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### College Voice Vol. 95 No. 4

Connecticut College

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Connecticut College, "College Voice Vol. 95 No. 4" (2011). *2011-2012*. 16.  
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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011

VOLUME XCV • ISSUE 4

## Beginning with Beginnings

DAVID SHANFIELD  
NEWS EDITOR

The pinnacle of Connecticut College's centennial celebrations took place this weekend, starting with fireworks on Friday night, and ending with the Centennial Gala on Saturday evening.

Perhaps the most widely advertised of all of the centennial events was the "100 Years of Great Beginnings" presentation, promoted as "The Big Event" which took place in Palmer Auditorium on Saturday, October 22 at 9:45 AM. A crowd started gathering outside of Palmer about forty-five minutes before the presentation began and by the time it had begun, the auditorium was completely filled.

The Big Event began with a brief skit depicting the conception and construction of Connecticut College for Women. After that initial performance, the production began to pick up pace and one by one, various speakers took the stage.



College President Leo Higdon addressed the crowd with a brief introduction, acknowledging the unique connections that so many people have with Connecticut College. Before turning the stage over to SGA President Diane Essis '12, President Higdon stated that "this liberal arts education is the best preparation for life and career" and that the diversity of the speakers was a testament to that.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Republican Presidential Debates Are Must-See GOP TV



Texas governor and former cable news flavor of the week Rick Perry, showing Lone Star State Longhorn pride.

ETHAN HARFENIST  
OPINIONS EDITOR

My new favorite television show: Republican National Debates. A few beers, a few friends and it's a guaranteed laugh-party every single episode. October 18 was no exception. This show proved to me that it has staying power, getting a little more ridiculous with each successive episode while still maintaining its core appeal. It's a shame that reality shows like this have to vote contestants off in order

to "stay relevant" and "choose one Presidential candidate" because I would love to see this same gang have it out every single episode (with the notable exception of Jon Huntsman, who was not present during the last debate because he was campaigning in the early primary state of New Hampshire).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## The Centennial Project



CANDACE TAYLOR  
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, the Connecticut College Theater Department presented an original work entitled *Foundation, Dreams, and Inspirations: The Centennial Project* to the Connecticut College community in multiple sold-out performances. Students, alumni, faculty and staff flocked to Tansill Theater to witness the performance for themselves. The audiences met the Centennial Project Ensemble, the creators of the Centennial Project, a cast of twelve students and one alumnus director, with eager anticipation. I found myself, much like my fellow audience members, caught up in the excitement of my expectations.

As I waited for the performance to begin, I read through the dramaturgical note included in the program. My understanding of the purpose of the project grew. I learned of the personal connection that the participants of the project had developed in their creation of the work. They had explored the college's archives, engaged with alumni and reflected on their own experiences and connections to the experiences they were learning about. I was truly astounded by how much effort went into the process of creating this performance and my admiration of the ensemble was affirmed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



## Where Is Our Pride in Camel Athletics?

NICK RODRICKS  
CONTRIBUTOR

The Connecticut College website boasts of twenty-eight varsity teams and hundreds of varsity athletes. The website also mentions that we play in the "New England Small College Athletic Conference" or the NESCAC as it is so awkwardly abbreviated. For a school like Conn to be playing against such incredibly reputable schools as Middlebury, Bowdoin or Williams is a serious feather in the proverbial cap. Conn is an elite liberal arts college and our association with such prestigious colleges only furthers that reputation. Yet, the other schools in the NES-

CAC boast not only superb academics but also superb athletics. It's time Conn starts to up the athletic ante to keep up with our competitors.

Overall I would not say that Conn is a school that takes much pride in athletics. Most students are likely unaware that the women's volleyball team is currently in third place in the NESCAC or that Laura Sanderson '14 was NESCAC field hockey player of the week in September. Our attendance at sporting events is sparse and sporadic, our facilities are lacking and our athletes are generally under represented. The enthusiasm found at other schools is nearly absent at Connecticut College and for

a four-year varsity athlete this is beyond frustrating.

With the exception of Bates, which seems to be the perennial NESCAC

*We've had athletes submit incredible personal records, all-NESCAC nominees and even a national champion in the long jump. Yet collectively, Conn simply does not seem to win or, for that matter, really want to win.*

doormat, most other schools manage to win the occasional championship, some nearly every year. In the last ten years Connecticut College has

not won a single NESCAC championship in any sport. Surfing the NESCAC website, I couldn't even find mention of Conn as a runner-up. As proof of this I suggest everyone takes a trip to the Athletic Center and checks out our trophy case (if you can find it). We've had athletes submit incredible personal records, all-NESCAC nominees and even a national champion in the long jump. Yet collectively, Conn simply does not seem to win or, for that matter, really want to win. Other schools possess a refreshing arrogance about their athletes, building them exclusive gyms and advertising their games as if they mean something.

I'm not saying that all of the school's money should go towards athletics, I'm simply arguing for a change in culture.

I know that some people simply do not care for sports. This is understandable as we all have different tastes and preferences. Just as Shakespeare has rarely appealed to me, soccer may not be your game.

Yet I find it nearly inexcusable to lack school pride in a general sense. Some of this fault falls on the shoulders of an ambivalent student body while some of it falls on an athletic department that seems (with a few exceptions) completely stagnant.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### NEWS



5 | Occupy... Bank Street

#### OPINIONS



8 | One Hundred Years of Activism

#### ARTS



10 | The Centennial Project

#### SPORTS



12 | Club Soccer Stays True to the Game



## EDITORIALS /// LETTERS

OCTOBER 24, 2011

## THE COLLEGE VOICE

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## Editorials

Last week, President Higdon wrote an article for the Huffington Post emphasizing the strengths of a liberal arts education, in response to Florida Governor Rick Scott's desire for public funding for more "practical" majors such as the physical sciences, mathematics and engineering.

The liberal arts have always been scrutinized. The irony is that a good deal of this scrutiny comes from liberal arts students themselves. I am often quick to jokingly describe my English/Film Studies double major as useless, but why is that? In today's working world, even getting a "practical" job as an engineer or scientist has become frustratingly difficult. We're living in an economy where getting hired as an investment banker is as difficult as finding an employer that is impressed by your dance degree. Do the humanities really need any more defending?

I have never been able to take the criticism of the liberal arts seriously. To me, dissenters of liberal arts degrees have seemed incredibly narrow-minded. To dismiss an entire branch of academia as mere fluff is to reject an integral part of human intellectual accomplishment. People like Governor Scott have always struck me as being vaguely paranoid at the idea of a future in which everyone in the United States isn't a nuclear physicist. The assumption seems to be that if too many students major in anthropology, the country will be taken over by more advanced nations made up entirely of math geniuses and super scientists. Nobody wants that to happen, but if it does, it's not going to be because college students studied something "impractical." There are no "impractical" majors; the merits of each field of study should, at this point, be self-evident.

The problem is that many students feel the need to be self-deprecating when it comes to the subject of their majors, because of a fear that their education will be spiritually fulfilling, but realistically ineffective. Even as we are studying we are often reinforcing the notion that the classes we are taking are useless-- it's hard to think of the everyday skills one can gain from courses like "Imaginary Gardens, Real Toads." Students often complain about "gen eds" being a waste of time, but it never hurts to broaden your knowledge. My freshman year I learned how to read music and translate dense literary theory into plain English. Can I apply those skills directly to a future employment opportunity? No,

but I can assure you that it has greatly augmented my ability to analyze information and think in ways that I am not used to thinking. In his article, President Higdon mentioned some familiar key words that I often hear regarding the benefits of a liberal arts education: critical thinking, problem-solving and communications. While I don't think those skills alone are enough to ensure a lucrative career, I do think that they seek to make us as students more flexible in our ability to tackle situations, and in a job market that is constantly shifting that seems like a valuable set of skills to have. That, in the long run, isn't just going to help me get a job; it's helping me grow as a human being. I would like to think that the more "practical" majors strut across campus with complete confidence in themselves and their educational decisions, but they don't. The truth is, we're all a little unsure of what comes next.

I can't speak for everyone. I'm only a sophomore, and I can't say with any certainty what my post-graduation plans are, but that doesn't mean I'm walking around campus petrified of tomorrow. The future might be frightening in some ways, but I think that people get too caught up in that fear. Governor Scott's idea of "practical" majors completely discredits the value of a liberal arts education in the job market: education cannot be measured. I don't think I'm deluding myself when I say I should be able to find some kind of a job after college. I'm not saying it will be easy, but I refuse to believe that what I'm doing is a waste of time.

- Jerell Mays  
Opinions Editor

## Free Speech

(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](http://www.thecollegevoice.org/contact-us/submitletter) or by emailing it to [eic@thecollegevoice.org](mailto:eic@thecollegevoice.org).

## World News

ATLAS has compiled headlines of world news not normally seen on the front page of the New York Times.

**THE AMERICAS**

**BOLIVIA--** Bolivian crowds greet road protesters in La Paz. After a two-month march, 1,000 indigenous Amazonian protestors refuse to leave La Paz until plans to build a road through the Amazon Rainforest are cancelled. The Bolivian government claims the project will boost the economy. The protestors say it will lead to the construction of illegal settlements and the destruction of the forest.

**OCEANIA**

**AUSTRALIA--** A whopping 22.6% of all the land in Tasmania is set aside for the purpose of recreation and conservation.

**AFRICA**

**LIBYA--** Recently deceased former Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi, has been in the headlines for the last months. But due to the difficulty translating Arabic to English, there are several different translations and 112 different spellings to his name in the press.

**EUROPE**

**SPAIN--** In a message delivered to the BBC, the Basque separatist group known as ETA declared an end to armed conflict. Over the course of the last forty years, the group killed 800 people. A French and Spanish crackdown involving the imprisonment of many ETA leaders recently weakened the group. Representatives say that they will utilize peaceful and democratic methods in the future. The Spanish government declared that it would not negotiate for Basque self-determination until ETA disbands. Although the group has abandoned previous ceasefires, the lull in violence over the last few years and the lack of protests in recent months suggests that a transition is taking place.

**ASIA PACIFIC**

**INDIA--** Thirty-two people died and 132 people injured after a bridge collapsed in Darjeeling.

**SOUTH ASIA**

**PHILIPPINES--** Activists from around the world show their support for the Occupy Wall Street protesters by marching to the United States' Embassy in their areas. On October 17th, around 100 Filipinos rallied to the U.S Embassy in Manila. One of the banners from Manila read, "Resist imperialist plunder, state repression and wars of aggression," reflecting the sentiments of their fellow protesters.



## Monday

Lecture: From Hillary Clinton to Rick Perry:

Producing Serious Journalism  
about Colorful Political Figures

@ 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM | Blaustein 210

Josh Green, political correspondent for Business Week magazine, discusses being all about the Benjamins, baby.

## Tuesday

Lecture: "The Trouble with Faith:  
Rethinking Islam and Intersectionality in  
Europe"

@ 4:15 PM | Blaustein 201

## Wednesday

Lecture: Architecture and Sustainability  
in the Design of the New Science  
Center

@ 4:30 PM | Charles Chu Room

## Thursday

Lecture: Architecture and Sustainability  
in the Design of the New Science Center

@ 4:30 PM | Charles Chu Room

Sprout Garden  
Farmer's Market

12 PM | Cro Info Desk

Get some gourds! Get 'em!

## Friday

Lecture: "The 1500 Mile Salad the Myth of 'Eat Local':  
The Case of Tuscan Butcher Dario Cecchini"

4:30 PM | Charles Chu Room

Beyond Awareness: Careers Working to Create Change  
"Cyber Espionage"

@ 4PM | Charles Chu Room

VISIT

THECOLLEGEVOICE.ORG

FOR THIS WEEK'S

SLIDESHOWS AND VIDEO COVERAGE



Occupy Wall Street



Voice Yr Opinion: On the Street Interviews



# Beginning with Beginnings

## Conn celebrates its Centennial with "Big Event"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Essis spoke about a recent visit to her grandmother's village on the Ivory Coast, where the expression "it takes a village to raise a child" resonates in a literal sense. She compared the village's community, which revolves around collaboration and collective efforts, to the community at Conn.

After Essis had finished, Christina Balkaran '12 spoke about how Conn helped her find not only her passion for astronomy, but also an internship at the Keck Observatory in Hawaii, an opportunity that, only a few years ago, Balkaran would never have thought possible.

