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CECILIA BROWN

Connecticut Candidates Courtney and Formica to Debate at Connecticut College

MATTHEW MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

National politics are breaking out on the Connecticut College campus in a big way. In what may be an unprecedented event for our school, Democratic Congressman Joseph Courtney and his Republican challenger, the First Selectmen of East Lyme, Paul Formica, will debating in Palmer Auditorium at 7 PM on the Monday, October 29. *The College Voice's* own Editor-in-Chief, Meredith Boyle, will be sitting on stage alongside representatives of WNPR, *The New London Day* and CPTV, asking the candidates questions submitted by Conn College students.

The inception of this event came in September when President Higdon was downtown for his regular meetings with the head of the editorial page for *The Day* and was asked if the college would be interested in hosting the event. His response, according to Conn's Director of Public Relations Deborah MacDonnell, was something along the lines of "yes, but we want our students involved." A few weeks later, a proposal was made for a co-hosted debate in Palmer Auditorium, to be broadcast live on CPTV and moderated by the news director of CT Radio News, Steve Kotchko.

Presented with the question of student involvement, MacDonnell initially mulled over what that should mean, before generating a plan to both have Conn students submit questions for the candidates and assemble a peer committee to select the best questions to be read. Professor MaryAnne Borrelli, the head of the government/international relations department, recommended Sarah Flecke '13. Flecke, an IR and Economics major and chair of the Government Student Advisory Board, was also asked to suggest a small group of other students whom she believed would make a good contribution to the committee.

"I recommended two other senior representatives on the SAB. In addition, an SGA member and the SGA president were contacted by Deb to be a part of this. The idea was to have a diverse, and engaged group of students who would bring different perspectives about the congressional debate to the table," said Flecke.

Submissions for student questions were open until midnight on Tuesday, October 23 and were sorted over the course of the next two days. Flecke expressed that she and the committee are looking for "well-thought" questions that demonstrate the student had some clear understanding of the subject matter.

"We don't want questions that are too easy for candidates to answer. At the same time, they should not be too lengthy - having a direct question will mean that the debaters must answer it, and cannot just repeat their platforms," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Wig and Candle Spells Success with Bee

MOLLIE REID
CONTRIBUTOR

Laughter, cheers and a plethora of lively characters filled Oliva Hall as nine Conn students took the stage in Wig & Candle's production of Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* from October 18 to 20. The show was directed and choreographed by Christophe Desorbay '15 and Terilyn Eisenhauer '15. Anatasia Elliott '14 directed the music while Madison Winey '15 served as stage manager.

Through about twenty musical numbers, *Spelling Bee* tells the story of six adolescent misfits who aspire

to win Putnam County's spelling bee. The musical opens with Rona Lisa Peretti, played by Brittany Baltay '16, who in a mother/school teacher-like way introduces the six main contestants in the musical's title number. The audience quickly gets acquainted with each character's idiosyncrasies: Leaf Coneybear's (Jake Faris '15) hyperactive personality in which he must wear a helmet, Marcy Park's (Molly Shimko '13) ability to speak not five, but six languages as expressed in "I Speak Six Languages," Olive Ostrovsky's (Skyler Volpe '13) ability to rearrange words to spell new things, Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre's (Taryn Kitchen '16) passion for political re-

form, Chip Tolentino's (David Socolar '16) participation in a boy scout troupe and William Barfée's (Patrick Landes '16), talent for spelling out words with his foot as demonstrated in "Magic Foot."

The adults in the musical also express their own quirks. There's Vice Principal Douglas Panch's (Cian Fields '16) mysterious five-year hiatus. Even though Panch claims that he is "in a better place now," he later erupts on stage when Olive's dad calls his daughter on the phone, interrupting the spelling bee. The bee's comfort counselor, Mitch M. Mahoney, played by Grant Jacoby '13, is an ex-convict. Jacoby clearly showed Mahoney's initial

dissatisfaction with his job through distinct side comments and facial expressions as he handed the losers a juice box while sometimes receiving a hug.

As the musical progresses through series of definitions, pronunciations and in-context sentences featuring words like "acouchi," "lugubrious" and "camouflage," friendships and enmities are formed among the spellers. While Barfée develops a friendship with Olive, a first-time speller, he forms a loathing relationship with Chip. The audience learns of Panch's lasting infatuation with Ms. Peretti, to which she does not return his affections.

New Dean Brings Fresh Perspective to the College

MARCELA GRILLO
CONTRIBUTOR

On a rainy afternoon in September, Dean Carolyn Denard sat across from me at the table in her office, wearing a prim, charcoal jacket with matching skirt. She wore lightly tinted red glasses that shone ever so slightly with the shyest ray of sun beaming through the window.

Marcela Grillo (MG): To start: what brought you to Connecticut College?

Dean Denard: Well first of all, I had been involved with Connecticut College in a kind of theoretical way for several years before, when I was

an Associate Dean at Wells College, when they transitioned to a women's college. Connecticut College was one of the colleges that we looked at as a model for transitioning to co-ed. I got very interested in diversity issues when I was at Brown and what Connecticut College was trying to do to make diversity a more integral part of the college was of interest to me. So I already had this kind of theoretical engagement with CC as a place where they were doing things well, in an exemplary way. They were charting a path that I found intriguing.

I had been an Associate Dean for eight years so when a colleague wanted to nominate me for this position I thought this was a school that I could

work well in and provide some leadership around. It was small and it was liberal arts and fit all the criteria that I wanted in terms of leadership.

MG: What sparked your interest in education in general and why did you choose this path?

DD: Well I come from a family of educators. My mother was a first grade teacher, my father was a high school science teacher and football coach, and I had an aunt who was a dean at a college...[we were] educators throughout. It was a happy expectation for me. I love school! I always felt the right place to be in August and September is in school, so it just never occurred to me not to do educa-

tion. I think teaching came from my mom and dad. It seemed the reward that came with engaging in student lives was really kind of a perennial reward because I would see people come back to my mother for year after year after year and see their children - same thing with my father. So all of my examples of engagement with student life were very positive ones.

So I taught, and had a great career as a college professor. I was tenured, I wrote and I had great relationships with my students, and then decided I wanted to have a larger view of the college experience so I wanted to go into academic administration as a result.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

IN THIS ISSUE

On Liberal Arts Thinking and Politics

Sports Editor Katie Karlson discusses the way we should talk about politics.

EDITORIALS - 2

Alcohol & Vandalism Incidents

Campus Safety Officer Stewart Smith discusses the high incidence of vandalism yet low hospital transports.

NEWS - 5

Halloween or Slut-oween?

Are women objectified through increasingly slutty Halloween costumes?

OPINIONS - 6

Lovin' New Local

The Washington Street Coffeehouse opens its doors to good reviews.

ARTS - 10

On Campus Running

Best spots to run on campus and enjoy beautiful fall foliage before the Frankenstorm wipes it out.

SPORTS - 12

Editorial

A liberal arts education is meant to broaden students' horizons and knowledge. Through our education as liberal arts students, we develop strong written and verbal skills, an ability to argue both sides of a debate, and the responsibility to act as an informed member of society. According to the college website, the goal of a Connecticut College education is to "learn how to evaluate and synthesize information, solve complex problems, reason cogently, and communicate effectively". In the past couple of months, I have noticed that instead of being the open-minded, eager-to-learn student body advertised to prospective students, we have become closed to the opposition.

As the 2012 Presidential Election approaches, students are signing themselves up for Team Obama or Team Romney like we are part of a *Twilight*-esque political fantasy world. People care more about whom you are choosing to vote for rather than why you made the choice in the first place. We have created an environment where saying that you are voting Republican is a dirty word. I think that as a student body we are capable of better than that. In the next days leading up to the

election and the following months, I challenge Connecticut College students to do the following:

Think for yourself and make your own decisions. In forming your beliefs, whether it is about the upcoming election or about whether you like the most recent movie release, try to think independently from your friends and parents. For example, in the upcoming election too many people are voting the way their parents or friends are voting simply because it is the easier path to take. Take the initiative to discover what is important to you and base your vote off of these discoveries. It does not matter what anyone else thinks, you need to make your own decisions.

Educate yourself about both sides of an issue and be able to understand both arguments. Think about how you develop a hypothesis: you come up with an argument, consider the alternative, and convince readers that your position is the strongest. This requires in depth knowledge of both sides of an issue, not just the one you are presenting. Spending time to explore the views that you initially do not support could provide more clarity and promote understanding.

