONTRIBUTOR

The rapidly growing national interest in Ultimate Frisbee has undoubtedly reached Conn this year. Both the women's and men's club teams have gotten off to a great start, highlighted by the women's team doubling in size within the past two weeks.

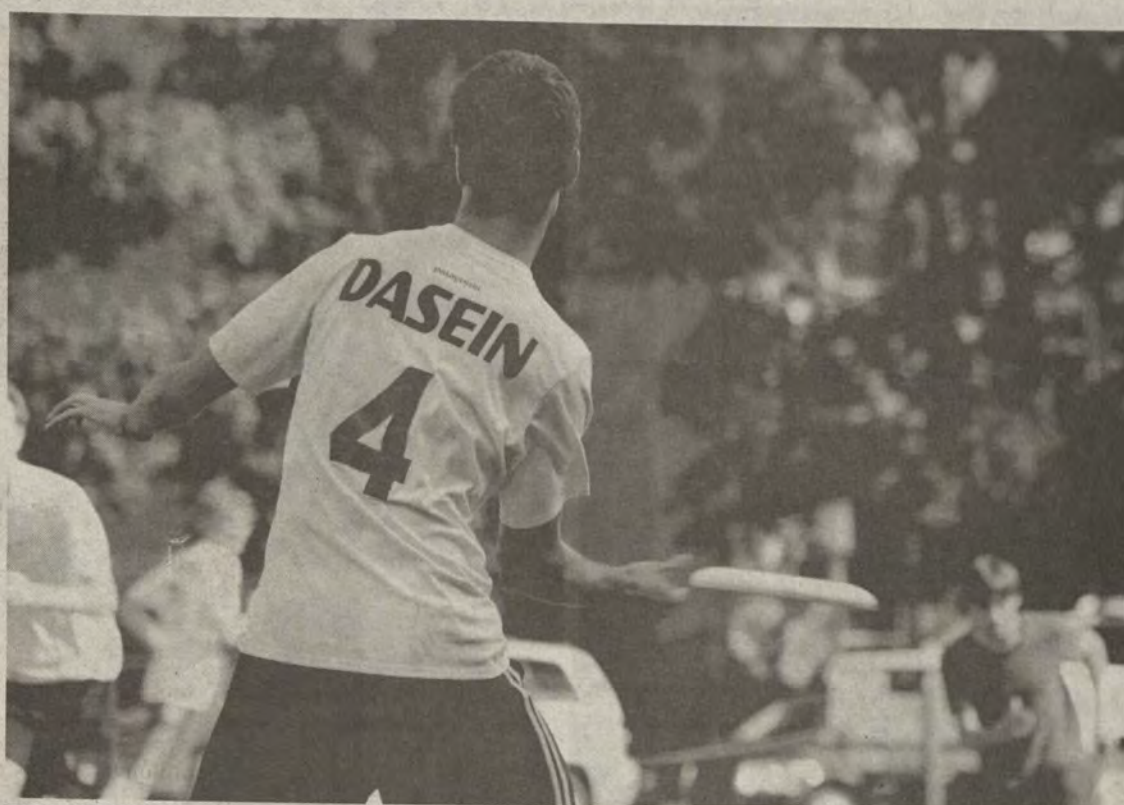
"The freshmen this year are really enthusiastic and I can already tell that there is a huge level of commitment to the team," said women's co captain Anna Membrino '11.

This is saying a lot considering the amount of time that each player dedicates to the team. With two-hour practices five days a week and many weekend tournaments, Club Ultimate is no joke. Men's co captains Jonah Guerin '11 and Max Weigert '13 are setting the bar high for their team.

"Our goal for this year is to make regionals and play with some of the best teams in New England," said Guerin. "I'm confident in our team because we have some promising young talent this year."

The women's team also has great new goals for their significantly larger team. "Since we have so many returning players because there were no seniors on the team last year, we really want to work on setting up a solid foundation for the team that will last for years," explained co-captain Meg Dolben '12. "We're so excited about how fast the women's team is growing."

Along with all this new talent comes even more passion for the game. Freshman Conor McCormick-Cavanagh is trying out Ultimate for the first time and



HADLEY BROOKS/STAFF

is already loving it.

"To be honest, I've started to think about frisbee every night before bed. I played other sports in high school, but it's really exciting to be learning a new sport with a team that is so supportive," said McCormick-Cavanaugh.