The next speaker was Samuel Garner, a graduate from the class of 2007. The Big Event website stated that Garner was to speak "about his experience as a philosophy student and varsity swimmer at Connecticut College and the impact it had on his passion for food ethics." However, Garner did not at all mention his experience as a varsity swimmer or, for that matter, anything about his experience at Conn. Instead, Garner spoke about the negative effects that the consumption of meat has on our bodies, the environment and the world in general, and he invited the audience to explore the prospect of becoming vegetarian or vegan.

The next alumna to speak was Stefanie Zdravec '90, an award-winning playwright and mother of two boys, one of whom has a rare lung disease known as NEHI, while the other was recently diagnosed with autism. While attending Connecticut College, Zdravec lost her mother to cancer, an experience that led her to discover that within our own college community, "there is always help and hope available to you if you just learn how to ask for it." Zdravec ended her speech with the insight that "great beginnings do not have to be perfect beginnings."

Michael Collier '76 then read his poem, "Six Reveries on the Occasion of the Connecticut College Centennial,"

which addressed almost all aspects of Conn, from students' relationships with professors to the beauty of the campus. The poem was followed by a short speech via virtual projection by Tim Armstrong '93, chief executive officer of AOL. Armstrong explained how Conn's community model inspired him to co-found Patch.com, a "community-specific news and information platform dedicated to providing comprehensive and trusted local coverage for individual towns and communities."

The next speaker, David Barber '88, co-owner of Blue Hill Farm and Restaurant, also spoke about how his time and experiences at Conn prepared him for building a sustainable food business. Barber compared a flowchart of the aspects of Conn's community to his own business model for resilience and sustainability. He described both as examples of strong and self-sufficient systems.

The Big Event came to a close with the singing of Richard Schenk's "Centennial Song," accompanied by a small orchestra and student dancers. At the end of the song, the audience flooded out of Palmer to experience Harvestfest, the Gala and all of the other events that this Centennial Weekend had to offer. •



Professors and alumni performing Richard Schenk's "Centennial Song."

HANNAH PLUSHTIN / PHOTO EDITOR



ZHIBANG LIU / CONTRIBUTOR



TANAHA SIMON / PHOTO EDITOR



HANNAH PLUSHTIN / PHOTO EDITOR



ZHIBANG LIU / CONTRIBUTOR

## Reality and Fiction

ANDREA AMULIC  
STAFF WRITER

Dinaw Mengestu is a critically acclaimed, award-winning novelist, one of The New Yorker's "Twenty Under Forty" young writers and the author of two hauntingly beautiful novels that explore questions of displacement, identity and culture. He is an immigrant to the United States from Ethiopia, an expatriate from America to France and a self-proclaimed fan of gin-and-tonics. Dinaw Mengestu is a storyteller.

On Wednesday, October 19, Mengestu gave a reading in the Charles Chu Room in Shain Library to a crowd of students and faculty, described by Professor Jeff Strabone as an "enthusiastic turnout." Anna Williams '13 attended the reading even though it was not required by any of her classes. "Some of my friends had read his work and really enjoyed it, and I thought it would be a great opportunity to hear a successful writer talk about his work firsthand," she said.

A group of students from Professor Strabone's African Novels class and Professor Blanche Boyd's Writing Seminar were fortunate enough

to meet with Mengestu for an hour before the reading, during which his novels and his work were discussed in depth, followed by dinner.

Mengestu's first novel, *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears*, tells the story of Sepha Stephanos, an Ethiopian man living in Washington, D. C., searching for a place for himself in America. His second novel, *How to Read the Air*, follows Jonas Woldemariam, the son of Ethiopian immigrants to America, as he struggles to fill in the gaps in the stories of his parents' lives.

Despite writing about characters that are immigrants to America and, despite being an immigrant himself, Mengestu rejects being classified as "an immigrant writer." During the talk before the reading, Mengestu spoke about his strong opposition to the categorization of his novels as "immigrant novels." "I hate that term. I write novels with immigrant characters, but the lives of these characters aren't defined by or dependent upon them being migrants; these characters are from Africa, but are telling an American story."

He joked about the tendency of critics and readers to impose his biography on his narratives, and said, "I

could write a novel about a group of white, middle-aged women in Connecticut, and the reviewers would say that I was finding a new way to tell an immigrant story." He expressed his appreciation for the American literary canon as being flexible enough to include the work of immigrants. "America is a unique nation in that its literary tradition is not defined by origin and is always growing in scope and diversity." Mengestu also stated that he feels more American after each book he writes.

When asked why he decided to become a novelist, Mengestu spoke about his lifelong search for narra-

*"I could write a novel about a group of white, middle-aged women in Connecticut, and the reviewers would say that I was finding a new way to tell an immigrant story."*

- Dinaw Mengestu

tive and identity, and revealed that he writes to make sense of the world and his place in it. Almost jokingly, he said, "I grew up hearing a lot of stories about Ethiopia. No, wait, I'm lying already—I didn't hear any stories about Ethiopia when I was growing up, it just sounds more romantic to say that. All I had, really, was a list of names and no real narrative." So he began to write, creating stories in order to understand his own place in America.

Before he began reading from his second novel, Mengestu described the book as an argument for fiction, saying, "The stories we create have just as much meaning as the truth, as long as they are real to us." He prefaced the reading with a disclaimer that the book is not autobiographical. He then delved into a rhythmic reading of a particularly striking chapter, in

which the novel's protagonist invents and shares the story of his father's escape from Ethiopia with his students. The author admitted to "stealing details" from his own life to create his stories, and about how the people closest to someone are often the biggest mysteries.

Mengestu discussed his writing process with the students who met with him before the reading, and explained he usually writes from beginning to end, guided consistently by the voice of the novel's protagonist. "My books begin with a character, a voice," he explained, "I write to figure out what the voice is saying." He attributed the failure of his first attempted novel to its lack of strong characters and dependence on ideas and abstraction to tell a story. "I was afraid to create strong characters that were similar to me, yet still fictional. I couldn't turn my family members' narratives into fiction yet."

His first successful novel, however, was heavily indebted to his family members and their stories; he named the characters after his relatives and interviewed his family in order to finally hear the stories that he grew up without. He spoke about the reactions of his family members to his utilization of their lives in his work, and said, "I think they were just happy that I cared. I was telling the stories that they were incapable of sharing and, in a way, was making their narratives permanent." He cited authors like V. S. Naipaul and Saul Bellow as major influences and even, somewhat jokingly, alluded to undertones of Chaucer in his work.

Mengestu described his writing and his construction of his own identity as "a way to reconcile an Ethiopian past and an American present." He talked about America as the only country in which an immigrant can will himself into becoming an American, and said that his idea of the American dream is not defined by the acquisition of material goods, but rather by becoming a part of America. "The objects of life are not life," he said. •

## Professor Profile:



PHOTO FROM WEB

## Charles Hartman

CANDACE TAYLOR  
STAFF WRITER

Each Monday and Wednesday, Professor Charles Hartman walks into English 240: Reading and Writing Poetry with a cup of coffee, a stack of papers and a short and snappy greeting to the class. He takes attendance and hands back assignments. He engages in witty banter with his eager students, then commences to share his abundance of knowledge with them.

I wanted to find out more about Professor Hartman, something to identify him beyond superficial descriptions such as "the man with the circle framed glasses" or, more often, "the guy with the bald head."

In a brief interview, I began to do just that.

Professor Hartman is an expert in the world of poetry. He has published books, created computer software, given presentations and written essays all about poetry. Most prominently, he even crafts his very own poems.

Arriving at Conn in 1984, initially teaching just one class in poetry each semester, he has remained with the college for the past twenty-seven years and has become a tenured professor in the Department of Literatures in English. He has enjoyed the benefits of Conn's small college setting to engage students in the classroom and "enable and almost force conversation across the boundaries among disciplines and departments and divisions."

As a student in one of Professor Hartman's Reading and Writing Poetry (one of his favorite courses to teach), I've been exposed to his masterful teaching techniques. He engages with his students in class by drawing from the world outside of the classroom to make connections with the basic questions of poetry.

It is apparent that he is "continually excited about exploring basic questions — questions more basic than people usually ask — about language and what we use it for, and watching those questions ramify and exfoliate into some of the most complex and subtle and eccentric things humans do," he said. "This all happens most intensely in class discussions, though not only there. As the years go by, I enjoy watching how students' approaches to and uses for poetry change."

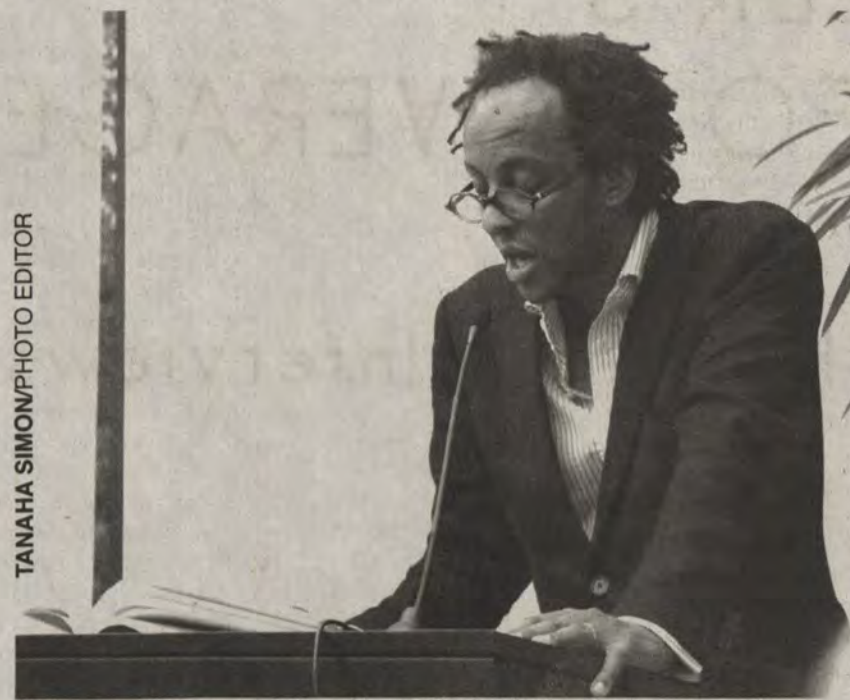
Professor Hartman also intimated many of his passions and interests beyond the classroom. When asked what he would do if he were not a teacher, he responded, "There are other applications for my fascination and experience with language — for example, I'm being consulted as an expert witness in a legal case. But I'd be tempted to follow the other path I contemplated in college: being a musician. Fortunately, that's something I can pursue even while the teaching profession thrives."

He considers art his life and constantly practices various artistic crafts, whether "waking or sleeping." He also enjoys taking walks, playing with a friend's dog, reading linguistics, science fiction and history, attending exhibitions, creating music and traveling (most often to Greece) for weeks or even several months at a time, listening, watching, writing and taking pictures while on his travels.

His favorite film is Akira Kurosawa's *The Seven Samurai*, he is left-handed and "for baroque historical reasons [his] middle name is Ossian." When asked what three things he cannot live without, he responded, "Freud defined health as the ability to love and to work. Those are the two things I begin to die without; we all do. Any third thing is gravy."

Finally, Professor Hartman offered some valuable words of wisdom.

"When I was a student, it seems to me, I hardly ever followed anyone's advice, so it would feel hypocritical to offer it. Everybody tells students, 'Do what you love.' I suggest that you'll often find yourself not in a position to do that. At those times it's difficult but crucial to remember what you love and aren't at the moment able to do. Then you find a way to do it." •



TANAHA SIMON/PHOTO EDITOR

Mengestu reading an excerpt from his novel in the Charles Chu Room.



# Winter Workingland

Other NESAC schools offer a winter term for additional studies, internships and community service. Why not us?

HEATHER HOLMES  
STAFF WRITER

At Colby, it's called the Jan Plan. At Middlebury, it's the J-Term. Williams College has Winter Study, and Amherst kicks off the New Year with Inter-term. What do these terms refer to? Several NESAC schools offer some sort of winter term that gives students the option of either spending break off campus or staying at school and enrolling in courses.

To many college students, the prospect of even more schoolwork after finals is unpalatable, but NESAC January terms offer a far different experience from the rest of the academic year. The mission statement of the Williams Winter Study reads, "If the theme of Winter Study is experimentation, its overall goal is community-wide decompression—a stress-free month of exploration and relaxation. Most classes only meet a few times a week and all are graded pass-fail. Students use their free time to hang out with friends, try a new activity, or catch up on sleep. The student-run Free University offers a sequence of truly off-the-wall noncredit courses such as Knitting, Vegan Baking, or Swing Dancing." The Williams mission statement certainly paints January term in a different light than a simple continuation of classes. Taylor Bickford, a current sophomore at Middlebury College, corroborates the Williams mantra in respect to his own school's J-Term.