Respect the decisions and views of others. Threatening to move out

of the country in protest of who becomes the next president of the United States is not productive when trying to express your distaste for a political party. You can constructively disagree with someone while working together to move forward to achieve a common goal. These next four years will be a challenge for whoever is elected to office on November 6. It is completely okay to have different views on issues and this should be encouraged. If everybody thought the same all the time, there would never be an opportunity to learn and grow.

Remember, as students at a liberal arts college we have been taught to be leaders. In these next weeks, I encourage you to respect the views of your peers regardless of whether you believe in them yourself. Our Connecticut College community should foster mutual respect, regardless of who believes what. We have created a safe environment where people can openly express their opinions regarding race, gender, religion, and sexual orientation. We should work to foster an environment where students feel just as comfortable expressing their political views.

-Katie Karlson
Sports Editor

Letters to the Editor (Your opinion goes here).

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

Letters to the Editor:

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

All submissions will be given equal consideration.

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

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and include contact information.

No unsigned letters will be published.

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

The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, grammar or libel. No letters deemed to be libelous towards an individual or group will be published.

The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. These policies must be made public knowledge so that every reader may maintain equal opportunity to have their opinions published.

Please submit your letters by either filling out the form on our site at www.thecollegevoice.org/contact-us/submitletter or by emailing it to eic@thecollegevoice.org.

To the Editor,

I was very disturbed by the letter to the editor that appeared in the last issue of the Voice regarding Melanie Thibeault's article on security at Conn and sexual assault. The sexism, victim blaming and lack of compassion for those who have been sexually assaulted in the response to Ms. Thibeault's article troubled me.

The responder first stated that the definition of sexual assault — any sexual act done to you without your consent — was "dangerously ambiguous," implying that being groped at a Cro dance was not worthy of being called a sexual assault. The responder implies that sexual assault is only synonymous with rape, demonstrating an incredible insensitivity to those who have experienced sexual assault and a lack of understanding of what "sexual assault" means.

I would like to pose the same situation but this time using the term physical assault. If a man was at a Cro dance and suddenly, someone he didn't know came up to him and punched him or pushed him to the ground, I'm fairly certain most people, including the responder, would consider that a physical assault. At the very least, I would hope that something short of being "dragged into an alley, beaten to

a pulp, and left for dead" would be deemed a physical assault. Yet just replace "physical" with "sexual" and all those actions become much more "ambiguous" because if someone starts grabbing you at a dance you are probably asking for it.

But in the very same breath, the responder says that the definition of sexual assault is far too "black and white" and he believes it is particularly inaccurate to define things as a matter of "fully-conscious perpetrator versus helpless victim." In fact, he is right. That is a very troubling definition, but one provided by him and no one else in the context of this incident. Sexual assault is not always between a "fully-conscious perpetrator and a helpless victim." In this particular incident in Cro, Julian Quintero was drunk, therefore not fully conscious, and the "victims" were far from helpless. They were quick to react, seeking the help of campus safety to apprehend and question Quintero. The fact that someone's personal definition of sexual assault is so inaccurate and degrading to survivors of sexual assault leads me to wonder if instead of criticizing the education programs on campus, he might benefit from enrolling in one.

This said, I have to agree that increasing security on campus is probably not the best solution to providing safety for our students

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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

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News & Features

OCTOBER 29, 2012

THE COLLEGE VOICE

An Invisible Man Sleeping in Your Bed

A conversation with Professor Tennyson Wellman about on-campus ghosts and our love-hate relationship with the supernatural

MEREDITH BOYLE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Every Halloween, we renew our interest, fear or fascination with the paranormal. When we think about supernatural beings on campus, two names come to mind: Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Tennyson Wellman and Campus Safety Officer Shamus Denniston. The latter led a ghost walk last week and frequently ghost hunts on campus; Wellman plans to host two sessions of ghost storytelling on Mischief Night and Halloween night this week. Given Wellman's extensive knowledge of the supernatural (he will be teaching his favorite class, "Supernatural in American Pop Culture" in the spring), I sat down with him in hopes of breaking down this idea of ghosts, why we fear them and how our belief in them may be tied to historical, cultural and religious influences.

In a survey produced by *The College Voice*, with questions suggested by Wellman, 57.9% of students said that they had heard of (not experienced) events of a supernatural nature at Conn.

However, Wellman said, "There are some campuses that are allegedly very haunted; this campus is not one of them."

Although many stories do exist on campus, Wellman said that the biggest problem with supernatural stories is tracking down the firsthand source that saw the phenomenon. The only verifiable story on campus is the tale of a girl who appeared in Harris a few years ago. The source of the story has been tracked down, and the woman could even sketch a photo of what she saw. However, her account demonstrates how the story has become distorted over time.

"The story that she [told] was in some ways substantially different from the

stories that I had heard about it. Which is one of the reasons I was interested in the survey, because one of the biggest problems with doing any type of study is that there is a huge amount of interference pattern between a firsthand account and what becomes lore and gets passed around. If you cannot track it back to the firsthand account it's amazing how much things get distorted, entirely unintentionally," Wellman said.

Even though Wellman is generally skeptical of most on-campus incidences labeled as "paranormal", he agreed to recount some of the stories he hears most frequently.

Allegedly, he said, there are two ghosts in Palmer Auditorium. One is normally known as Ruth, though Wellman said some people also call her Grace. Ruth was supposedly a New London citizen who frequented theater performances on campus. Since her death, Ruth has been seen at random times, sitting in the same place in the balcony stage left. Wellman has never seen Ruth, though not for lack of trying.

The closest he's been was on a ghost hunting expedition two years ago with officer Denniston and his Supernatural class.

"The only thing that we saw were the running lights [on the balcony] which looked like they were either being turned on and off or were being blocked in some sequence as if someone was moving back and forth in front of them. My guess is that it was probably mice or something like that, but we really couldn't explain what was going on," Wellman said.

The second ghost in Palmer is apparently the spirit of a professor who died from a heart attack while giving a lecture in the auditorium. "My difficulty with that one is that I've heard that story elsewhere and therefore that seems to

me like a very common story that you hear at colleges. It doesn't mean it's not true, but it means I don't have any way of measuring it," Wellman explained.

Wellman has also heard of strange activity in Blaustein. For example, one night a Campus Safety officer was performing routine checks of the building—these normally happen anytime between midnight and 3 AM in all buildings on campus. The officer began on the third floor and finished in the atrium, after sweeping and securing all floors. While in the atrium, he happened to look up and saw someone leaning over the balcony on the third floor looking down at him. When he went back upstairs to see who it was, nobody was there. This was understood as a paranormal being inhabiting the old building.

Further, Wellman confesses that he himself has had strange experiences in Blaustein, though he attributes them to the old, creepy nature of the building rather than to a supernatural phenomenon. Nonetheless, he was alone in the building late at night and swore someone walked behind him.

"The motion-sensitive lights in the hallway were going off when I was the only person in the building. I don't think it was a ghost, but it was a strong enough impression that I could understand why people could think that there was somebody there," Wellman said.

Blaustein isn't the only suspicious building at Conn. Wellman has also heard secondhand reports that there is a third-floor room in Fanning where, upon entering, a Campus Safety officer saw a human-sized, dark mass that rushed at him and knocked him over.

Additional buildings on campus are said to have EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomenon). Officer Denniston has taken recordings in various buildings and, when playing the recordings back,

heard strange noises. These are considered to potentially be the voices of ghosts. "I think it is white noise," Wellman said, "We are interpreting sounds that fit patterns and EVP has been recorded in several buildings on campus that otherwise haven't had reports of haunting."

Finally, Wellman mentioned "the Arbo scream" which is the disturbing noise sometimes heard at night; what sounds like someone being attacked in the Arbo. "It's usually but not always connected in people's minds with the fact that Gallows Lane was the execution site for New London," he said.

"My guess is that it's actually just a screech owl. But apparently it has happened at times where people have called the police and the police have gone looking to see if someone has been killed."

Generally in popular culture, and especially around Halloween, ghosts are represented as beings to be feared. Wellman attributed this fear to three things: psychology, culture and history.

"Psychologically, one of the things that I think ghost stories in America do for us is they help us to think about problems of presence and embodiment—can you exist if you don't have a body and if you don't have a body can you be someplace? People across the world have experiences where they perceive the existence of other beings that are either immaterial or weirdly material and that I think is cross-cultural. People all around the world say they see things. How they identify them depends on the culture."

"Historically speaking, different cultures have different attitudes about the dead. And since most people think ghosts are dead people, I would say that it is interesting that American culture has a profound fear of the dead in gen-

eral. Ghosts and our fear of ghosts as a culture are at least partly drawing on that general fear of death. Conversely, there's also a great deal of titillation about it, which I think explains some of our love hate with ghosts," Wellman said.