There's no denying the sense of closeness and friendship between players on both teams. "Our weekend tournaments give us a lot of time to bond with each other and become closer," explained Membrino. "We even have team dinners sometimes at Winchester House."

It seems that Ultimate has helped many players on both teams to find their niche within the Conn community. The week-long tournament in Georgia, in which both teams participate, is a fun way for players to get to know each other both on and off the field. Ray Hawkins '13 summed up his experience simply: "Joining Ultimate was one of the best choices I've made at Conn."

The men's team, Dasein, has already had their first tournament this past weekend in Middletown, New York, where the newcomers had a chance to experience the game at the college level for the first time. The women's team, Camel Throws, have their first tournament coming up. Both teams will be competing in a tournament on campus in late October. Dasein's A team will be competing on October 23 and 24. Their B team will compete on October 30. The Camel Throws are competing in a women's tournament on October 30.

Life of a Water-Baller

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

After warm up, you'll most likely do a heavy swim set that'll test your stamina and speed. By the end of the morning swim practice, you could have swum anywhere from 2000-4000 yards—between 80-160 laps. You get out of the pool, exhaustedly shower and hopefully go back to campus to nap, but many have early classes at 8 or 9 AM.

You come back down to the pool by 4 PM. Sore from the morning, you try and get some early stretches in, maybe use the elastic bands for your shoulders. Despite your protests, your teammate still refuses to turn off his repetitive techno as you eventually give up, too tired to argue. You go to the locker room in efforts to repeat the morning procedure but find it more and more difficult, as the prospect of putting on a cold, wet Speedo does not seem pleasant. You do so anyways with the team yelling at you to hurry up and eventually find yourself at the pool deck with seven other teammates pulling the pool's ridiculously heavy bulkhead.

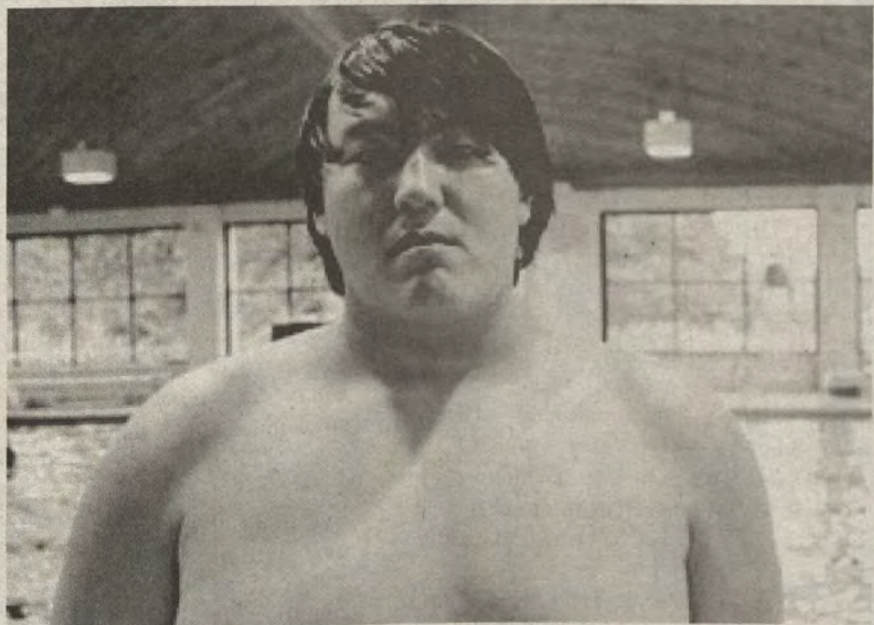
You get in for an easy 500 warm up again, similar to this morning. After the warm up, you are relieved to see Coach JJ throw brightly colored water polo balls into the water and tell you to start passing. After 15-20 minutes or so of balls zipping through the air and a couple catching you in the back of the head, you do some light "shooting" on the wall of goalie Clayton Witter '13, who'll easily shatter your confidence, was ranked 6th in the country in the number of saves his previous rookie season.

Shooting in water polo is an interesting concept. It requires the shooter to propel himself out of the water while treading with an "eggbeater" kick and then throwing a ball at the peak of your "jump." Teammates like Sam Mitchell '12 will make you wonder whether he has fins on underwater when he treads out of the water waist-high. After some shooting, Coach JJ blows his whistle to begin counter drills on the goal, requiring a player to sprint down the pool from a tread start while being chased by a teammate as he receives a ball and attempts to shoot on the goalie on a sprint. After going through this drill with a number of variations for about twenty times, it's time to scrimmage.