"The vast majority of students really like J-Term," says Bickford. "It's basically an extension of winter break all through January, except you're here [at Middlebury] and you get credit for it. Academically, it's very easy and it's much less stressful than the rest of the school year."

At Middlebury, students utilize J-Term in several different ways. Some students take a less demanding class in January as a reprieve from their stressful workload in the fall and spring semesters; some freshmen taking introductory lan-

guage courses continue the study of that language during J-Term as a requirement for the second semester. Others take this opportunity to tackle ambitious science courses like organic chemistry while they can give the class their full atten-

tion, since all students take only one course during J-Term. Some Connecticut College students have begun to wonder whether a January term is a viable option for our campus, but many don't know that Conn once had a J-Term.

"Conn had something called 'Dean's Term' in the late 90s, which died out mainly because of student disinterest," says Roger Brooks, Dean of the Faculty. "It really didn't work." Despite the previous failure of a J-Term at Conn, some current students remain interested.

"We certainly aren't opposed to looking at J-Term as a possibility for Conn," Dean Brooks continued. However, according to Armando Bengochea, Dean of the College Community, "there are some significant structural obstacles to overcome in the formation of a J-Term, not to mention a total reorientation of thinking for both students and faculty."

Connecticut College's winter break runs from December 21, 2011 to January 23, 2012. Since Conn currently doesn't provide the option for a January term, there is some talk of shortening the winter break. Says Dean Brooks, "The Calendar Committee plans to meet at some point this year to consider alternate schedules that would bring faculty and students back

to campus earlier in the winter break." Bates, another NESAC school that does not offer a January term, has a significantly shorter break than Conn, with Bates students leaving campus on December 17, 2011 and returning January 9, 2012).

A shorter winter break is a consideration that may come to fruition soon at Conn College, and a winter term, even with its rocky past at Conn, is not something that the faculty has written off entirely. According to Brooks and Bengochea, it would be a move that would require significant planning and commitment from faculty when they would otherwise be taking time off or working on their own research.

However, a January term could be a hugely helpful addition to the academic calendar for many Conn students. Students with a highly demanding major or a double major could take credited classes and thus ease the burden of work for the duration of the school year. Camels with eclectic interests could explore and expand their course variety. Students could potentially have the option of studying abroad or at a different college or university during the winter break. For many international students who don't have the option of going home over break, January term could be a huge relief.

A January term at Connecticut College could represent the rejuvenation of a tradition. According to Bickford, the Middlebury J-Term is "very internalized" on campus; a J-Term at Conn might attain the same hallowed status.



ALICIA TOLDI / STAFF

# Occupy... Bank Street

MEGAN REBACK  
STAFF WRITER

The Occupy Wall Street movement that began in New York has spread to dozens of U.S. cities and countries around the world, including the New London community. Protesters have "occupied" Parade Plaza across from Union Train Station in downtown New London between the hours of 4 PM to 6 PM every day since early October. The crowd typically garners anywhere between twenty and thirty protesters who gather in response to corporate greed and the influence of financial institutions in the political system.

Like the larger movement, the New London protests echo an anti-corporate sentiment, with signs at Parade Plaza reading, "Corporations buy the government they want," "Corporations are not people" and "People are not commodities."

The protesters in New London seem to envision a United States that directs fewer resources to the military and more attention to education.

Len Raymond, who works for the New London school system, has acted as one of the main organizers for the Occupy New London movement. He set up the Facebook page and regularly posts various protesters' ideas from the meet ups, including, "Find ways to focus on positive, affirmative action" and "Take on the challenge of inspiring other small towns to have an Occupy event."

Raymond said that he became involved with the movement because "it is such an opportunity for advancement of a civilization. We have this civilized world that has all these specialists to solve problems, and it has kind of taken the soul out of community."

Raymond described a unique tactic of protest he is planning that would simulate the impact of failing businesses by staging a question and answer forum with members of the community. Raymond said that the forum is meant "to bring out feelings. The key thing is that there has to be emotion. If there is nothing people feel emotional about, it doesn't work."

Raymond's focus on community reflects the larger commitment of the Occupy Wall Street movement, which attempts to give equal voice to the citizens that comprise the middle and lower classes. It borrows from the protesters' slogan, "We are the 99%," which refers to the difference in wealth between the top 1% and the remaining citizens of the United States.

"Another way to look at [the movement] is that civilization tends to go dumb sometimes and protesting is making us smart again. The dumbness is because the community element goes dormant sometimes," said Raymond.

So far, the use of signs, shouting and solidarity at Parade Plaza has attracted even more

members of the community to the movement. Brian Sayles of Quaker Hill, who works in the healthcare industry, said he saw the protesters a few days after they started in early October and felt compelled to join. "I think that we're a community of people who depend on each other and it's more important now than ever to take a stand."

Sayles was attracted to the Occupy Movement as a member of the middle class. "I'm concerned about the middle class and I'm struggling to stay in the middle class because we're getting a lot of pressure from those who are considered greedy on Wall Street."

In response to low job creation and high unemployment, a common motivation for Occupy Wall Street protesters, Sayles said, "we're still exporting a lot of our jobs and it bothers me to know that there are companies sitting on top of a lot of cash and are not willing to invest in American workers and not creating jobs."

As the father of two small children, he fears for their future and their ability to secure work after they complete college.

In addition to residents of New London, Connecticut College students have also taken to the streets of downtown, joining the local movement in solidarity with protesters around the world.

Eliza Bryant '12, who has been involved with the movement in New York, decided to Occupy New London, "because it is a good way for Connecticut College students like me who are too geographically tied down to get involved in Occupy Wall Street. However, occupy New London is in dire need of more supporters and organization. As of right now, it is too small to have much of an impact."

Mihir Sharma '12 described the need for the movement in New London. However, he remains hesitant about its potential for impact.

"Any widespread global movement has to have local elements support it... I'm not optimistic, but let's not confuse hope and expectation. I expect little change in the short-run, but I hope for better. Hope is not quantifiable. It's the invisible drive that keeps people going day after day at Zuccotti Park, at Washington Square Park, in Boston, L.A., Austin, Chicago, New London and nearly 1,000 cities around the world—risking arrest, quitting jobs, taking leave, leaving their children with the neighbors, all to get their voice heard."

Despite whether the protesters' somewhat ambiguous goals are met, occupiers are exercising their right to free speech, which Raymond describes as a form of courage.

"We've had a death of courage. People are used to not getting involved so there's a lot of stuff people see that should be done and they don't do it because they don't have the courage." •

# CoAST Becomes OPT21

EMMALINE DEIHL  
STAFF WRITER

It is estimated that there are currently ten to thirty million slaves worldwide, a higher number than at any other point in history. Human trafficking is the second-largest organized crime in the world, ahead of weapons trafficking and topped only by the drug trade. Last year, the sex slave trade alone yielded \$32 billion in profits. Operation 21st Century aims to change this.

Operation 21st Century (OPT21), formerly known as CoAST and founded at Connecticut College by Janet Tso '12, is a highly active organization on campus dedicated to abolishing slavery. In addition to her local work, Tso advocates for her cause on a national and international level. She has presented at conferences for the United Nations, various universities including Yale and the University of Illinois and the International Education and Resource Network conference in Senegal. She received two research grants from Connecticut College to further her research on sex trafficking in the New London area, as well as her research on children trafficked into the United States from Fujian, China.

Tso received the A.L.L.Y. Young Philanthropist Award, and recently was awarded the Ella Grasso Leadership in Action Grant from the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, which she will use to initiate the Slave Free City Campaign with the goal of making New London the first slave-free city in the United States. The mayor of New London, Martin Olsen, recently issued a formal proclamation in recognition of the campaign.

This initiative is one of the

first steps in Tso's efforts to take OPT21 nationwide. To transform OPT21 into a national movement, Tso plans to form chapters at other colleges and high schools. She is currently forming a college/high school kit to help schools start their own OPT21 chapters. The main goal is to replicate the slave-free city campaign across the nation.

Tso hopes to move to China after graduation and build the company from there, while working to turn OPT21 into a non-profit organization in the United States. She will continue to be involved with the Connecticut College chapter. Tso hopes that by becoming a non-governmental organization, OPT21 will be a nationwide organization within five years, dedicated to promoting awareness and abolishing slavery in the twenty-first century.

OPT21 employs education as a key tool to raise awareness of human trafficking in all its forms. Tso calls for "intense education awareness" to remedy the lack of awareness of the extent of human trafficking today. OPT21 specializes in awareness tactics to spark recognition of these issues.

Tso emphasizes the need to make people feel uncomfortable with what they are seeing and learning. "People cannot fathom the level of torture and enslavement people like us endure every day," she says. "[Seeing anti-slavery demonstrations] makes you really nervous." Tso believes that "to be an abolitionist and to change the world you have to be uncomfortable, you have to feel uncomfortable enough to make a change."

Another common misconception is that human traf-

ficking is not a problem in the United States. In reality, as OPT21 emphasizes, it occurs frequently. Indeed, New London, Connecticut, conveniently located between Boston and New York, is a prominent stop on the Nation Circuit, a map for traffickers to transport sex slaves.

"We're doing outreach in schools, churches, any sort of organization that wants us, trying to educate the city about the problem," explained Casey Dillon, Vice President of OPT21. The group also hopes to educate young men and women "about how to recognize what a trafficker looks like and how to keep young people in our area out of that situation." Recognizing traffickers and learning how to avoid being victimized is a key goal of OPT21, as traffickers do not discriminate. Anyone, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity or socio-economic status, can be targeted, says Tso. Traffickers' ability to easily acquire slaves has made human trafficking into the enormous problem that it is today.

On-campus education is still an important part of OPT21. There will be monthly movie screenings on campus and downtown, and Tso also plans to have weekly lectures. On February 25 a large conference will occur, featuring a variety of speakers from different fields, such as economics, law enforcement and public policy. They will discuss their roles within the abolitionist movement and how slavery can be fought from within their respective fields. In April OPT21 will host a Freedom Walk in New London to raise awareness of slavery and the abolitionist movement. •

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# OPINIONS

## Point/Counterpoint

### Sophomore Slumping

MELANIE THIBEAULT  
ARTS EDITOR

If someone had told me last year what it would feel like to be a sophomore in college, I think I would have asked to re-enroll in the new freshman class. I think I could remain a student of higher education for the rest of my life, as long as the administration promised to bring back at least one tent dance for old time's sake, and if The Black Keys performed at Florialia...every year.

There are some perks to being a sophomore: I have a single now, which is great because I don't have to worry about my guy friends barging into my room at one o'clock on a Tuesday morning and demanding that my roommate teach them how to salsa dance. While I still feel awkward maneuvering my way around Harris at 6 PM rush hour, especially now that the layout has changed and I always slam some part of my body into the salad bar on my way out, I don't feel lost like I did as a freshman. I have a routine (sort of), friends (sometimes), and zero desire to attend Cro dances unless the theme is high school and people dress up as goth kids, scene kids and pregnant schoolgirls. (I only saw one third of these people at my high school. Guess which one?)

I can now bestow nuggets of wisdom upon the freshmen, like the fact that Cro dances may start at ten but no one shows up until at least midnight. The orange Larrabee cat (also known as one of the "Larracats") is friendlier than the gray one and likes to climb into people's cars if they leave their doors open. Don't bother going to the gym; just walk up and down the stairs to the AC ten times and you'll be set for the day. Whoever makes the best-looking and best-tasting Sunday sundae wins a free sundae the following week.

These are minor joys in comparison to the first month back at Conn. Sure, it started off with a hurricane, power outages and scavenges for food, so the mood was set from the beginning. After finally settling back into the routine, I began to notice my friends slowly losing their minds, one by one. (Okay,

maybe not quite to that extreme, but picture ten people all having anxiety attacks at the same time. Not enough paper bags to go around.) I learned that the term "sophomore slump" is no myth. It's an unfortunate reality. And it has its own Wikipedia page, which describes it as "an instance in which a second, or sophomore, effort fails to live up to the standards of the first effort. It is commonly used to refer to the apathy of students (second year of college or university)." Legit.