Wellman also believes that there is often a positive correlation between those who ascribe to a religion and those who believe in ghosts, although the degree of correlation varies depending on the religion. Sometimes, this belief in religion can also influence the idea of negative versus positive ghosts.

"It is interesting to note that many of the evangelical groups, for instance, will claim that the paranormal exists but that it is the devil doing it. So sometimes you'll see there is the willingness to accept the reality of it but only in a particular interpretation," he said.

Outside of religion, the portrayal of ghosts in pop culture also tends to be negative. "Regularly, our ghost stories are about negative ghosts which is interesting because our negative ghosts act very much like demons in traditional narratives. However, we've seen in the twentieth century the slow but steady humanization of demons and angels," he said.

Perhaps the most unsettling aspect of having a paranormal experience is that it leads you to question all conceptions of what people are. "You're faced with this sense of 'Is my sense of people-ness accurate? Is there somebody here that I can't see?' There's a great line in the Ghostbusters theme song, which I always note is actually scarier than the movie: the question of whether there's an invisible man sleeping in your bed."

Wellman's class "Supernatural in American Pop Culture" will be offered in the spring on Tuesday and Thursday nights. •

If you could see the ghost of any famous person, who would it be?



ABRAHAM LINCOLN



HEATH LEDGER



JESUS CHRIST



THOMAS JEFFERSON



SHAKESPEARE



WALT WHITMAN



FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN



FRANCISCO GOYA



MOSES



SUSAN B. ANTHONY



MICHAEL JACKSON



CASPER



ERNEST SHACKLETON



JOHN ADAMS



EDGAR ALLEN POE



OSCAR WILDE



ANNE FRANK



ALEXANDER HAMILTON



JUDAS ISCARIOT



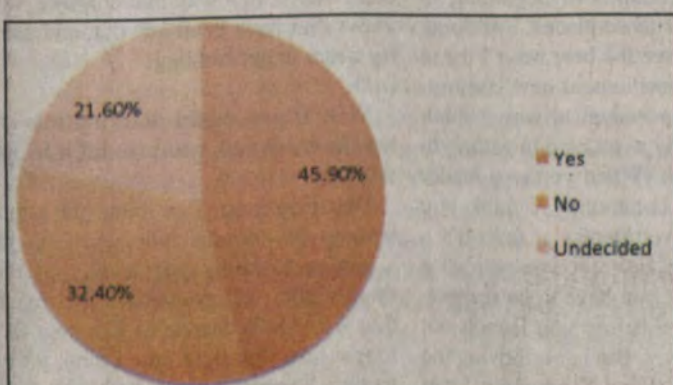
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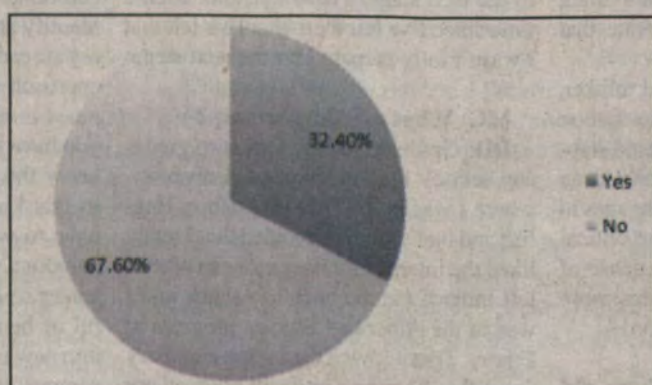
PATRICK SWAYZE

* OF REPLIES = 37, TOP 3: ABRAHAM LINCOLN, HEATH LEDGER, AND JESUS CHRIST TALLIED THE MOST VOTES PHOTOS FROM WEB

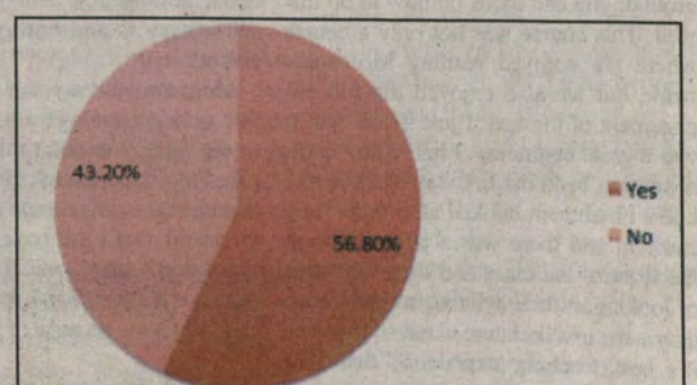
Do you believe in any of the following things: Ghosts, God, Angels, or non-human intelligent beings of other sorts? If so, which?



Have you ever had a personal experience which you would describe as supernatural (religious or otherwise)?



Have you ever heard stories about events on Conn's campus which you or someone else described as supernatural?



THE COLLEGE VOICE

Students Play Role in Congressional Debate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Courtney and Formica, each standing behind a podium, will face a table where the moderator and the three reporters will pose questions to the candidates. The reporters include Harriet Jones from WNPR, JC Reindl from *The Day*, and Meredith Boyle. The first candidate, determined by a coin toss, will be asked a question by one of the panel reporters and will have two minutes to respond. The second candidate will receive two minutes for rebuttal followed by a one-minute final comment from each candidate. Another reporter, who will have a chance to ask five to six questions, will present a question for the second candidate and the debate will continue in this fashion, alternating reporters.

"There are times when politics is deeply and richly theatrical," beams Professor Borrelli, and those are times "[you] can't substitute for direct observation." She considers this debate a unique occasion to ask significant questions of the candidates and see their content and tone of response, "presenting how they will do business for you." As a frequent observer of voting in this congressional district, Borrelli notes, "this is a tight swing district...where individual votes really matter."

It is a big deal that we are hosting an event that is part of the process of the election of a Representative for Connecticut's 2nd Congressional District. Though there seems to be vague memories of a political debate of this caliber taking place on the Connecticut College campus, records of such a past event could not be readily found.

Understandably, MacDonnell and many in the administration are exceedingly eager for an event of this profile to come to campus, stating that this is truly an "opportunity for college to showcase its students." MacDonnell also proudly pointed out that the college would not have to charge admission and had such a great facility for this event, remarking that though CPTV would here to check out Palmer on Monday in regards to cameras, the college would be providing most of the lighting, the podiums for the two candidates and the sound system for the audience.

Further, MacDonnell reminds students to get to the debate early because it will be a timed and taped affair. The doors of Palmer will close at 6:45 PM. Though Flecke and the committee might have a tough night or two mulling over student questions, Flecke is tremendously excited about Connecticut College hosting a "such a politically important event," and deeply honored to be involved.

"I hope the debates will spark many discussions amongst the student body and inspire political engagement," Flecke concluded. •



CECILIA BROWN

Fear Itself: Professor Alex Hybel Discusses the Volatile Nature of Foreign Policy and Why the Outcome of the Election May Not Matter

SAMANTHA GRAINGER SHUBA
CONTRIBUTOR

The circular lights of Coffee Grounds looked warm and inviting from the dark, rainy sidewalk of Cro Boulevard. The atmosphere inside, however, was politically charged this past Tuesday night, October 23. Susan Eckert Lynch '62 Professor of Government and International Relations Alex Hybel gave a talk entitled "Fear Itself" on foreign policy in light of the previous evening's presidential debate. This talk was a part of a series put together by the REF (Residential Education Fellows) program specifically dealing with the 2012 campaign.

The series, entitled "REF Gives You Election Cycle 2012", was put together to give student voters different perspectives on the upcoming election, especially concerning the debates. This was also largely made possible through Professor of Philosophy Larry Vogel's seminar. Professor Hybel's talk promised to be both informative and hilarious; many students arrived at Coffee Grounds early, eager to partake in dialogue with him.

The first words out of Hybel's mouth were, "I did not watch the debate last

night." This comment surprised many, and caused a few laughs, until everyone realized that he was serious. He followed up by saying that he read a transcript of the night's debate instead, and received a few sighs of relief.

Hybel had very strong opinions throughout his talk, but managed to stay relatively neutral, not insinuating personal bias at any time or implying who he will be voting for. He announced that it was fairly obvious during the debate that Mitt Romney has no expertise in foreign policy, but then added that in 2008, neither did President Obama. The rest of his thesis seemed to revolve around that very idea.

"I tell many of my students going into international relations this: you may come with great plans, but invariably you have to deal with the constraints of the world," he said.

With this insight, he told his captivated audience that though Mitt Romney may seem to have different ideas about foreign policy than Obama, in all likelihood, they would end up being roughly the same idea. Many in crowd found this intriguing, and whispers erupted around the room. Hybel had a great deal of proof to back up his opinion.