Scrimmages, although considered the most "fun" part of practice, should not be taken lightly, or else JJ will not be too happy. At any moment, he can change the practice and force you to do jumping jacks in the water, which reminds you to work your ass off in the scrimmage. You'll scrimmage to the point of exhaustion, sprinting up and down the pool after turnovers.

Lately, with so many injured players, JJ himself, the young 31 year-old coach and former star of the 7-time national champion USC team, will jump in and play on one of the teams due to its inability to field a full scrimmage. He'll dominate you and make it look easy while you wrestle with him just to stay afloat. After fifteen minutes of scrimmaging or so, you'll do some six-on-five "man up" drills while in a state of exhaustion, and then practice is over.

Get out, do some stretching, set up the pool again and shower as you hungrily antici-



Hahn Je '11 enjoys his daily water polo routine. Photo courtesy of conncoll.edu

pate the fine dining services of Harris.

These daily events have become a ritual on the men's team over the past couple of weeks. They reflect the dedication its members have in bringing Camel pride and making this year the most competitive and intense season the program has ever known. So next time you see Sean Hackett '12 with bags of ice on his shoulder or a limping Ryan Pelham '12, or Sam Burns '13, and you say hello and he responds with a grunt of exhaustion, give him a pat on the back. Ask how they're doing, do them a favor or come support them at their games this season. And be sure to come down for this year's Men's National Division III championships hosted by Conn during the weekend of October 23-24.



POWER RANKINGS

compiled by the tufts daily

The Middlebury Panthers took the biggest hit in this week's installment of the NESCAC power rankings, falling from second overall to fourth, primarily due to the 1-2-1 in-conference record of the women's soccer team. As a result, Amherst moved up into second, with Tufts sliding into third. The Williams Ephs still sit comfortably in first place, and still hold the top spot in both men's and women's soccer.

After a brief stint in seventh place, Trinity reclaimed its spot in the middle of the pack, settling into fifth place after a seventh-place showing in Week 2. The bottom four -- Wesleyan, Colby, Bates and Hamilton -- all remained unchanged.

THIS WEEK	SCHOOL	FOOTBALL	MEN'S SOCCER	WOMEN'S SOCCER	FIELD HOCKEY	VOLLEY-BALL	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
1	WILLIAMS	2.2	1.6	1.2	7.4	4.2	3.32	1 ↔
2	AMHERST	1.4	3.0	2.0	5.8	6.6	3.76	3 ↑
3	TUFTS	5.8	6.0	4.2	1.4	1.4	3.76	4 ↑
4	MIDDLEBURY	4.2	2.0	6.8	5.4	4.0	4.48	2 ↓
5	TRINITY	2.4	8.4	3.4	3.4	5.6	4.64	7 ↑
6	BOWDOIN	6.6	5.8	6.2	2.0	4.2	4.96	5 ↓
7	CONN. COLLEGE	—	6.4	9.4	5.8	2.2	5.95	6 ↓
8	WESLEYAN	5.8	6.0	5.4	4.8	8.0	6.00	8 ↔
9	COLBY	8.4	8.2	8.4	9.0	9.6	8.72	9 ↔
10	BATES	10.0	7.6	8.0	10.0	9.2	8.96	10 ↔
11	HAMILTON	8.2	—	—	—	11.0	9.60	11 ↔

The poll was devised as follows: Each voter ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport, and those scores were averaged to create a composite ranking for each sport. The composites were then averaged to determine each school's overall ranking. Note that Hamilton does not compete in field hockey, men's soccer or women's soccer in the NESCAC, and Conn. College does not compete in football.

This week's list was determined by polling Amro El-Adle (Amherst Student), James Reedy & Seth Walder (Bowdoin Orient), Nick Woolf & Mike Flint (Conn. College Voice), Ann Curtis and Emily Gittleman (Trinity Tripod) and Alex Prewitt (Tufts Daily).

DESIGNED BY STEVEN SMITH/TUFTS DAILY

Chix with Stix

Field hockey team enjoys strong start to its season

NICK WOOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

The field hockey team is off to one of their best starts of the past decade. After a tough 3-6 loss to Amherst this past Saturday, the team sits with a 4-1 overall record and a 2-1 record in NESCAC play.