The allure and excitement from orientation and freshman year has worn off. We mumble and complain that Harris doesn't put out our favorite salad dressing anymore. We lock ourselves on the third floor of Shain and write three papers that are all due tomorrow. We wonder when we'll socialize— if we'll party on the weekends like last year, or if we've become victims of a rigorous academic schedule. We grow frustrated and threaten to pop the Conn bubble with a hairpin and run down Route 32 until we're lost and want to crawl into our twin XL-sized beds and sleep away the worry.

What's really terrifying is the idea that we're in our second year of college. At the end of this year, we'll be halfway done. Less than three years left until we're part of the big, bad "real world," and we have to function on our own (or at least get apartments, go on a bunch of job interviews and hope someone likes the resumes we worked on for two years). I recently had a CELS meeting with my advisor and talked about study abroad options, job possibilities for this summer and what I can be doing to work on my exploded-resume. (Is it just me or does the name "exploded resume" intimidate anyone else?) Then, there's CISLA and the academic centers to consider. And we're supposed to figure out what we intend to major in by the middle of this year. Have I mentioned that we only have two-and-a-half more years here?

Last week, amidst studying for midterms and writing papers, all due on the same two days before fall break, I lost my mind. I still haven't

found it. (If found, please return to the Voice office.) I started to think about what I was doing with my life, what I should be doing, what I wanted to be doing and what other people wanted me to be doing. None of them matched up.

I decided to double major, because one major isn't enough, and I have so many interests anyway that I couldn't choose one discipline to focus on. So now I'm an English and American Studies double major. Some may say I love America. I think I'm just fascinated with our past and current cultural habits. You might be asking (if you're my parents) what the hell I'm going to do with these two degrees. What kind of career will I stumble into? What kind of career DO I want to stumble into?

I have no idea. And so I'm freaking out.

But wait, I'm almost twenty. I shouldn't know exactly what I want to do with the rest of my life. Right? Should I? I hope not because I only have a vague idea of what I want to do: write. There are so many outlets for writing that I have yet to narrow it down, though I've been trying for years. But here's the cool thing I've learned this past week: we go to a liberal arts school, and that gives us an advantage in the real working world.

We learn how to adapt, communicate, analyze and think critically, solve problems, offer solutions and write a kick-ass resume, among other skills. This reassures me (a little). As I stumble through gen-ed classes, try to figure out how to use InDesign, learn to write in formal logic symbols, I'm wondering what this is all for. Will these skills help me get a job one day? Maybe, but really, who knows? With the booming economy and the growth of job markets, I'm sure I'll have no problem finding a respectable career.

I shouldn't be worrying about this now. I should be focusing on writing all those essays I have due next week and trying to stop the soap dispenser on the first floor of Wright from exploding and flooding the bathroom. Things can only get better from here. •

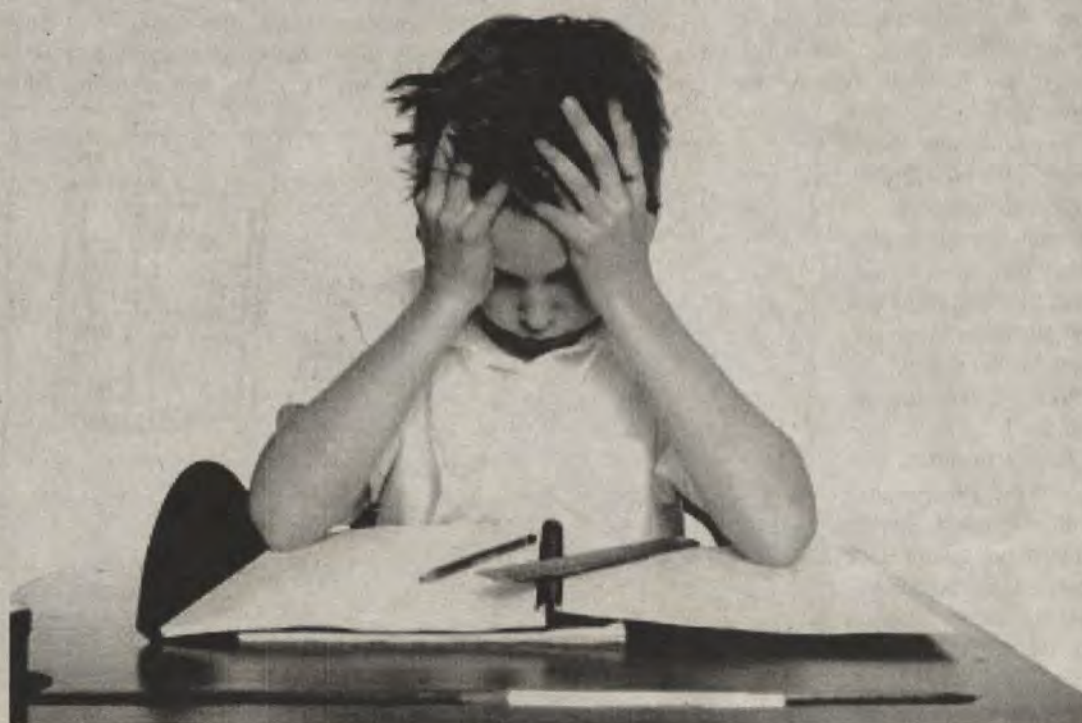


PHOTO FROM WEB

## Mentally Graduating

NORA SWENSON  
STAFF WRITER

We're more than halfway done with fall semester, and it's only just starting to set in that I'm a senior, and that I'm graduating and that college is over. Ew? Yet the more I lie awake on sleepless nights in my small Larrabee room thinking about my time as a college student, the more I'm able to justify that my time has indeed come for me and my peers to graduate.

For once, I'm completely at ease walking around our small campus. Why it's taken three years for me to reach this point, I don't quite know. I'm not an extremely shy person, but being a senior truly changes things. As a freshman, I was constantly paranoid of my clothing choices, if my leopard print rain boots were too much, trying to discern the acceptable distance from which to say "Hi" in passing... I feel ridiculous admitting it, but I'm sure I wasn't the only freshman who felt that way. I don't feel that anymore.

I recall the times when I actually panicked over meeting with my faculty advisor, or worried about my feeble draft of a schedule for next semester classes. As a senior, I've mastered the 7:30 AM registration spiel... definitely one of my most satisfying accomplishments.

And after four years, I've finally got it down when it comes to rain on this campus. No more running to 10:25 AM classes ducked under a College Voice newspaper: that umbrella should stay in your Longchamp at all times.

At the same time, being a senior has had its share of challenges. Nobody told me what it would feel like to go from knowing maybe 40-50% of our campus, at least by face, to maybe an abysmal 25% after studying abroad and coming back to a campus with half of the juniors abroad. On top of this, there

is also an overwhelming number of sophomores you may or may not have met during your one semester prior or post-studying abroad and, of course, all those new freshmen.

But on that note, if you're still on the fence about going abroad or not, allow me to help you: go. It still baffles me that the classes and trips I took over the course of that semester are permissibly counted towards my "liberal arts college in New England" education. The growing experience is so much more than a paragraph could ever describe. I will forever urge those who have the chance not to pass up the opportunity.

*"What's wrong with me?"*

*How am I already feeling too old for college?"*

Unlike the sensation felt in one's senior year of high school when you think you're cool and "bouts to graduate," being a senior in college is an altogether different feeling.

The glamorized underage drinking is old news, Saturday night Cro dance hookups are now passé and honestly, very little shocks me anymore. I honestly wonder sometimes, "What's wrong with me? How am I already feeling too old for college?" But it's true, and I never saw it coming.

Sometimes I just try to think back to the time when I, too, was naïve to the point of trying to keep track of what "PBR" actually stood for (Pabst Blue Ribbon), and setting *urbandictionary.com* as one of my top Safari sites just because I was

looking up so many "foreign terms" I would encounter on a daily basis in my new college habitat. But hey, I still managed to make friends, so I can't be all that abnormal.

During spring semester of my sophomore year, one of my close friends and I started counting down the days until the end of the semester, freaking out more and more as each day passed; we could not even begin to fathom life outside of college. I even kept another date in my iPhone "Countdown" app for our real big graduation. It's still in my phone, and I still check it out every now and then.

But the ever-dwindling number means little to me at this point. After my summer internship and eight months abroad, the campus bubble has been burst. I may not have my diploma yet, but I've already mentally graduated from Connecticut College. I'm not really writing this opinionated article (which, by the way, is something I never would have done as an underclassmen either...it's usually far safer to write a News article) in an attempt to "advise" underclassmen or anything. On the contrary, I think it takes every single one of these four undergraduate years to reach this point of fatigue.

I've admired a number of people who have managed to complete their degrees in less than four years, and even envied them to a point. But on the other hand, I'm glad I haven't opted or been forced to make that choice. The longer I'm here, the more I realize that college is so disproportionately more about the academics than it is about the socializing and lifelong friendships you can make.

I may feel ready to graduate for the time being, but until that day comes, I'll continue enjoying the "Harris at 5:45?" dinner texts for a few more months. Less than 210 days and counting... •

## A-Parent-ly Usual: A Different Perspective On Fall Weekend

IPEK BAKIR  
MANAGING EDITOR

We have yet to experience fall—the campus is colored with green leaves on the sidewalks and the sun continues to sneak in Indian summer rays spontaneously. Nonetheless, our school hosted its famous Fall Weekend, also called Alumni Weekend, Harvestfest and Parents Weekend, on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22.

The component of this phenomenal weekend that struck me as riveting was the "parents" element. I say "parents" because the college does not only host the parents of the students, but also their extended family, friends and their pets. The Green turns into an area for family picnics circled around what looks like a Conn Coll dog show. The "parents" part of Fall Weekend caught me by surprise, especially as a freshman. As a Turkish student, I certainly didn't anticipate experiencing a flux of parents coming on campus during my second month in the U.S. I was dealing with the culture

shock pretty well until I found myself lost in the vision of family trees full of people. I went to an international school in Ankara, which shared its campus with one of the biggest universities in the city. My fellow students were from all over the world, including many from America. Still, I grew up in an academic environment where parents remained virtually out of sight.

I definitely look forward to spending time with my close friends' parents, but even to this day, I remain slightly dazed by the concept of Fall Weekend. My different cultural orientation is responsible for my ongoing infatuation with Fall Weekend. In Turkey, going to college is a sign of liberation from one's family. Yes, many students live in their parents' house, but maybe because of the lower rates of tuition or the more private family life, it is considered out of sorts to be seen with a flock of family members on campus for any Turkish college student. Students are not embarrassed to be seen with their parents, but there are not enough

reasons for why the parents would want to be exhibited as a part of their child's unique role as a student.

*The Green turns into an area for family picnics circled around what looks like a Conn Coll dog show.*

A friend of mine explained the reason for why her parents were coming to Fall Weekend. She said, "They want to make sure that their money is going to the right place." Doesn't the school ask for more money (donations) when the parents come for the weekend? Isn't it better for them to simply ask their children about the school to make sure that their money is going to the right place?

Before I came to the States, the common percep-

tion of my family and friends, including the ones that are not Turkish, was that America produces a generation of young people who are independent and programmed to be self-sufficient as soon as they turn eighteen. In awe and envy, people would refer to the stories they have heard about American students paying their own tuition and renting off their parents' cars by working while studying. These perceptions are certainly true in some cases. But, having been at Conn for more than three years and living through three Fall Weekends, I came to realize that the type of bond between a college aged student and his/her parents is very different compared to the family life in Europe and elsewhere. Even though the rest of the world only watches Hollywood movies reflecting eighteen-year-old American students almost completely liberated from their parents influence, the monetary needs and the public image of liberal arts colleges depend on the explicit and presentable close ties between students and their family. •



# Must See TV: The GOP Goes Head-to-Head

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The plot thickened on the October 18 installment, and we saw some of the cast members truly develop into bold and interesting characters. Divisions were further entrenched in the Republican camp, and the heat was on. I was ready for some GOP action.

Just in case you missed it, here was the cast list for CNN's October 18 debate: Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul and Rick Perry. Here are the highlights:

The most "misunderstood" of the bunch, Herman Cain, CEO of Godfather's Pizza, was under a flurry of criticism from the other debaters for his "9-9-9" (nein-nein-nein) tax plan. "Herman's well meaning and I love his boldness...but the reports are out...84% of Americans will pay more taxes under his plan," said Santorum. Ouch, Herman! The trend throughout the evening was to refer to him as Herman (Rick Perry called him "brother") because apparently he has never held public office but thinks it would be totally legit to try out for President. Although I don't really understand the semantics of his tax plan and have never eaten at Godfather's Pizza, it just sounds like a fake area code to me and therefore it's probably a bad tax plan.