Hybel's first example was former President George W. Bush. He cited

September 11, saying that Bush had intended to take a strong stand against China economically, and rely extensively on the Department of Defense, but that tragic day in September changed everything. There are some things that are just impossible to predict. However, especially in the Middle East, Hybel said that there will be very few changes, especially in Egypt and Syria.

"Professor Hybel added valuable insight to a complex topic," Hannah Beazley '15 said. "He did not oversimplify, in fact, he made it easier for students to understand."

Hybel spent a lot of time talking about the Middle East, but he also touched on United States' relationships with Latin America, Asia and Africa. He said that the Federal Government tends to think of Latin America as a second thought, which will be a mistake in future years. He also commented on Romney's jabs at Obama's apparent lack of control over imports from China; in Professor Hybel's opinion, there is nothing more that Romney could do to "crack down" on China; Obama is doing everything possible.

In regards to Africa, Hybel stated that there is little to be said. However, Al Qaeda seems to be trending toward setting up camps in situations of politi-

cal turmoil, which are common in some parts of African nations. Hybel warned against this and hopes that the United States will turn more attention to African countries in the future.

After about forty-five minutes of lecture from Hybel, he then took questions. Students asked about everything from nuclear weapons to drones to the absence of any mention of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's involvement in foreign policy. At the end, Hybel gave a prediction for the outcome for the election. He warned students to watch Pennsylvania and Ohio, but also Colorado and Nevada. In his opinion, they will be the states that make the difference this election.

"Professor Hybel showed that he is able to explain the often convoluted intricacies of international politics in very clear and easy to grasp manner. His presentation of the major issues that the world faces once again assured me that foreign policy should play a much greater role in this year's election. As an international student from a NATO country, I deem the individual candidates' determination to both verbal and actual support of American allies as a factor worth considering," Vladimir Chlouba '16 said. •

New Dean Brings Fresh Perspective to the College

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MG: Do you remember one of your favorite courses that you ever taught?

DD: It would have to be a seminar on Toni Morrison's jazz. It was a graduate seminar. We read one novel. You have a syllabus always packed so full...this novel had so many angles from which you could come to it. The historical, the musical, the theoretical, the critical... and I thought for students to fully engage that text, that we needed to slow it down and bring all of that to the reading.

That taught me something really significant about teaching: that it really is a quality, in-depth experience. You have students who have a really good background: you can focus on how to do this well. This course was not only a course where we enjoyed reading Morrison's work, but we also enjoyed the full engagement of the text. I just loved that. It was a great beginning. I had a jazz demonstration band the first day of class so I knew I had them hooked after that! They came in and there was a jazz combo at the front of the class and they were sort of looking at their syllabus to make sure they were in a literature class, so that was the best teaching experience that I've ever had.

MG: Where was this jazz course

taught?

DD: At Georgia State University, it was a State University in Atlanta where I was a tenured professor. Both of [the above] experiences were there.

MG: What are some other ways that Toni Morrison has influenced you and your career path?

DD: Well as a Morrison scholar, you study and learn from her own work as an intellectual, you become yourself. I think I just became more confident in who I was as a person in the world. There's a way in which you read Morrison's novels and you begin to understand something about self-agency, and how important self-agency is and how you define that and act on it.

Morrison makes you a critical thinker. She's always putting forth the unorthodox or the thing you don't think would happen. I've found though as a scholar as an administrator, as a person who engages in the world, that I just have a more critical eye. I don't mean critical in the sense of negative it's just that I read things more carefully now, because of her words.

MG: A few steps back: where did you end up going for undergrad?

DD: I went to Jackson State University

in Mississippi. It was a State College, a historically black college. In many ways it was operating as many historically black colleges did - they operated as private schools because they had a distinct, targeted student by design and by default because of segregation. It was a very aspirational place because I realized then that we had a whole generation who was waiting for the enactment of Brown vs. Board of Education. So there was a great sense of wanting everybody to be 'ready' when this was finally enacted. It was full of good spirit; all of the wonderful traditions of an undergraduate college...and everybody it seemed were planning to go to the next stage. There's just not been a time since I've left there that I've felt that I wasn't fully prepared for the next step.

MG: What was the next step?

DD: Graduate school. I went to graduate school first at Indiana University, where I was in the PhD program in English and that's where I decided that I really liked the interdisciplinary more so when I left Indiana I came back to Atlanta and I was in the American Studies program at Emory. That allowed the interdisciplinary focus that I enjoyed and still allowed me to focus on literature primarily...that's why the jazz class became so important to

me because it was so much of what I had studied, bringing all of those disciplines together in the understanding of one text.

MG: Fast-forwarding a little bit: as the Dean of the College what do you hope to bring to this community? How do you think you'll contribute to the commitment to diversity here?

DD: The last few years at Connecticut College have seen a lot of changes particularly around student support in diversity. I think first off, I want to really make sure that I'm managing those changes well. I'm keeping my eyes and ears open to seeing where there are places to provide additional leadership. I'm beginning to identify some of those places. I'm doing my research to see the best way; I try to approach new positions in new communities in an anthropological way. I think you have to really work hard in getting to know the culture. When you're a leader in that kind of community, I think you have to work even harder at that. It's a paradox: you're new but you're also a leader so I think you have to be respectful of being new before you launch out into new initiatives. But I am studying the campus very well and I'm hoping I can move Connecticut College far along the path that it was laid out for itself. I think

I can continue to steer it in positive and innovative ways.

MG: What can diversity teach us as young adults and young learners?

DD: I think diversity is about bringing everything you can to bear on understanding phenomena in the universe: everything you need to know to understand a text. Diversity is bringing everything you can to bear to a situation in order to understand it better. We've tried to understand this country through the lens of one major group, and I think we've cut ourselves off from full understanding. So I think when you deliberately bring those other views, in a way that empowers the views that have been left out, and use it for better understanding.

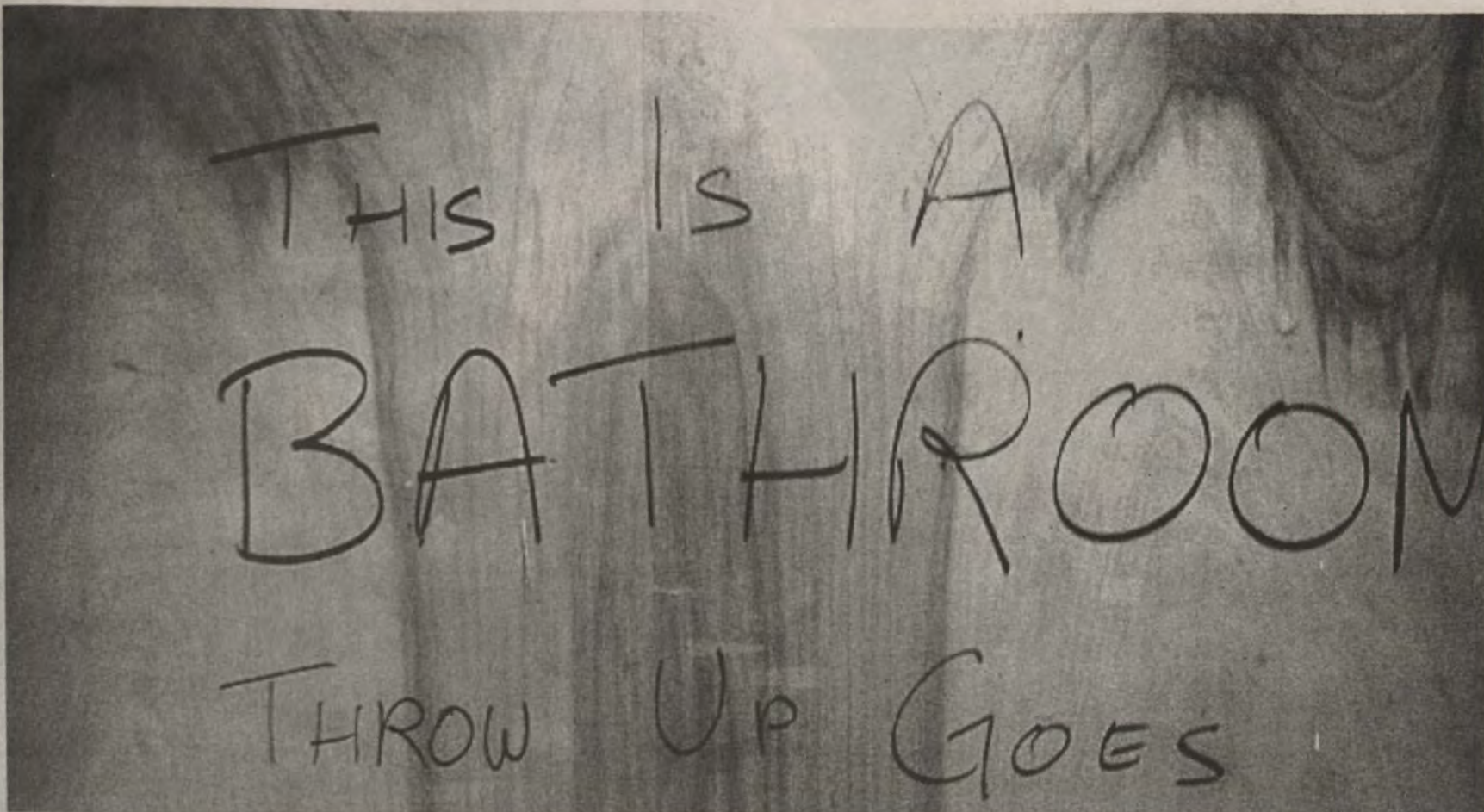
MG: If you could describe this college in one word, what would it be and why?