Last week, senior captain Abby Hine was named the NESCAC player of the week, as she led the Camels to convincing victories over Springfield, Williams and Eastern Connecticut State. When asked about this award, she said, "I'm honored and really proud to even be named for that, but I attribute most of it to the team."

The team's fast start this season can be partially attributed to the leadership of Hine and her fellow captains Jess Lewis '11 and Liz Rosenfeld '12. Hine says it is also due to the

fact that the entire team "came in shape, knowing we needed to be ready from day one. We also read *Into Thin Air* and worked on our mental edge over the summer in order to gain more confidence and reduce our fears." This edge has manifested in the competitive play of the entire team during their first few games of the season.

Of course, the tri-captains haven't been the only players to step up for Conn this fall. The freshmen have made big contributions on offense and defense. Aimee Rich '14 has been a protective force as goalie, and a new offensive strategy has also involved several of the freshmen. According

to Hine, "We have a new system this year where four forwards are on the field instead of three. This gives us a new offensive threat."

Despite all of the positive changes being made this year, the team has already had to overcome a devastating injury to forward Lauren Gaffny '12. The junior tore her ACL during a routine practice; however, she aims to return this season after undergoing surgery. Ligament injuries are certainly serious, but it is a testament to Gaffny's dedication to the team that she's willing to make the extra effort to return as soon as possible.

As mentioned above, the Camels have an impressive 4-1 record this season, yet they've still managed to stay below the radar of fan awareness on campus. While

the volleyball and soccer teams have enjoyed large crowds of enthusiastic, cheering Conn students at home, the field hockey team still lacks a comparable turnout at any of their home games. Hine encourages her fellow students to change this, saying "field hockey is worth watching...we put in so much time, and fan support would mean a lot. Unfortunately, right now our team doesn't think too much about school support during games."

The Camel field hockey team needs your support at home during and immediately after fall break. Their next games at Silfen field will be played against Trinity, Tufts and Middlebury on October 9, 13 and 16, respectively.



Abby Hine '11 (right) and Kelsey Nickerson '13 prepare for action.

A Day in the Life of a Water Polo Baller

HAHN JE
CONTRIBUTOR

While most Conn students are still well into a REM cycle by 6AM, many varsity fall athletes will have one or two morning workouts or a lift session per week. The men's water polo team in particular has had three morning practices a week since they first arrived on campus the Sunday following freshmen move-in day. Beginning with three-a-day practices that first week, they now currently have eight two-hour sessions of practice weekly. CC men's water polo has trained for roughly seventy hours in the past four weeks.

But how is this season any different from previous seasons?

For the past few years, the men's team has been plagued with every form of bad luck one could imagine, including limited team size, injuries and even a broken team van window that occurred in Boston. While many other CC teams can and are allowed to recruit classes upwards of 5-7 people, both the men's and women's teams are lucky to cumulatively recruit two players a year. But despite all of the hardships and difficulties

the team has faced, this year the future looks brighter.

Currently, CC men's water polo is still a small fish in a very large pond, having played three teams this past weekend, two of which are ranked among the top twenty Division I teams in the country. Unlike any other team at Conn, the men's team is not a member of the NESCAC league, but the northern conference of the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA), in which five of the eight teams are Division I teams. But despite these challenges, a highly skilled recruiting class, an extremely intense and rigorous preseason, has given the program hope and an edge to improve by leaps and bounds this year. As a handful of former potential recruits who could not handle the preseason would tell you, this sport is not for the faint of heart.

So what does a normal men's water polo player's day consist of? Let me give you an example of what it's like.

Your alarm goes off, blaring at 5:30 AM on a typical Tuesday. You drowsily open your eyes and see that the sky is still pitch black, wondering why you are up at such a godforsaken hour. You remind yourself that for every

minute you're late to practice, the team is forced to swim more laps as you reluctantly pull yourself out of bed to shut off your alarm.

Your body fails to respond to your brain the first time as everything hurts. With stiff knees, sore abs and probably wrecked shoulders, it becomes a mental challenge to just wake up in preparation for 6 AM morning practice. You get dressed and walk across the cold, dark campus to the AC bridge while your non-athlete friends are warm and snug under their comforters in bed.

As you come down and open the pool door, the unholy sound of a teammate's blasting techno music makes sure you're awake if the walk hasn't done it for you. You groggily put on your cold, damp suit, grab your goggles and start off the morning with Ab Ripper from the infamous P90X workout program. Covered in sweat, you come back downstairs to Lott Natatorium and take a quick shower before jumping into the frigid pool. 500 yards, or twenty lengths, is a simple warm up followed by four lengths (100 yards) of treading with your hands out of the water.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



A Conn student shows her Camel pride on Tempel Green.