My personal favorite character, Texas Governor Rick Perry, got quite rowdy during the debate, especially while addressing token Mormon Mitt Romney. "Mitt," he said, "you lose all of your standing, from my perspective, because you hired illegals in your

home and you knew about it for a year. And the idea that you stand here before us and talk about that you're strong on

really went mano-a-mano on immigration issues, and Mitty even went for a little shoulder cop at one point. Most

Michele Bachmann, or BTO as I like to call her, had the "Quote of the Night" in this episode. The ques-

Once considered a serious contender for nomination, she has been continuously tumbling in ratings because she says things like this. On a comedic level, though, she is definitely near the top of the ratings for me.

The "Oh No You Didn't" moment of the night came from Rick Santorum, also known as "that other Rick running for President." He very underhandedly suggested that the Republicans could win over the Hispanic community by turning them against the LGBTQ community; never mind all of those harsh immigration policies that Republican legislators have instilled in Arizona and Alabama. He used some great buzzwords like "faith," "family," "marriage" and "traditional values" to sell his idea. Although some believe he wasn't really suggesting this, it sure sounded like he was. Total shock value points for Santorum, though a bit inappropriate.

Overall, this was a fantastic debate, proving that absolutely none of these people are actually fit to be President of the United States. It was chock full of stage laughs, jeers, slogans, and Rick Perry going all Rick Perry on the competition. Although they pursue independent media coverage like speeches and town hall meetings, the Republican candidates really shine when they get to go head-to-head with each other. I have no idea when the next debate is, but you can be sure I will clear my schedule to watch it no matter what, since I do not own a DVR. Until then, happy watching, y'all. •



Potential candidates vying for the GOP's selection to take on Barack Obama in 2012. Top row (from left to right): Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman. Bottom row: Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Rick Santorum, Mitt Romney.

*Overall, this was a fantastic debate, proving that absolutely none of these people are actually fit to be President of the United States.*

of the others took jabs at Mitt about immigration, too, but only Michele Bachmann dared to suggest we build a double fence along the U.S.-Mexican border. Bold call, Shelly.

tion that prompted this zinger was about budget cuts, since Republicans are keen on cutting everything from healthcare to primary schooling. "Now with the president, he put us in Libya. He is now putting us in Africa. We already were stretched too thin, and he put our special operations forces in Africa," she said. This is about the time I hit the floor laughing. In case you didn't know, Libya happens to be located in Africa. Michele Bachmann has been experiencing a dip in her popularity as a potential GOP candidate.

## Going Into the Quiet, Coming Out at Peace

JULIA CRISTOFANO  
STAFF WRITER

Braving the wind and rain this past Wednesday, I forced myself to leave my cozy bed and trek my way over to the chapel for an evening of Buddhist meditations. I had done a little meditation in high school as a part of our physical education requirement, but I had a feeling this was going to be a somewhat different experience from laying on a dirty gymnasium floor while my overweight male gym teacher yelled, in a less than soothing voice, that everyone was to immediately imagine themselves on a beach.

I had told a few of my friends that I was planning on attending the meditation that day and had received some troubling responses. I was left with the overall impression that I would be trapped in the chapel for the next few hours, in painful silence and led through this meditation by a nondescript, ageless man who coughed a lot and made it impossible to get into the zone. For other unexplainable reasons, I also thought there may be men in robes with shaved heads chanting, despite my knowledge that this was a silent activity from the mildly death provoking slogan I recalled for the group last year of "Come into the Quiet."

When I finally scurried into the

Chapel, the space seemed to have been transformed from the backdrop for lively a cappella concerts into a peaceful, serene expanse. As soon as I passed through the foyer I felt a deep urge to take off my rain boots, the incessant squeaking from the wet soles seeming to destroy the quiet

*I thought there may be men in robes with shaved heads chanting, despite my knowledge that this was a silent activity...*

sanctuary. As I walked past the pews I was drawn towards the subtle smell of incense and the soft flicker of nine golden flames, arranged in groups of three and surrounded by tiny pebbles. The cushions from the pews had been organized in a rectangle around the candles and small colorful pillows that were vaguely reminiscent of oversized smushed gumdrops were placed intermittently on the velvety padding. I took my seat on a small yellow pillow and, with very little instruction other than an initial greeting from the group leader (who as it turns out is not a strange man with whooping cough) closed my eyes and did my best to mimic the four fellow mediators in my midst.

Surprisingly, my high school training came back to me and I sat with the best posture I could, eyes closed, trying to relax my body and clear my mind of any thoughts. As I sat, at first struggling to keep my body upright yet unstressed, I felt a peculiar feeling running up my spine and washing over the back of my skull. I felt as if my vertebrae had been turned into cement and suddenly it wasn't so difficult to sit upright, it was as if I had unlocked the secret to perfect posture. Yet this feeling did not last for long, so I turned to an alternative method of meditating, allowing thoughts to cross my mind uninhibited but with no judgment and as little conscious thought attached to them as possible. And just like that it was six o'clock. I won't deny that at

At the end of

the meditation, as everyone helped to put away the various plushy objects and package up the mood lighting, I got to talk to Nick Luce '14, the sophomore who runs the group. He told me his first exposure to meditations was a Buddhist teacher in high school who guided his class through some meditations. He found it quite enjoyable and a great way to "wind down from the stress of day-to-day life" so when he saw an advertisement for the group at Conn he decided to check it out. Having taken over the group this year he explained, "The amount of people that attend the meditation varies from week to week, but a small group of employees of the college attend on a regular basis," as well as students who come periodically. He is also greatly

assisted by Amy Hannum, a former staff member and part-time student at the college, who joined the group when John Bitters in Counseling Services started it six years ago. She has found that "meditation helps to maintain a connection to healing energy and a tranquil state of mind that makes life less stressful" and so has continued to come on Wednesdays despite having left the college.

Overall, both the atmosphere of the group and the meditation experience itself shattered some misconceptions I had and were greatly affective in helping me mellow out after a tough week. Even if sitting in silence isn't "your thing" I encourage everyone to do something for themselves and give it a try. •

### Cybersecurity tips from Information Services

## Don't get hooked in a phishing scam!



Phishing is when email purporting to be from a legitimate source attempts to trick you into volunteering your personal or credential-related information. These messages vary in content, but all claim to be from legitimate sources such as eBay, your bank, PayPal, or a university group.

If you receive such a message, you should treat it as spam and simply delete it. **Don't email personal or financial information!**

For more information, visit the College's cybersecurity home page at <http://cybersecurity.conncoll.edu>. If you suspect that your computer or your data have been compromised, call the Help Desk immediately at 4357 (HELP).



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE





# Defib-you-later

## Number of Automated External Defibrillators unimpressive

ALEX SCHWARTZBURG  
STAFF WRITER

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are crucial to successful intervention for cardiac arrest. If you have a heart attack and no one has a defibrillator, you will most likely die. AEDs can be used by anyone, regardless of their medical training or prior knowledge, because they have simple, easy to follow, step-by-step instructions. They're so easy to use, you can even use one on yourself if you're still conscious and have some means of measuring your vital signs.

As of 2010, almost every NES-CAC school has, or is at least in the process of acquiring, at least five AEDs, and most have planned to increase their stock in coming years. There is but one exception to that trend within the NES-CAC, and as you may have guessed—it's us!

Connecticut College, as our motto tells us explicitly, is "like a tree planted by rivers of water" completely removed from the plethora of necessities provided by modern society, not the least of which includes access to sophisticated emergency medical attention. At both the symbolic and the practical level, there seems to be little attention devoted to rational thought, and while I'm not surprised to see this in a college run by — or is it merely for? — liberal idealists, my lack of surprise does not imply a lack of disgust with the situation.

For a campus of 1,900 students, 177 full-time faculty, hundreds of staff, thousands of visitors and anyone else I may have forgotten to mention that comprises that endless stock of human automata I run into throughout the day, two defibrillators is not enough. Just what are we supposed to do if three people have heart



"Quick! Someone run across campus, grab one of the two defibrillators and run it back here before it's too late!"

attacks at the same time? It's possible—unlikely, but possible.

Robin Edwards, the young woman leading the initiative to get this basic safety need addressed, provided me with some useful statistics. If you have a heart attack and

someone intervenes with the assistance of an AED within one minute, then you have a 90% chance of survival. If you're being helped by a group of your typical incompetent Americans, which means that people are being clumsy, are taking their time setting it up, or they have to find, and then

*For a campus of 1,900 students, 177 full-time faculty, hundreds of staff, and thousands of visitors, two defibrillators isn't enough.*

chances drop to 70% (with, I would presume, a significant chance of brain damage when you wake up). If they are—as Americans so notably are—SO disorganized, that help doesn't arrive within ten minutes, then sorry bro, but you've got a 2% chance of surviving.

read, the instructions, figure out what to do, introspectively debate as to whether it's even okay for them to provide help in the first place, blah blah blah... Basically, if it takes three or four minutes, then your

Now, the upside of putting an AED in every building is that it avoids these dangers, maximizing the probability of immediate intervention and therefore increasing the chances of survival for anyone who may have a heart attack after either binge drinking or eating the oh-so-healthy food we all eat here in America, New England and at Conn. The only real downside, of course, would be that it would cost a lot of money to put them there, which our \$54,970 tuition couldn't possibly begin to cover. If my superficial research into the cost of these machines is in any way reflective of reality, there is no reason our decadent campus shouldn't be able to afford it. "Depending on the unit, an AED [would] cost approximately \$1000 - \$2500[.]" says wiki.answers.com. It really wouldn't be that expensive.

If we acquired sixty-three defibrillators, one for each building on campus, it would cost, at most, \$157,500. Our latest tuition fee is \$54,970. By my calculations, then, 1.15 to 2.86 Connecticut College tuitions could cover the cost of buying an AED for each building. Of course it costs a little bit more to install them, but negotiating a lower price for buying a huge order is not an uncommon practice, and Zoll (or whomever else we choose as our supplier) I'm sure would be ecstatic to move such a large stock of inventory. In the end, our costs may even be cheaper than I predicted.

The requests of Robin Edwards and those with whom she is working to push our administration to acquire these much needed AEDs, are far more reasonable than my own. They want to put one in Harkness, one in Cro, and one in Harris. This, according to them, will increase the probability of intervention within the typical four minute American time frame. But being that Conn is Conn, I suppose we'll just have to wait until someone actually dies from a heart attack before the people in charge decide to do anything. •

SAM MAUCK/STAFF

# One Hundred Years of Activism?

## Conn's Centennial play seeks to overreexaggerate claims of student political engagement

LIBBY CARBERRY  
STAFF WRITER

My roommate is far too modest as an actress. She dismissed the time she spent on the Centennial project as if it were nothing. I understand where she was coming from, their task was very nerdy, so to speak: research the school and present a educational but nonetheless entertaining musical theatre piece, all in high centennial spirits a'course!

It's one thing to make that enjoyable for the people who run this school or are funding buildings and programs and find self-congratulations just lovely, but it's irrefutably difficult to make the show entertaining to current Camels. The actors' (who doubled as playwrights and/or composers) first priority as viewers are their classmates and friends. From socially awkward freshmen who cannot find it in their hearts to stop playing beer pong, to stubborn seniors who really, really like chillin' at the bar and off-campus housing, the intended audience of the show was going to be pretty difficult to reach in any case.

All jokes aside, the cast was semi-successful. The audience was somewhat weak in number, although I went on a Thursday night, but as an audience we had some good ole' fashioned fun together. We all laughed at the funny parts (there were quite a few) and didn't let the slight emptiness of the theatre get the best of us. It was a good, fun time. What was more interesting about the play, however, was just how much perspective it gives us (that is, students and community members of Conn) about this whole Centennial thing, and whether all these celebrations are a genuine celebration and congratulations for our past and present achievements, or just an opportunity to deny those things we could do a lot better, specifically as students here. And let me remind you that as students here right now, we are the most active ingredients at this place we like to call a community.

The history of Conn, and how we matter as a community, inspired the "Big Event" that took place this past weekend. Administration, students and faculty agreed in prospect that this weekend was a way of determining how we as a community choose to project ourselves to alumni, trustees, or parents, the region, the world, etc. Whether that projection was intended to be honest or not, I'm not sure.