DD: Engaging. I've found the people here to be very friendly, even on just a getting to know you level, and then there's the self-governance... maybe that world will change as I'm here for a longer time, but right now I think it's engaging. It seems it would be hard to come here and not be engaged in one way or another. •

News & Features

OCTOBER 29, 2012

THE COLLEGE VOICE



MAIA SCHOENFELDER

Fewer Alcohol Incidents but More Vandalism?

Campus Safety Director Smith breaks down puzzling first semester statistics

HAYLEY ADNOPOZ
CONTRIBUTOR

As Park residents awoke on one of the first Sundays of the school year and walked down to Harris for a nice brunch, they found seven broken exit signs, pink paint splattered across a hallway and realized, as the dorm's Housefellow Molly Murphy '13 said, "someone mistook the elevator for a bathroom." By her calculations, the exit signs alone would cost each resident around fourteen dollars.

Unfortunately for the Park residents, this behavior is not atypical. According to Murphy, there were an average of five broken exit signs per weekend in her dorm, and by October 9, they were on track to incur damage charges exceeding \$200,000.

Park isn't the only dorm that started off the school year with a struggle with vandalism. From August 30 to October 23, there were forty-seven incidents of criminal mischief or vandalism, whereas there were only thirty-one cases at this point in 2011.

Interestingly enough, this increase in vandalism is accompanied by a decrease in incidents involving alcohol. In fact, a decrease in alcohol incidents

is starting to become a trend. By October 23, 2010, there were fifty-nine alcohol incidents. By October 23, 2011, there were fifty incidents. As of October 23, 2012, the number of alcohol-related incidents of vandalism has almost been cut in half; this fall we have seen only twenty-six reports of this nature.

"I am happy to see that the number of transports have decreased so far this year; this fact coupled with some positive data out of CC Curtis's office shows that we are slowly making some improvements to campus climate and behavior around alcohol. SGA is always looking for input and feedback on campus climate and social scene, especially surrounding alcohol," said SGA President Taylor Gould '13.

Campus Safety Director Stewart Smith attended an SGA open forum to enlist Gould and the rest of the student leaders in remedying the problem. "One of the benefits of attending the SGA open forum is that it allows for a sharing of information and concerns between the Campus Safety department and the students. This allows us to keep the lines of communication open and we can address any issues that come up," Director Smith said.

At the forum, one student asked Smith why the number of alcohol transports has decreased while the number of vandalism incidents has increased; it seems counterintuitive, there should be a positive correlation between the two. Director Smith responded that, "transports being down would suggest that students are not drinking to the point of needing medical assistance... It has been my experience that when students drink, their judgment is impaired and they do things they would not do if they were sober, such as commit acts of vandalism."

SGA has helped Campus Safety to tackle vandalism with their Anti-Vandalism Initiative. According to Gould, vandalism is a "buzz word" for SGA this year. He says that their campaign includes the recent addition of cost stickers to popularly vandalized items, such as paper towel dispensers, and will soon expand to include both a poster campaign and campus-wide discussions about vandalism.

After the rocky start to the year in terms of damages, Murphy has noticed a palpable change in the Park environment. She partially credits this to SGA's work. "With all those efforts

from SGA, Res Life speaking to my dorm alone and the numerous direct e-mails I have had to send out, I have noticed an atmospheric change and with the feedback I have heard from many residents, it is clear that they now hold their fellow residents to follow a pattern of respect. I still challenge my dorm to go a week without any dorm damages, but in the end, it really comes down to a sense of pride and respect on campus. Absolutely enjoy your nights here at Conn - we're in college...duh! But I've never heard a dorm damage bill to be a cure for a hangover!"

Gould shares these sentiments on respect: "Simply put, [vandalism] shouldn't happen here. You wouldn't break windows, exit signs or paper towel dispensers if you had them in your own home, so why do it here? Our campus is our home for the time that we are here, so we should respect our facilities and the staff that work so hard to maintain them."

Students must raise their standards of themselves and each other. Once we can see that vandalism is unacceptable, maybe people will stop thinking it's so hilarious to punch an exit sign.

TEDx Gets a Head Start in Planning

ALANNA KROWIAK
CONTRIBUTOR

In order to expand upon its mission of "ideas worth spreading," TED - a conference originally devoted to bringing together the worlds of Technology, Entertainment and Design - created a program called TEDx. The program is designed to stimulate dialogue on a local level by giving different venues and groups the opportunity to self-organize TED events. These events include live talks, videos and performances, like those found at the conference hosted by Connecticut College last year.

Aditya Harnal '13 brought TEDx to Connecticut College in 2011 after attending a business conference in Texas where he chatted with the student who had started TEDx at the University of Chicago. Realizing the potential of TEDx at a place like Connecticut College, Harnal assembled a group of interested students to organize a conference on campus. After submitting a proposal of potential speakers to TED, TEDx-ConnecticutCollege received permission to move forward.

"I felt strongly that an event of this nature would introduce an unprecedented level of interest and dialogue across the disciplines to Connecticut College," Harnal said.

Lasts year's conference theme was "Rethinking Progress." In accordance with TEDx's mission to inspire active dialogue and discourse across disciplines, the event featured twelve speakers from a variety of fields including academia, the arts, business, science research and medicine.

Some of the speakers included Professor Larry Vogel, a leader in the philosophy department at Connecticut College, who opened the conference with a review of the evolution of progress, comparing cyclical to linear post-Enlightenment views. Sociology Professor Afshan Jafar spoke on the power of language in relation to societal views of women. Cancer researcher, Dr. Ehsan Sarafraz-Yazdani discussed the progression of cancer treatment and the revolutionary potential of a new, targeted therapy, while architect and Chairman of global architecture and design firm Gensler, Daniel Winey proposed building sustainable skyscrapers. Other presenters included extreme sports photographer Keoki Flagg '87, sustainable food entrepreneur David Barber '88, a non-verbal theater group called Overground Movement, filmmaker Ayda Erbal and Eugene Gallagher, the Rosemary Park Professor of Religious Studies at Connecticut College.

This year, the project is starting early. As you may have noticed, TEDxConnecticutCollege held its first "theme week" last week, which asked students for theme suggestions for this year's spring TEDx conference. Unlike last year's theme, which was chosen by a few team members, this year's theme selection will involve the entire community. Together with the contributions from Harvestfest, online submissions, and tabling in the library, TEDxConnecticutCollege received over seventy recommendations from the student body. Now the goal is to sort through and choose one, which they will announce in the coming weeks. Once settled on a theme, the group will begin a search for speakers. In order to involve the campus in this process, TEDx will once again be soliciting suggestions from the entire campus community.

Harnal added that this conference might be a bit different from the last, "We do plan on introducing some twists to our conference as compared to last year, and we will be announcing these twists over the next few months."

The future of TEDxConnecticutCollege depends on the applied interest of the student body. "Our goal, as it has always been, is to inspire active dialogue and discourse across disciplines in a manner unique to Connecticut College," said Harnal, whose long-term aim is to make TEDxConnecticutCollege an annual tradition.

Be sure to mark your calendars because TEDxConnecticutCollege is confirmed for Saturday, April 13, 2013!

General Education Reform in Preliminary Stage, to Impact Class of 2018

JESSICA KARPINSKI
CONTRIBUTOR

Hillary Coleman '14 asked, "What could you say a Conn student is?" Professor Ron Flores wanted to know, "What are the qualities that a ConnColl grad has?" These important questions surfaced last Wednesday at the panel discussion on general education reform at Conn. The first panel speaker was John Nugent, Connecticut College's Senior Research Analyst. He discussed at length a study conducted in April 2012 about general education. About 35% of Conn's full-time undergraduate student body took part in the survey, and 28% completed the entire survey.