SGA's School Pride Initiative Kicks Off with Athletics

MOLLY BANGS
CONTRIBUTOR

SGA President Nate Cornell based his campaign in May on increasing community pride and engagement. He by no means meant to suggest that Conn lacks school pride, but as the centennial approaches, Cornell wants to ensure that any sense of apathy on campus is avoided.

Last weekend, SGA launched their 2010 initiative to reach out and engage the student body. They began with the promotion of athletic events as a motivational first step.

SGA has every intention of spreading the initiative further, whether it is to academic lectures or the LGBTQ center. However, since the athletics here at Conn are such a dominant force on campus, it seemed an appropriate place to begin. Conn athletic shirts were given away as promotion for the initiative at the men's soccer game versus Williams as well as the women's volleyball game against the same NESCAC powerhouse.

When asked about Conn's sense of pride while watching a home soccer match against the neighboring Coast Guard Academy, Emily Caplan '14 said that "the turnout at the soccer games says a lot about our school—that we're a close knit community that supports our teams even though we're not D1."

Her classmate Lily Plotkin '14 added, "I came from a high school that had no school spirit, so it was something I always wanted when looking for a college. In just four weeks here, I've definitely seen a lot of it!" It seems as though the initiative is

off to a good start.

With approximately 450 varsity student-athletes, almost a quarter of the students here are competing at the NCAA division three level. Hundreds more are involved in club sports as well, and even those who are not actively enjoy the picturesque Tempel Green, striking arboretum and state of the art fitness center. It is the norm for the Dawley Fields and the winding trails that loop around them to be overflowing with various teams or sole runners merely enjoying an afternoon jog between classes.

Being a Camel athlete does not just mean that an athlete is talented on their field (whatever kind it may be), that he or she represents CC wearing blue and white at all competitions across New England and that he or she is eligible to sit on the right hand side of Harris, though all of these components may be true. It's not even playing winning games, ranking high in our conference or drawing the large crowds to the competitions that SGA is striving for. These things are all due to the persona of a Camel—intelligent, willing and able, but most importantly, one of a team and of the greater community on campus.

Even for the sports that might fall through the cracks—admittedly, cross country, for example, might not be the most spectator-friendly activity—the familiar "Awww, CC!" preceding any and all events echoes loud and clear.

So, Conn, SGA is challenging you: get outside this weekend, if you aren't already, and let those camels know you hear them!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Volleyball (8-3):

9/25 Conn 3 - 0 Colby
9/25 Conn 0 - 3 North Park U.
9/24 Conn 2 - 3 Wellesley
9/24 Conn 2 - 3 DeSales U.

Field Hockey (4-1):

9/25 Conn 3 - 6 Amherst
9/21 Conn 6 - 0 Eastern Conn St.

Men's Soccer (2-2-1):

9/25 Conn 0 - 2 Amherst
9/22 Conn 0 - 2 Coast Guard

Women's Soccer (2-2-1):

9/25 Conn 1 - 1 Amherst
9/21 Conn 2 - 0 UMass-Dartmouth

Sailing:

9/19 8 out of 18 teams @ Hatch
Brown Trophy at MIT and BU
9/19 1 out of 19 teams @ Mrs.
Hurst Bowl at Dartmouth College

Women's Cross-Country:

9/25 12 out of 19 teams @ Purple
Valley Classic

Men's Cross-Country:

9/25 10 out of 18 teams @
Williams College Invitational

Men's Water Polo (0-3):

9/25 Conn 5 - 20 Queens College
9/25 Conn 0 - 18 St. Francis
9/24 Conn 2 - 19 Brown

Volleyball:

vs. ST. JOSEPH'S: Tuesday, Sept. 28 @ 7 PM in Luce Fieldhouse
vs. TUFTS: Friday, Oct. 1 @ 8:30 PM at Wesleyan University
vs. BOWDOIN: Saturday, Oct. 2 @ 11 AM at Wesleyan University

Men's Soccer:

vs. UMASS-DARTMOUTH: Tuesday, Sept. 28 @ 12:00 PM on Tempel Green

Sailing:

CONN COLLEGE INVITATIONAL: Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 2-3
@ 9:30 AM on the Thames River