The show was actually extremely funny and had pretty respectable tunage. I laughed a lot, and was impressed with the sincerity of a few of the autobiographical monologues. But even the show, which was meant to romanticize just how awesome it is to be a Conn student in both parody and sincerity, was incredibly hypocritical.

The unifying theme of the show was the passion and progressiveness of Conn students in past and present times. The show brags that Conn spawned from dissent as an all woman's school after Wesleyan kicked out the ladies, and continues to be inspired by student-driven social disobedience decade after decade (the move towards co-education, the civil rights movement and affirmative action being the main examples). The whole point or message of the show, though, was to connect the social disobedience of the past to the so-called activism on campus now. In an attempt to do so, one of the actors performed a "break-the-fourth-wall" monologue in which she described her experience with the Westboro Baptist church's protest of the Laramie Project plays on campus in 2009. She theatrically explained that she and everyone she knew were so darn upset that these people would come into their little bubble and actually force the community to respond.

This personal experience, I presume, was supposed to somehow defend the college against claims that we are, as a student body, apathetic. If anything, this experience of hers is the exact definition of college campus "apathy." It got

to the point that those a\*\*holes had to physically put themselves in front of our nice clean faces and ironed clothes before anyone bothered to notice or react en masse. In their defense, they did stand up against Westboro Baptist, but only because they absolutely had to. I'm sure that there were individuals and small groups that had true passion for the fight against the ignorance that Westboro Baptist personifies, but on this campus of only 1,900, sometimes a small group just isn't enough to gain momentum and energy and excitement for a good cause.

She claimed in that same monologue that she just doesn't see apathy at Conn, that she refuses to believe it exists here. I was briefly inspired by her earnestness. I agree with her in a sense; there are communities here, like Spectrum and other LGBTQ ally-groups, that I do believe are very active participants in trying to make the world they live in a better and more humane place by raising "awareness" and money and opportunities for education in an effective and consistent manner. But these communities are small and isolated. I would call them pioneers, but I don't know if the rest of Conn wants to jump on the bandwagon that is social and political activism. Groups like Spectrum and Active Minds and CC Dissent are pioneers, but the rest of the fleets might not join the fight for a while.

What made the show especially confusing was its coincidence with the Occupy Wall Street movement. After the actors conjure up all the fervor they can muster to "ra-ra-ra" behind the mask of theatre and stage, I wonder if the majority of them or the majority of the audience are informed about the movement of our time. Perhaps I sound harsh, but it's really not the time to give out get-out-of-jail-free cards for neglecting to stay informed at this point in history: we at Conn have the intellectual and creative ability to do something other than (or at least in addition to) mindlessly scrolling up and down Facebook for hours.

So, in a way, you could say that the whole play, and even the whole weekend that we made such a big deal over, is nothing but a big ole' mess of hypocrisy. But maybe this claim is exactly what is making us so unwilling to give into the prospect of change. Maybe the expectation that we won't react is truly making us unwilling to act. Look around at your peers and family members: we are unexcited about the world and communities of which we are a part and it shows through our ignorance of current events, both tragedies and victories on local, national and international levels.

I saw so much potential at the Centennial play, so much potential for the audience to grow larger and become more lively. Those laughs we had as an audience, the appreciation we felt when David Jaffe, head of the theatre department, introduced Ms. Tansill (sitting front row) who single-handedly funded the theatre, those moments of parody when we let loose and made fun of how campy it is to "celebrate" the school's history through song... why can't that energy be translated towards the activism so necessary — for our generation and generations to come — to thrive? This energy can bring us together as a community, on the internet and face-to-face, to discuss dynamics of the communities we live in, and how those communities have possibly become very dysfunctional.

So, the "Big Event" is over now. The trustees have gone home, and we don't have to worry about hiding our Smirnoff handles from the wandering eyes of Mom and Dad. Those actors can forget all the memorized lines about how progressive we once were and how ever-passionate Conn students continue to be. All the academics we spend hours in the library for can turn to grades and nothing else. We can continue with our post-centennial lives. But if we choose to do that, and it really is a decision of ours, I'd be pretty damn disappointed, and you should be too. •



## ARTS /// ENTERTAINMENT

OCTOBER 24, 2011

Editors: Devin Cohen and Melanie Thibeault  
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## Everyone Wins This Election Nothing Bad About This Album

Gosling and Clooney face off in *Ides of March*Tom Waits drops his latest CD, *Bad As Me*MATTHEW GENTILE  
STAFF WRITER

Politics and Hollywood have always had fascinating similarities. Both require a front, rely on popularity for success and are personal when it comes to business.

*The Ides of March*, based on the play "Farragut North," (an allegory of Howard Dean's campaign), stars Ryan Gosling as press secretary Stephen Meyers. Along with Philip Seymour Hoffman's character, Paul Zara, Meyers pulls the strings behind Governor Morris's (George Clooney), presidential campaign.

When rival campaign manager Tom Duffy (Giamatti), tempts Meyers to make or break Morris' campaign, Meyers is faced with the same dilemma as Brutus in *Julius Caesar*. The first time around, he takes the high road and abstains from accepting his offer. His decision does not last for long.

Meyers finds himself in a web of lies and deceit and has to deal with the press (including Marisa Tomei), the femme fatale/intern (Evan Rachel Wood) and Zara's lectures on the importance of loyalty in an occupation where the term is loosely defined.

The dialogue feels a bit like Aaron Sorkin, and at times is a little too witty for its own good, but it works to move the story along.

Ryan Gosling has become more than a familiar face this year. This may be his best performance since *Half Nelson*, for which he was justly nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award in 2004. Though the poster says "starring George Clooney," this is really Gosling's movie. He's in every frame and does a terrific job of showing the extent to which his character suffers in a world of corruption. Everything we experience is through the gaze of this deceptively simple leading man, which may be the hardest role to play.

When a movie has a cast full of A-listers, it is because they are overcompensating for a bad script (see: *Valentine's Day*) or it's a great project with an even better director (see: *The Departed*). *The Ides of March* has more in com-



PHOTO FROM WEB

mon with the latter. Clooney, Hoffman and Giamatti are all outstanding in their supporting roles. Evan Rachel Wood, who was snubbed a nomination from the Oscars for her performance in *The Wrestler*, and in my opinion is the only reason why the film *Thirteen* became famous, is once again amazing. She truly knows how to act on the screen in a way that's reminiscent of the Golden Age of cinema.

I like George Clooney as an actor, but I like him much more as a director. I thought *Good Night and Good Luck* was a perfect film. *The Ides of March* is not quite as perfect. As I said earlier, sometimes its dialogue is too smart for its own good, and occasionally it wants to be a little more than it is. However, that is not to say it doesn't have its moments of perfection.

With impeccable direction, electrifying performances and a relevant topic that is important to our culture, Clooney re-affirms himself as one of the most talented directors of our generation, in the ranks of Fincher, Paul Thomas Anderson, and Kathryn Bigelow. Gosling affirms that he can carry a film on his own. Giamatti, Hoffman and the rest of the cast continue to impress as they always have. Everyone wins this election.

CAROLINE MILLS  
STAFF WRITER

It has been seven years since Tom Waits last released a full album of new material, with 2004's *Real Gone*. But that's not to say he hasn't been busy. The three-disk set *Orphans: Bawlers, Brawlers, and Bastards*, a mix of B-sides and obscurities, went gold in the U.S. — Waits' only album to do so. Earlier this year, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. With his latest album, *Bad As Me*, he reminds us why he deserved it.

The album's thirteen songs are mostly short and sweet, a combination of the rough, raw, bluesy stompers that Waits is known for as well as the sincere love waltzes and ballads that one might not expect. "Chicago" opens the album with an infectious swag that carries through till the final track. "Talking At The Same Time" creeps in with its eerie falsetto, containing one of the album's few hints that it's from 2011 — a jab at the current financial crisis, with the line "We bailed out all the billionaires, they got the fruit, we got the rind." From there, it's back to the carefree strut of "Get Lost," the closest thing to a pop tune on the album with an contagious groove behind Waits' smooth growl.

"Pay Me" and "Back In The Crowd," a subtly dark waltz and a sweet love song respectively, highlight Waits' songwriting. The latter in particular (which is the album's second single, after the title track) makes one wonder who else, if anyone, still writes songs like this — that is, simple love songs that feel as if they were written and recorded decades ago. This sound shows up again on "Kiss Me," which wouldn't appear out of place on some of Waits' earliest albums, such as *Closing Time* or *Heart of Saturday Night*. The instrumentation is sparse — just piano, bass and guitar — and the effect is of a spontaneous session in an empty dive bar at 3 AM recorded to vinyl, then left in an attic for thirty years. There's a dusty hiss and crackle that, while clearly contrived, is magical if you let yourself be pulled in. After all, Mr. Waits is more myth than man, and the truth doesn't matter as much as a good story.

"Bad As Me," the title track, makes the idea of anyone being quite "the same kind of bad" as Waits seem ludicrous. The sax riffs, the half-shouted, half-barked lyrics over junkyard percussion, all of it is typical Waits, but manages to sound fresh and exciting regardless. Which brings us to another exciting aspect of the album: the tracks that Keith Richards

guests on.

"Satisfied," a nod to Richards and the Stones, is a bit of a goof — Waits admitted in a Pitchfork interview that the concept of the album was just him being "refuckulous." And yet, barking, "I will have satisfaction! I will be satisfied!" like a crazed gospel preacher is, in fact, pretty satisfying to listen to (and sing along with). "Last Leaf," on the other hand, is a quiet ballad whose conceit is rather sweet, if melancholy. Richards lends his vocals to the chorus, and these two older, badass guys singing "I'm the last leaf on the tree / the autumn took the rest / but they won't take me" is one of the most moving moments on the album.

The final track, "New Year's Eve," is one of the most vivid and accurate pictures of the night I've ever heard. A simple, swaying waltz that incorporates a half-drunk sounding rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" as the chorus, it's a combination of nostalgia and hope, chaos and reflection, annoying friends and spontaneous sing-a-longs. It's everything that you remember from a good party, a good year or even a good album. This track does feel like an ending, a goodbye to these moments and characters with which we've spent the past hour. In that sense, it is a little sad. Good thing I can just flip the record over and listen again. \*



PHOTO FROM WEB

WAS SHAKESPEARE  
A FRAUD?

A ROLAND EMMERICH FILM

ANONYMOUS

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A CENTROPOLIS ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION 'ANONYMOUS'

RHYS IFANS VANESSA REDGRAVE JOEY RICHARDSON DAVID THEWLIS XAVIER SAMUEL SEBASTIAN ARMESTO RAFF SPALL EDWARD HOGG  
JAMIE CAMPBELL BOWER AND DEREK JACOBI MUSIC BY THOMAS WANDER AND HARALD KLOSER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS VOLKER ENGEL MARC WEIGERT JOHN ORLOFF  
WRITTEN BY JOHN ORLOFF PRODUCED BY ROLAND EMMERICH LARRY FRANCO ROBERT LEGER DIRECTED BY ROLAND EMMERICH

Soundtrack on Madison Gate Records

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13  
SOME VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL CONTENT

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IN THEATERS OCTOBER 28TH



# The Centennial Project: Conn Theater Department Reenacts College's Past

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The performance began with a young woman leading a small group across the stage "on a tour of our campus," and just like that, I was placed into the world of Connecticut College that the Centennial Project Ensemble had created for its audience. The cast shared pieces of the college's history, ranging from traditions such as the mascot hunts, where the sophomore class hunted for a hidden gift to the college from the junior class, to pivotal changes in the college's history such as a shift to a coeducational learning environment. The information was fascinating, and I was riveted by all that was being thrown my way.

There was attention-grabbing shifting from chronological story-telling to layering of stories of women from 1911 and women from 2011 at the same time. These shifts enveloped the audience in the history of the college and transmitted us so that we were connected not from simply reading about the past but by reliving it. I was able to imagine myself as a student in a multitude of decades, yet at the same time, I was able to truly picture my own place in the story of the college's

history.

In five short weeks, the Centennial Ensemble was able to construct a place for students of the college's past and students of the college's present to meet and connect. While I was extremely impressed with this feat and so many of the things that the perfor-

*I was able to imagine myself as a student in a multitude of decades, yet at the same time, I was able to truly picture my own place in the story of the college's history.*

mance had to offer, I must admit that the overall execution of the production left much to be desired. I felt that at many times the satirical vibe of the work came off too much like an episode of an afterschool special. When put up next to extremely eloquent, thought-provoking monologues and beautiful interactions between characters such as students of 2011 and Elizabeth Wright, it seemed somewhat jarring and out of place. Beyond this, mistakes with lines, messy shifting

and swinging of spotlights, and other unfortunate mishaps like breaking glass bottles onstage, took away from the performance and did not seem to match the caliber of productions that I am accustomed to from other theater department productions.