As most students know, our current general education system requires students to take classes fulfilling seven different distribution requirements prior to graduation. Mr. Nugent stressed that we can move forward by keeping the positive aspects of our current system and minimizing the negative aspects. The three most popular distribution requirements according to the study were philosophy/religion (Area 6), social science (Area 3), and creative arts (Area 5). The two least popular distribution requirements were math (Area 2) and

physical/biological science (Area 1). The full results of the study will be available to the student body within the next couple of weeks.

The second panel speaker was Hillary Coleman '14. She spoke about the importance of diversity and the fact that we do not have a distribution requirement regarding diversity. According to the study last April, about 270 students favored an international or global studies component of general education.

The third speaker was Professor Ron Flores, a professor of sociology here at Conn. He was one of six Conn faculty members who attended the American Association of Colleges and Universities General Education Institute in June 2012. He stressed that our general education requirements will affect who we are as an institution.

Professor Flores also explained that transparency in the process is extremely important. What does this mean for current students? Christina Fogarasi '13, SGA Chair of Academic Affairs said, "The process of Gen Ed reform is one of consensus-building. It is essential that we listen to the concerns and ideas from students, faculty and staff in the reform process, so that all parts of campus can eventually 'own' and get behind the new Gen Ed system."

The fourth and final panel speaker was Professor Mab Segrest of the gender & women's studies department. She explained that Conn currently has a "distribution" model of general education requirements, which means that students take a variety of general education courses that don't necessarily connect to one another. She also explained a different type of general education, the integrative model. An integrative model would acknowledge the interdisciplinary nature of a liberal arts general education and forge connections between classes.

After the panelists spoke, a question & answer section began. Dean of Student Life Jocelyn Briddell expressed interest in the general education reform. As a college, she hopes we will "create such a synergy that we'll all learn" from collaborating on this important project.

Changes made in general education requirements will not affect any current students at Conn. The process is expected to take at least two years and the first class to be influenced by general education reform would be the class of 2018. Students, faculty and staff have been discussing general education since last year, and the next step in the process will be a campus-wide general education committee consisting of two students, two staff

members, two administrators and six members of the faculty.

"The students will act as a liaison both to SGA and to the student-based Gen Ed taskforce, which has been meeting since last year," explained Fogarasi. Once the committee has been approved by the faculty, applications will be available for the two student positions on the committee. SGA will select the two committee members, keeping in mind that they must be available to meet with the committee for the next two years.

Although curriculum is technically the responsibility of the faculty, Fogarasi and all four of the panelists on Wednesday stressed the importance of student involvement in the process. "Students have insight into the curriculum in ways no other members of campus do, because we experience it every day!" Fogarasi explained. Additionally, she said that students may serve as an objective group in the midst of a political debate amongst the faculty, who may lose classes and/or students depending on the results of the reform.

Above all, these changes to general education will define who we are as Conn graduates, and what it means to be a student here. "I encourage every student to get this conversation going on campus!" Christina said.



MAIA SCHOENFELDER

Halloween or Slut-oween?

MOLLY PIEPER
STAFF WRITER

"Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it..." (Mean Girls)

It's that time of year again: Halloween. And time for us all to once again contemplate the age-old question of "what should I be?" For most college-aged females, the answer to this question appears to be quite simple; tack the word "sexy" onto any noun and bam! You've got a costume. It seems that the general rule of thumb for women's costumes these days is: the sluttier the bet-

ter. For this reason, Halloween is often given the moniker "Slut-o-ween."

In my own plight to find a costume, I spent some time perusing the Internet, and what I found reaffirmed my belief that all women's Halloween costumes must be slutty. Spirit Halloween Shop offers women an array of what they like to call "Women's Costume Basics." These "basics" include an abundant selection of corsets, booty-shorts and something called "adult-tutus." You can also find costumes from the Dallas Cowboys Adult Cheerleader to the Cirque de Sexy Adult Women's Costume (whatever that is). Each of these ensembles, which include barely

enough fabric to cover one half of any female body, sells for upwards of fifty dollars.

Now, a little bit of sex appeal has never hurt anyone, but it is important to know when and where to display it. The preoccupation with needing to be sexy on Halloween has led to the production of some woman's costumes that can only be seen as ridiculous. Online stores like *Yandy.com* have taken the "sexy" factor to such lengths that it is comical. I had quite a chuckle while scrolling through pages of their ridiculous costume offerings. There are some real gems, like the Sexy Honey Badger or the Sexy Grapes (who knew that grapes were sexy?!). I

also stumbled upon some costumes that are genuinely scary. I stifled a small shriek upon finding the "Working Late" costume. Let's just say that it would be much more economical to walk around wearing a tie and a pair of underwear than it would be to pay for this costume.

What makes these mass-produced, cookie-cutter, "sexy" Halloween costumes so frightening is that there is really no point to their sexiness; they are often times revealing just for the sake of being so.

I would be a hypocrite to say that wanting to look put-together and attractive on Halloween was outrageous. But when did it become socially appropri-

ate to walk around wearing little more than a bra and call it a costume? How can someone possibly be comfortable strolling around campus with eighty-percent of their body exposed? And, finally, why can't our Halloween costumes actually have some degree of creativity?

How about instead of resorting to purchasing prefabricated costumes, we put a little thought into Halloween again. It is one thing to expose a little skin in an attempt to put together an interesting or funny costume; it is an entirely different story to "slut-ify" a costume just for the sake of being "sexy." •

Red Bull's Project Stratos

The value of educational exploration in the hands of corporations

MARK FERREIRA
ARTS EDITOR

On October 14, Felix Baumgartner jumped out of a helium balloon twenty-four miles above Earth's surface. Baumgartner became the first human to break the sound barrier unaided by a vehicle. While most skydivers are unable to reach supersonic speeds because of drag caused by the atmosphere, Baumgartner succeeded because low air density at such a great height decreases air resistance.

Red Bull and Baumgartner conceived of the jump later dubbed Project Stratos by Red Bull in 2010. They set a goal to break four world records: longest free fall, highest manned bal-

loon flight, first human to break the sound barrier without a vehicle and highest skydive. Baumgartner managed to break every record except for the longest free fall. He came up seventeen seconds short of the free fall record.

While I applaud Red Bull for engineering the suit and providing the equipment used in the jump, as well as Baumgartner for his bravery and dedication, I can't help but wonder why Red Bull decided to launch Project Stratos and how stunts like this one might influence the commercialization of space exploration. Red Bull constantly sponsors extreme sports athletes like Project X with Shawn White or the first backflip of a rally

car with Travis Pastrana. While these feats showcase extreme skill and precision, they also add to Red Bull's image as a brand. Above all else, Red Bull is a company that has one goal: to sell a product. If they can associate their energy drink with awe-inspiring performances, they separate themselves from competitors such as Monster and add monetary value to their brand name. As of now, Baumgartner's video has gathered twenty-seven million YouTube views making it one of, if not the most, successful Red Bull projects to date.

Companies like Virgin Mobile have started their own commercial space programs. A ticket on a Virgin Mobile ride into space costs around

\$200,000. These prices favor the few while leaving out the many. NASA's space shuttle program enabled well-qualified and well-trained astronauts to explore space for the benefit of us all. Last May, Ashton Kutcher bought Virgin Mobile's 500th ticket into space for only \$200,000. I fail to see how sending celebrities like Kutcher into space helps us. I wish Kutcher would donate that money to NASA rather than experience space all for himself.

While Red Bull's Project Stratos doesn't go as far as Virgin Mobile, it provides further steps in associating space with business rather than science. As the narrator in *Fight Club* warns, "When deep space explora-

tion ramps up, it will be corporations that name everything: The IBM Stellar Sphere, The Philip Morris Galaxy, Planet Starbucks."

While you could argue that it doesn't matter whether companies have selfish motives because if a NASA project and a Red Bull or Virgin Mobile initiative have the same end result, the difference in motives becomes meaningless. However, as consumers and a society we must remember that corporations are not people; they exist for the sole purpose of profit. If companies own things like space programs it promotes a consumerist culture focused on money rather than on the value of education and human exploration. •

Opinions

THE COLLEGE VOICE

OCTOBER 29, 2012

What We Laugh About: When Jokes Go Too Far

SARAH LYNN FLECKE
CONTRIBUTOR

When I attended the Open Mic stand-up comedy night held in Coffee Grounds this past Wednesday, I was expecting an evening of laughter and lighthearted entertainment to distract myself from schoolwork for an hour or two. And while a number of the performers, including the host, were indeed funny and entertaining, I was taken aback by the great number of performances that not only weren't funny, but were also outright offensive.