That being said, my disappointment only came from remarkably high expectations of the performance, many of which were met and exceeded. This performance was, overall, truly inspirational. It helped me to understand the foundation that supported this college one hundred years ago and that continues to support it today. This community was built with much effort, passion and drive, and the efforts of the Centennial Project Ensemble perfectly mirrors that of the founders of the college as well as many of the other 'characters' present in the college's story throughout the years.

I know that going forward, I will



keep the sentiments I felt as I 're-lived' Connecticut College's history very present in my mind. One moment of the performance that will be most prominent for me was a provocative line from a monologue from one of the actresses. She stated, "We're here to be shaken up and to shake up more,"

and she could not be more right. Connecticut College is and has always been dedicated to the implications of this statement. I hope that we all can make sure that in the next hundred years and beyond we stay true to this sentiment. •



The centennial cast included Julian Gordon '14, Cassie Haines '14, Kristen Caruana '13, Tina Realmuto '12, Scott Pulvirent '14, Andrew Marco '15, Talia Curtin '13, Rebecca Horan '13, Shani Brown '13, James Mamana '15, Caroline Lazar '15 and Emily Loewus '15.



## When the Batmobile Breaks Down

### A Conn alumna chauffeurs celebrities at the Provincetown International Film Festival

RACINE OXTOBY  
ARTS EDITOR EMERITUS

This summer my car broke down. My car, a 2001 Ford Taurus, named "The Batmobile" does this a lot, so this wasn't a huge surprise. It was, however, an enormous frustration, as my job during this one weekend of carelessness was to be a driver for the Provincetown International Film Festival (PIFF). You know, pick up filmmakers and celebrities from the airport, bring them to their hotel, wish we were best friends. My car had been making strange noises since May, and, in typical me fashion, I decided to wait until the last minute (one day into my driving schedule) to check it out. Basically, I failed.

The PIFF is a cool little festival, one that I've tried to follow since the year Quentin Tarantino came to town. This year, the "Filmmaker on the Edge" was Darren Aronofsky, and the festival screened both *The Wrestler* and *Black Swan* in his honor. They also host an Excellence in Acting award, which this year went to *Up In The Air*'s Vera Farmiga. The films are usually short, quirky pieces, most of which seam-

lessly melt away into festival circuit oblivion, while others acquire some kind of pop culture relevance (past films *Once* and *(500) Days of Summer* come to mind).

Day One and Only of being a film festival driver started well. It was a beautiful Wednesday afternoon. I had a special sign attached to my car, which meant I could park anywhere to pick up or drop off guests without police interference. I had a snazzy volunteer shirt and wore a lanyard which made me look official. I was picking up filmmaker Ash Christian from the ferry. His film *Mangus!* is about a half-assed high school production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* with a paraplegic Jesus. He wanted to know where the hair salon was that was featured on *Tabatha's Salon Takeover*; I told him it was next door to his hotel.

After dropping off one more filmmaker at her inn, I was done with my shift, so I took my car to the repair shop. This would prove to be my downfall. The spring near one of my back wheels had snapped in two, and the jagged edge could potentially puncture my tire. Not good, especially

with independent filmmakers' lives on the line. I lost the car for the duration of the festival.

This would have been tragic if this had been my only duty during the PIFF. However, I somehow managed to stumble upon a goldmine of a job: Vera Farmiga and her husband were looking for a babysitter for their two children, and somehow, I managed to snag the gig. This would not be until Friday evening, however, so I had the next two days to occupy myself with films and parties.

The night following my car's temporary demise, I attended the opening night party with my brother Will, also a volunteer driver. I hobnobbed with Heather Matarazzo, the producer and star of *Mangus!* (you may remember her as Lilly from *The Princess Diaries*).

Will approached me and announced that he was going to drive Kathleen Turner back to her hotel and would meet up with me later. Sure, great. Thanks for the invite. See you soon.

After making all of these *Mangus!* connections, it seemed appropriate to see the movie as soon as financially

possible. Will and I attended a screening the following night after we delivered pizzas to all the venues. The film was odd but sweet, the highlight being John Waters as a vision of Jesus in a strip club.

The next day was the first of my two babysitting gigs. Farmiga and hubby were incredibly nice, down-to-earth and actually overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of Provincetown. They had a two-year-old boy and a five-month-old girl. It became apparent that I was

*I managed to stumble upon a goldmine of a job: Vera Farmiga and her husband were looking for a babysitter for their two children, and somehow, I managed to snag the gig.*

their first real babysitter; the pressure was on. The boy was really into *Cars* and had a toy figure of every character from the first movie. He gleefully told me each car's name. I mentally began to take notes. He also had code words for what he needed to do, which became important when things like going to the bathroom were suddenly involved (he was semi-potty trained, "semi" being the key word here).

Farmiga's husband, a synth player for the now-defunct Dadsy, handed me an iPad. "It's his iPad," he said, referring to his two-year-old. "It has his Pixar movies on it. He knows how to use it." The two-year-old suddenly became more awesome than me.

The night ended with the baby not falling asleep and crying her face red just as Mommy walked through the door. Great. I just looked like a terrible babysitter in front of Vera Farmiga. Luckily, I had the next night to restore my reputation as the best damn babysitter the festival had ever seen.

The next day, my other brother and I chased Aronofsky down the street for photos after a screening of *Black Swan* which emotionally tore me in half. I arrived for Babysitting Gig #2 prepped and ready to wow the parents. Now accustomed to the children, I plopped down next to the boy and his *Cars* figurines and eagerly asked him where

Chick Hicks was. Farmiga laughed, genuinely amused at my interaction with her son.

Hours later, after watching *Toy Story* in its entirety and the beginning of the first sequel, I realized that both children were asleep, the baby snoring adorably on my stomach as I lay on the couch. This time, I took no chances and refused to move my body an inch for fear of waking up the baby.

After at least an hour of lying with an infant wrapped around my chest, the parents returned and were astonished. Mr. Dadsy literally put his hand to his mouth, while Farmiga grabbed her camera and started snapping photos. The baby cried upon transfer to her mother, but was quickly calmed. Will finally returned and gave Vera Farmiga and her husband some chocolate chip cookies he had made just for them. They were incredibly gracious.

The next day (the last of the festival), I decided to attend a screening of Farmiga's directorial debut, *Higher Ground*. It was an excellent and honest portrayal of Christianity in America, and I am pleased that it is gaining some momentum.

After the screening, Farmiga came on stage for a Q&A. She was somewhat distraught, having just come from a screening of the Iranian film *Circumstance*, and didn't look like she was really ready to be there. Then she looked in my direction. "Hi, baby!" she shouted, waving enthusiastically. She turned to the crowd and told them about the sleeping baby experience. I ran into her afterwards and gave her a final hug; the family was leaving for Nantucket the following day for their film festival. Nantucket's opening film? *Cars 2*.

I got my car back the next day, after a volunteer-only screening of the Norwegian film *Happy, Happy* (I can honestly describe the film with the word "delightful"). I wondered how badly it would have gone if I hadn't brought the car to the shop to be looked at. I might have driven Abigail Breslin somewhere, as she was milling around town, or maybe I could have driven an increasingly cranky Kathleen Turner back to her hotel. There's always next year. •



A still from *Up In The Air* featuring George Clooney alongside actress Vera Farmiga, a featured actress at the Provincetown International Film Festival



# NHL Eastern Conference Preview 2011-2012

Iggy Sterling predicts and outlines his eight playoff teams in the Eastern Conference

**IGGY STERLING**  
STAFF WRITER

With October coming to a close, hockey is getting back into full swing. Since the NBA is still at a halt, why not get familiar with some of the best teams the NHL has to offer? The last issue featured a team-by-team analysis of the Western Conference. Here I'll lay out my predictions for the Eastern Conference, one playoff team at a time.

**Boston Bruins:** As everyone in New England has been reminded about five times a day, "Dah Bs won thah cup kid! Wicked awesome, city of champions!" After winning their first cup since 1972, the Bruins are back looking to repeat. The Bs only lost three key players this off season, with Mark Recchi retiring as well as Tomas Kaberle and Michael Ryder leaving for other teams. That's definitely a good sign for them. Up front they are lead again by the likes of David Krejci, Milan Lucic, Nathan Horton and Patrice Bergeron. While it looks like Marc Savard's career is most likely coming to a close due to concussion problems, the Bruins are going to look to Brad Marchand and Tyler Seguin to improve upon the success they both enjoyed last year as rookies. On the back end, the Bs are just as strong. Captain Zdeno Chara is a huge presence on the blue line, both literally and figuratively. Joining him are Dennis Seidenberg, Johnny Boychuck, Andrew Ferrence and Adam McQuaid. Should the opposition manage to get past this talented D-core, they still have to find a way to beat Vezina Trophy and Conn Smythe MVP winner Timmy Thomas. While that all seems like a tall order, I still don't see the Bruins repeating. The East is just too competitive, not to mention that no team has won back-to-back Stanley Cups since 1998.

**Buffalo Sabres:** The Sabres made some big moves this off-season. Much of that is due to new owner, Terry Pegula, who took over the team mid-season last year. Under his influence and check book, the Sabres are looking to become a power house in the East. Resigning Drew Stafford and adding Ville Leino up front and power-play specialist defenseman Christian Ehrhoff will add some punch to their offense. They will be joining an already impressive offense including Jason Pominville, Derek Roy, Tyler Ennis and 2008 Hobey Baker finalist, Nathan Gerbe. On the blue line they also added Brazilian (!) Robyn Regehr, to join youngster Tyler Myers and Jordan Leopold. Their biggest asset on defense, however is US Olympian and all-star goal tender Ryan Miller, who is always a competitor in net. They say money can't buy happiness, but the Sabres showed this summer that it sure can buy talent. They've looked strong thus far in the season and should go at least a round or two into the post-season. With the Bills having a strong season as well, maybe Buffalo will finally get themselves a championship.

**New Jersey Devils:** The Devils are looking to bounce back from a disappointing 2010-2011 season. After struggling under rookie head Coach John MacLean who was fired after only thirty three games, the Devils looked like their former

selves as the season went on. They brought in a new head coach, Pete DeBoer, but only time will tell if he can do better than his predecessor. Fortunately, he has a lot of talent to work with. Upfront, the Devils are headlined by super-star Ilya Kovalchuk, Patrick Elias, Travis Zajac, veteran Petr

ixon. In net is fan favorite Henrik Lundqvist, or more commonly, King Henrik. While the Rangers play in a very tough division, they should make playoffs once again. The hope this year is to avoid a first round exit.

**Pittsburgh Penguins:** The other powerhouse from Pennsylvania should never be overlooked. The big question mark surrounding the Pens is captain and NHL cover boy, Sidney Crosby, who missed much of last season and still has yet to return after suffering post-concussion syndrome.

When healthy, Pittsburgh's forwards are ferocious, with centers Evgeni Malkin, and Jordan Staal anchoring the top three lines. On the wings the team is pretty solid as well, featuring Pascal Dupuis, Chris Kunitz and the injured Tyler Kennedy. On the blue line, they are anchored by defensemen Chris Letang and Brooks Orpik. They also get a lot of help from their net-minder, Marc-Andre Fleury who can steal games when he is hot. If Crosby can come back to lead the team, and the rest of the Pens can stay healthy, they should be a strong candidate to win another Stanley Cup this year.

**Toronto Maple Leafs:**

This is probably my boldest prediction for the East. GM Brian Burke, the man who built the cup-winning Ducks in '07, has been with the team for a few years now and has built a strong squad, with the hopes of forgetting the decades of disappointment in Toronto. With some other Eastern Conference teams struggling at the start of the season, this could be the year Toronto makes it back to the playoffs. Upfront, the Leafs have some strong talent. Phil Kessel, infamously involved in the deal that brought Boston Tyle Seguin, is finally living up to his value. He is joined by scorer Mikhail Grabovski as well as Joffrey Lupul, Tyler Bozak and Tim Connolly. Additionally, they have a rugged blue line with Dion Phaneuf, Mike Komisarek and young star Luke Schenn. After not resigning J.S. Giguere, there will be a battle in net between youngsters Jonas Gustavsson and James Reimer. If one or both of them can step up to the plate, the Leafs could make good on my prediction by returning to the playoffs.