I would consider myself to have a good sense of humor; I understand sarcasm, parodies and black humor. However, there are certain topics and ways of making jokes that simply overstep the line. Though I want to stress that not all performers were guilty of overstepping that line, the

comedians of the evening (all of whom were male) largely focused their jokes on drunk hookups, masturbation, porn and in many ways spoke of women in a solely objectifying manner.

One joke went as follows: "My girlfriend recently broke up with me. I don't really mind that part so much, it's more the reasons that she gave: 'I didn't stay in often enough on weekends, I didn't like her friends, and all the bruises.' I should add that this one got noticeably few laughs overall, but domestic violence is not something to joke about in such a crude fashion, nor is it something we should laugh about. The same performer proceeded to make necrophilic jokes, as well as presenting a description of the perfect girlfriend as "paralyzed from the neck down."

I do not wish to pick on any one performer, but I do want to contex-

tualize some of these jokes for those students who did not attend the open mic night. There were others who discussed how they love the Saturday nights at Conn because of the abundance of skimpily dressed drunk girls. Another skit began with "I love porn, I grew up on porn." A freshman's performance centered on his hookup strategies for nights out on campus, including his pickup line: "Nice shoes. Wanna fuck?"

Overall, the messages that these jokes send highlight an objectification of and attitude towards women that I think is highly problematic.

The point of discussing this issue is really not simply to criticize the stand-up show. One could argue that these jokes are tasteless, or a kind of humor not everyone can appreciate. But I think the problem is far more than that. It reflects the kinds of topics that we as students are able to

make fun of, and subsequently not take seriously. This sends the message that topics relating to the treatment of women in society and on college campuses are easy to laugh off, make fun of or dismiss. This is extremely dangerous, particularly given the recent discussions about sexual assault at colleges, the attitude of administration and students towards rape (as presented by Angie Epifano of Amherst, among others), and the 'policy of shame'.

In a Letter to the Editor from last week, Juan Pablo Pacheco discussed how to reduce sexual assault on campus, and opposed the idea of simply increasing campus safety. Instead, we should seek to create change in behavior and our environment to ultimately reduce sexual assault and offensive behavior, not just increase security through imposing outside measures.

This idea is critical, because in order to achieve this, a change in attitude has to come first. And this has to come from within the student body and the community. A good first step would be to look at how we see these issues of hookups, sexual assault and objectification of women, and to realize that the way we view and talk about them will affect their prevalence in our society. Given what we are joking and laughing about, is it any wonder that these topics have been taken very lightly, and that there is such a shockingly high (and often untold) prevalence?

I hope that we will realize the subversive nature that comments and jokes, like many of the ones seen at the open mic night, for it is behaviors like these that hinder us in changing our attitudes towards sexual assault, objectification of and more equal treatment of women. •



ISABEL ULATOWSKI

The Female Voter: What We Really Care About

AYLA ZURAW-FRIEDLAND
OPINIONS EDITOR

As the campaign emails grow increasingly frantic from both sides, it becomes evident how quickly the elections are approaching. Both candidates have had their chances to "introduce themselves to the public," because obviously the last year of campaign commercials and gaffe-athons hasn't been enough for us.

Each side has had their own approach to winning the election. Romney has been driving home the mantra "you built this!", specifying exactly how out-of-touch Obama is in regards to the needs of the people. Sometimes, he has blatantly lied and reinvented mathematics for the purpose of using a statistic at an optimal moment in a debate. Either that or just killing Big Bird because it worked out well in Massachusetts... or something. Obama has been, more or less, standing back (or just falling asleep) using a main argument that even though things aren't drastically better than they were four years ago, at least he isn't the other guy.

Yes. The election is coming, and

as President Obama said in a recent interview on the Daily Show, "the stakes have never been higher." Each candidate has been pandering to different voting groups in an effort to come out on top. One of the most talked-about minority groups seems to be women.

No, neither group is concerned about winning the vote of the elusive white middle class male. However, women have become exotic creatures in the voting world, at least according to politicians. So that is exactly why they're making such bland platitudes about women's rights during debates, right?

It's really not the issue of which women's rights are being debated. I'm not saying that I'm not all for contraception being covered by basic healthcare plans, the right to choose, funding for Planned Parenthood, equal pay and reproductive justice. Those things are all great. But what is frustrating is the fact that they're being debated at all. I mean, the fact that I want options to ensure that there will be no babies in my uterus until I'm ready is not an open invitation for politicians to set up camp there. That seems like it should be

I guess if people aren't just going to accept the fact that women are humans that deserve basic rights to their own bodies, they should at least give women the benefit of the doubt and believe that they care about things beyond women's rights in politics.

self-explanatory.

We all know that if males were required to push watermelon sized infants out of their urethras, there would be countless options for them. Deciding whether to get an abortion would hold the significance of deciding whether to get their morning coffee

at Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts and it would never come into question by politicians or anyone else for that matter.

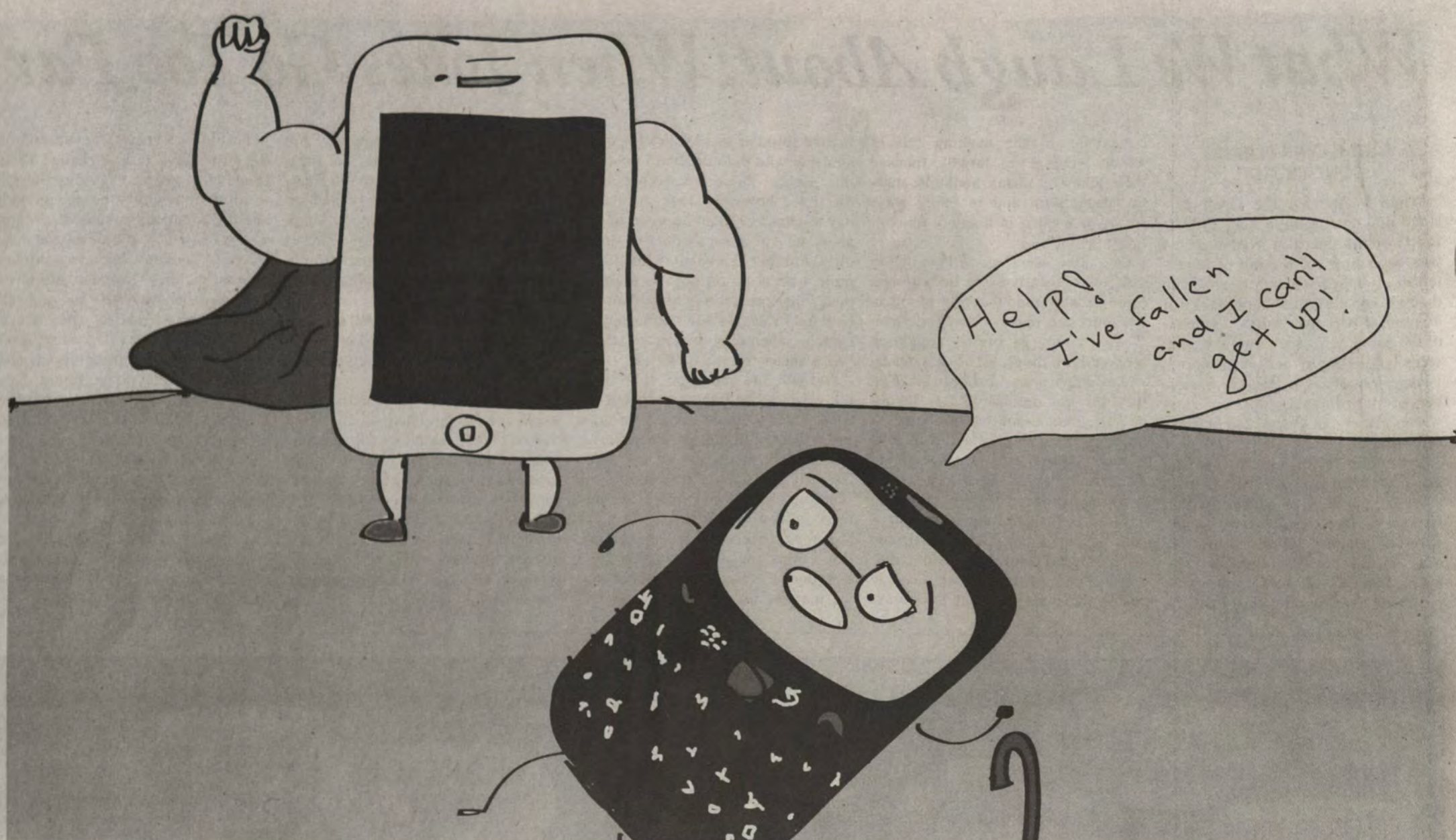
I guess if people aren't just going to accept the fact that women are humans that deserve basic rights to their own bodies, they should at least give women the benefit of the doubt and believe that they care about things beyond women's rights in politics. Yes, we would like to have rights to our bodies. But we also have concerns beyond ourselves that include things like foreign policy, the economy, education and other absurd things. Who would have thought?