**Washington Capitals:**

The question is not whether or not the Caps will make the playoffs, but whether or not they can finally win the East. After several seasons of playoff meltdowns, they are ready to take the next step. Looking at the forward depth chart, it reads more like an NHL Fantasy team roster than a real one. Lead by super star Alex "The Great" Ovechkin, are stars such as Alexander Semin, Nicklas Backstrom, Mike Knuble, Mathieu Perreault, Brooks Laich, Jason Chimera, Troy Brouwer and Nashville's playoff hero last year, Joel Ward. On the blue line they are led by offensive defenseman Mike Green, as well as Tom Poti, Jeff Schultz, Roman Hamrlik and Dennis Wideman. One of the biggest changes of note this off season, however, was the addition of goal tender Tomas Vokoun, a stand-out tender who has not had any chance of playoff success with his former team, the Florida Panthers. He was brought in for a jaw droopingly low \$1.5 million for one year. Just like the Flyers, the Caps are hoping their new addition in net can give them the push they need to bring the Cup to D.C.

**Prediction:** The Eastern Conference is always strong, with a lot of teams that have the potential to sit on top of the standings come April. There are also a couple of teams that should be strong competitors, yet I don't think they will have enough to make the cut. With Tomas Vokoun coming in, I think that this will finally be Washington's year to make it to the finals, and perhaps even to win Lord Stanley's Cup. •



PHOTO FROM WEB

The Leafs, led by stars Phil Kessel and Dion Phaneuf, could be a dark horse in the Eastern Conference. Toronto's loyal fans know success is long over due.

Sykora and Captain Zach Parise who was plagued by injury last season. While the Devils have been known for decades for their stingy defensive system, their blue line is largely without marquee names. The most exciting player is perhaps high draft pick Adam Larsson, who is expected to receive regular minutes as a rookie. You also can't forget perennially excellent legend in goal, Martin Brodeur, who is always an anchor in net. If the Devils can acclimate to their new coach, they should be around come late April.

**New York Rangers:** The Rangers had an exciting summer. After being announced as a partici-

**Philadelphia Flyers:** After losing in the Stanley Cup finals two years ago, the Flyers are looking to return this year with a different outcome. Most notably, the Flyers addressed some concerns about locker room chemistry this summer, trading away two previously perceived franchise players, in Captain Mike Richards and goal scorer Jeff Carter. This was only the beginning of their move-making which has left them with a newly improved roster. First off, the Flyers paid good money to finally address their issue in net by bringing in goaltender Ilya Bryzgalov. They signed aging superstar Jaromir Jagr, who looks to be playing well, despite having played in Russia for

disappointment in Toronto. With some other Eastern Conference teams struggling at the start of the season, this could be the year Toronto makes it back to the playoffs. Upfront, the Leafs have some strong talent. Phil Kessel, infamously involved in the deal that brought Boston Tyle Seguin, is finally living up to his value. He is joined by scorer Mikhail Grabovski as well as Joffrey Lupul, Tyler Bozak and Tim Connolly. Additionally, they have a rugged blue line with Dion Phaneuf, Mike Komisarek and young star Luke Schenn. After not resigning J.S. Giguere, there will be a battle in net between youngsters Jonas Gustavsson and James Reimer. If one or both of them can step up to the plate, the Leafs could make good on my prediction by returning to the playoffs.



The Caps have had issues in goal the past few seasons, barring them from making any deep playoff runs. Will Thomas Vokoun be the answer?

pant in this year's Winter Classic, they will also be the focus of the HBO documentary 24/7 which chronicled the weeks leading up to last year's Winter Classic. The blue-shirts had a disappointing playoff last year, however, getting knocked out by the Washington Capitals in the first round. Looking to improve, GM Glen Sather went shopping this summer, bringing in the free agent pool's most coveted player, goal scorer Brad Richards. Upfront they have a lot of firepower with players like superstar Marian Gaborik, Brandon Dubinsky, Captain Ryan Callahan and Wojtek Wolski. They aren't too shabby on the back end either, with Marc Staal, Dan Girardi, Michael Del Zotto, Brandon Bell, Steve Eminger and rookie Tim Er-

the last three years. They also brought in Maxime Talbot to give themselves some more grit and toughness. Returning up front is center Cladue Giroux, who was dubbed, "Little Mario" as a nod to his former linemate, Mario Lemieux. Joining him is goal scorer Danny Briere, as well as two youngsters who were brought in via the Richards trade, Wayne Simmonds and Brayden Schenn. On the back end they are led by behemoth captains, Chris Pronger and Kimmo Timonen. As the other participant in the Winter Classic, the TV spotlight will be on the Flyers again this season. If their summer acquisitions pay off, the Broad Street Bullies could be going deep into the post-season.

PHOTO FROM WEB

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# Where is our Camel Pride?

Nick Rodricks comments on Conn’s lack of athletic interest by the administration and the student body

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Take Tempel Green. This area is an excellent place for congregating, barbecues and hacky sack, but this should not be its main purpose. The occasional soccer game is played on the green and for these events, a relatively large group of students attend, heartily cheering on their fellow classmates. Yet this should be the norm and not the exception. The grass on the green is often poorly maintained, forcing soccer and lacrosse to head back down to the artificial turf where they are tucked securely away from the general student body. If someone were to take the initiative and raise the money to put artificial turf on one of these it would be game over, a guaranteed boost in school spirit. Any actual seating around Silfen Field wouldn’t kill us either.

The responsibility of hyping games should not rest solely on the team getting ready for its weekend game. The athletic department should assume some responsibility and make an effort to attract students. A winning season makes a huge difference for a school, but it’s a pipe dream without a supportive student body. Games should be seen as an exciting opportunity to congregate and enjoy success; they should not be as poorly-attended as high school badminton. Where is the booster club? Where is that core of die-hard fans? There is no more tangible way to

measure a school’s success than in the wins column. The school should be making a big deal out of athletics all of the time, not simply when the alumni are around.

Building a new gym was an excellent step in the right direction but eliminating the old one in favor of a dance studio made some athletes angry. While other schools have fitness centers built exclusively for their athletes, we couldn’t even have the old equipment. Varsity teams attempting to train in the offseason find that there are no fields available (as many club sports have priority) and the poor maintenance of the fields often stands in the way. Varsity teams should not

*The responsibility of hyping games should not rest solely on the team getting ready for its weekend game. The athletic department should assume some responsibility and make an effort to attract students.*

be stepping on each other’s toes; they should all have the appropriate space in which to succeed.

Before fields can be built and new weight rooms can be erected there has to be a drive

from within the school. No one will do a t e money to build a new locker-room if they cannot brag about the school in the office afterwards. I understand our priorities lie with academics and I support that 100 percent. Yet, I hope in the future that the administration will support athletics in a way they have yet failed to do. Even more than that, I hope the student body will support their athletes down the road and that they can understand the types of opportunities that athletics provide. The Harvard-Yale football game sells out every single year and it would be



The new athletic center was a step in the right direction for Conn’s athletic program.

hard to say that they have sacrificed academics. Everyone needs to start wearing the blue and white and cheering just a little bit harder. There is no pride in the bottom of the standings. •

# Club Soccer Stays True to the Game

MOLLY BANGS  
STAFF WRITER

Soccer is widely considered to be “the world’s sport.” It is one of the few sports that can be played with nothing but a ball; no cleats, shin guards, or real goals are needed for many soccer enthusiasts across the globe. This being said, the game can also be extremely competitive, particularly in settings where players grow up with very structured, intense schedules. Heavy doses of this competition can take a negative form in coaches, demanding parental figures, personal trainers and in professional or college settings – fans. It is therefore easy for players – as athletes of all sports can attest to – to forget how it was (or perhaps why it was) that they first began to play the game.

The club soccer team keeps it in perspective, however, going back to the spirited roots of the game.

Practices consist mostly of pick-up games every day from around 4:15 to 6:00 on whichever part of the Green is available. They also play neighboring colleges and universities on an irregular weekend basis. Says Jackson Murphy ’14, “I enjoy club soccer because it gives me the opportunity to continue playing one of the sports I grew up with. The people on the team are great to be with, and while we still compete and play our hardest, our main objective is to have fun playing the sport that we are all passionate about.”

The team welcomes players from all grades and experience levels, and while it is mostly comprised of men, there are a few consistent women players as well. Murphy continues, “The main driving force behind the club is that we all love to play soccer, compete, and have fun. This contributes to our team attitude during practices, in

which the goal is to play well, improve, and have a good time; and during games where we are a bit more competitive, we still make sure that everyone gets to play.” It is this attitude that unites the team and keeps a healthy balance of these goals, ensuring that the game stays true to its simple roots.

The success in this mentality proved itself true on October 15, when the team had its first match against Trinity’s club soccer team and was victorious with an end score of 5-0. The team is led by Danny Viveros ’12 and Greg Goodfellow ’12.

As a resident of South Campus, I welcome the sight of the club soccer team playing on whichever portion of Knowlton, Harkness, or Freeman Greens that they have snagged for the evening. No matter the time of year or weather, this group is a lively – albeit motley – crew, united by the sport

they are engaged in. Laughs, good-humored slaps on the backs of teammates and high fives following “goooooooooooooal” punctuate moments of friendly intensity within and spread an air of positive energy to all passing by.

The club soccer team serves as a reminder of the merit behind stepping back from the extreme competitiveness which dominates the sports world. It is a step that has the power to take players back to the first ball they ever owned, pass they ever made or goal they ever scored. It is a step that athletes of any sport should try on those days that practice does not seem worth it. Let the club soccer team, among many of Conn’s club sports teams, serve as a reminder of what it really means to stay true to the game. •

*Worried  
about your  
Future?*

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*Dr. Schaperow specializes in helping college students to overcome anxiety, depression, and relationship struggles, while planning for a successful future.*

*Located two miles from campus*

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Field Hockey (6-7): Conn 0 — 4 Wesleyan

Men’s Soccer (8-4-1): Conn 2 — 1 Coast Guard

Volleyball (16-7): Conn 1 — 3 Coast Guard  
Conn 3 — 0 Endicott

Women’s Soccer (4-8-1): Conn 1 — 2 Wesleyan

Men’s Water Polo (2-14): Conn 9 — 11 Washington and Jefferson  
Conn 8 — 14 Gannon University

## SO YOU DON’T MISS IT GAMES

Men’s Soccer:  
@ Amherst Wednesday 10/26 3:00 PM

Women’s Soccer:  
@ Amherst Wednesday 10/26 3:30 PM

Women’s Volleyball:  
Luce Field House vs Mitchell College: Wednesday 10/26 7:00 PM

Men’s Water Polo:  
Lott Natatorium vs Iona College: Saturday 10/28 8:00 PM  
Lott Natatorium vs Fordham University 10/29 2:00 PM

## NESCAC POWER RANKINGS

COMPILED BY THE COLLEGE VOICE



This is the third installment of the NESCAC Power Ranking. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on football, men’s and women’s soccer, field hockey, and volleyball.

Amherst remains at the top of the rankings due to dominance in soccer and football. The middle of the pack stays close with a single ranking point separating the next six teams. Trinity drops from third to sixth due to ninth ranked women’s soccer. Bowdoin’s women’s soccer team rises from tenth to seventh advancing their NESCAC rank up to fifth

SCHOOL	FOOTBALL	MEN'S SOCCER	WOMEN'S SOCCER	FIELD HOCKEY	VOLLEYBALL	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
AMHERST	1	1	1	2	7	2.4	1 ↔
WILLIAMS	4	3	2	7	5	4.2	6 ↑
MIDDLEBURY	7	7	3	3	4	4.8	T4 ↑
TUFTS	10	5	4	4	2	5.0	2 ↓
BOWDOIN	6	10	7	1	1	5.0	7 ↑
TRINITY	2	4	9	5	6	5.2	3 ↓
WESLEYAN	3	2	6	6	9	5.2	T4 ↓
CONN COLL	—	6	11	9	3	7.25	9 ↑
HAMILTON	8	8	5	8	10	7.25	8 ↓
BATES	5	11	8	10	11	9.0	T-10 ↔
COLBY	9	9	10	11	8	9.4	T-10 ↓

The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editors, Dan Moorin and Jesse Moskowitz ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were averaged to create a composite overall ranking for each school. Note that Connecticut College does not participate in football.