The other bothersome thing is the way that the media tries to predict the female vote (especially on the conservative side *cough* Fox News). They take the most insignificant quirks of the candidates' performance and rate them as "Hot or Not" like they're some kind of twisted and completely un-sexy version of a Cosmo sex column. A recurring phrase is "(insert completely irrelevant and fabricated action here) is a total turn off to women." Well excuse me sir, you don't know my life or what turns me on. Maybe I think Obama's studly

chiseled jawline is damn attractive. Do you know? No you don't.

However, if you have ever talked to, met, or even seen a woman, you should probably have a pretty good idea that we don't like being told what to do with our reproductive systems. We don't even like it when you backseat drive. So thanks for the concern and paternalistic feelings, but no thanks.

This will be the first election in which I am able to vote. Part of me feels like it's a privilege to be a part of something so big, but the simplest factor of being a woman has made it a different experience. I'm simultaneously being used as a political argument while being completely disregarded as a person with opinions that range beyond my body. I agree with Obama when he says that these aren't women's issues, but rather family and human issues. The way a society, even one as supposedly as advanced as our own, regards women says worlds about its values and characters. Although, I do know one thing for sure: The candidates have not made it a tough choice, I'll be voting for the one that doesn't expect me home to make dinner. •



CAROLINE DYLAG

Ode to the BlackBerry

Making the case for the most marginalized species of cell phone

STEPHANIE REEVES
CONTRIBUTOR

Do you have an iPhone? Is it your life? Are you in love with it? Do you take it with you everywhere just in case you want to check Twitter to see what people are doing, or to take pictures for Instagram? Do you ever actually “log out” of Facebook? Do you constantly iMessage or listen to Spotify? Even worse, do you “read books” on your iPhone?

Apple products rule our modern day lives. This much is obvious. We’re addicted to our MacBook Pros, MacBook Airs, iPads, iPad 2s, iPhones and of course, the eagerly anticipated iPhone 5.

But my question to you is: What ever happened to BlackBerry? Re-

member the good ol’ days when you could BBM someone? Does anyone even know what BBM stands for now? Apple has monopolized the mobile phone market to such an extensive degree that no one wants an Android or a BlackBerry anymore because they’re “outdated” and “un-cool.” People say that Androids break after you have them for a month, and that Blackberrys are useless unless you are a fancy businessman who checks your email every hour.

However, there are a few black sheep in the pen that still hold onto their beloved Blackberrys – I am one of them. Why are we still stuck in the dark ages, you might ask? Maybe it’s that old habits die hard, maybe it’s that we dislike change, maybe it’s that we’re supportive of the un-

derdog, maybe it’s a whole array of strange reasons like that; and maybe that’s okay.

Perhaps the iPhone users are the ones who are really misled.

I once asked someone why they chose to get an iPhone, and their response was simply: “I didn’t know what else to get.” Why bother to do research and search for the best phone for you personally, when you can easily get your hands on what everybody else has? Some of us don’t like to follow the crowd – and we should not be condemned or ridiculed for doing so.

Most people, who hold some form of random hatred towards BlackBerry, are simply ignorant. It is silly to say, “Blackberrys suck,” when you’ve only ever known an iPhone,

and yet I’ve witnessed this on more occasions than I can account for. One shouldn’t judge that which they do not know or understand – maybe Blackberrys are secretly the best, quickest, most easy-to-use phones the world has ever seen! But because you refuse to admit or see this, you’ll never get a chance to experience their greatness.

Also, don’t you miss typing with REAL keys on an Android or iPhone? Don’t you miss the little clicking sounds? Or never having to fix a typo? Most people’s fingers are wider than 1/16 of an inch – actual keys prevent spelling mistakes which iPhone users constantly have to correct.

On an entirely different note, I wish I could tell all my fellow BlackBerry

users that Blackberrys are on the rise again, but alas, I don’t suppose this is true. The way of the world is turning white with a half-eaten apple on its front cover; there isn’t much we can do about this. However, the one thing we can do is to not let the iPhone users of this world get us down – we BlackBerry users know our worth (and also that we hold the superior phone); we mustn’t succumb to the pressures of society.

Maybe one day in the future, Blackberrys will make a comeback, but until then, it’s okay that there are only a few of us left. Less is more, after all. I doubt you will find someone as passionate about their iPhone as BlackBerry users are about their Blackberrys – we are few, but we are strong. •

An Unsung Hero: The Paul Ryan Story

MELANIE THIBEAULT
ARTS EDITOR

Let’s play a game called “guess the stupid politician of the week.” Here are your clues: He is the man with two first names. The man who looks like Mitt Romney’s long lost sixth son. The man who once referred to rape as just another “method of conception.” And now he is the man who likes to go to homeless shelters after everyone has left to take impromptu photo shoots.

Have you guessed yet?

The answer is Paul Ryan, Wisconsin Congressman and Mitt “Mittens” Romney’s running mate. I’ve heard he’s also the Joker by night.

In order to dispel these supervillain rumors, Ryan brought his family to an Ohio (shocking!) soup kitchen two weeks ago to offer their assistance to the community. And by offer their assistance, I mean the Ryan clan and a camera crew entered the dining hall where they washed some dishes that appeared to be already clean. This did not go over well with the president of the Mahoning County St. Vincent De Paul Society who said he had not been contacted by representatives from the Romney campaign beforehand and

that even if he had been, the organization is “apolitical” and would not have allowed the visit to take place, regardless of party affiliation.

To top off that screw-up, the dining hall had already been cleaned because everyone had gone home after finishing their meals. The only people that were left were some of the volunteers who had authorized Ryan’s visit without first checking with the organization’s president. So, not only did Ryan show up “to volunteer” after the soup kitchen had ended and without the proper authorization, but he spent fifteen minutes cleaning already cleaned dishes because that’s a good use of everyone’s time.

His family even donned white aprons for “legitimacy.” But what Ryan failed to realize is that sparkling clean white aprons does not a hard worker at a soup kitchen make. If the Ryans had put even a little bit of effort into their plot, they would have splattered some gravy and cranberry sauce on their aprons for that grungy, I-just-did-some-volunteer-work-at-a-soup-kitchen look. But no, Ryan’s apron was spotless and white, unlike his soul.

If we’re going to give Ryan the benefit of the doubt (just for fun), perhaps he accidentally picked up a

clean dish and washed it because he has never before attempted to wash anything. After all, washing is a woman’s job, along with ironing, making sandwiches, raising children, giving up all hopes and dreams of a career and making sure that birth control is never needed or desired. How silly of me to forget that Ryan is a man, and therefore, doesn’t know how to wash dishes! All is forgiven.

My second theory is that the Ryans just went to the Youngstown soup kitchen to take their annual “We’re a normal American family!” photo for their Christmas card this year. Multiple (completely fake) inside sources have confirmed that every year, the Ryans like to pick a place they don’t normally venture to and take a photo to show their friends, family and America that they are just your average, typical, normal, regular, ordinary American family that likes to help others in need. Previous years’ locations have included: a nursing home in downtown Philly, a suburban neighborhood lemonade stand in Jersey, a literacy center in the Ozark Mountains, a Native American reservation in Arizona, the t-shirt shop from Jersey Shore and Honey Boo Boo’s house in McIntyre, Georgia where Ryan posed next to Glitzy, the, toddler’s gay pig. After,

he handed Alana a pamphlet for the Family Research Council and told the six-year-old that her pig would never be allowed to marry its pig-life-partner if Romney had any control over the situation. Alana cried, and Ryan left to do an interview with Fox News about how rewarding community service work is.

Let me now take a moment to be serious. Is Ryan so desperate for “good” media attention that the best plan he could devise was to force his way into a soup kitchen after they had closed to get a picture of him doing “community service work”? Couldn’t he just, I don’t know, actually take three hours out of his life and actually volunteer at a soup kitchen? Is he so above soup kitchens, volunteering and spending time with people in lower socioeconomic spheres that he has to stage it? It doesn’t even matter because his plan backfired. So, now he just looks like a heartless jerk who only wants to “look” like the good guy, not actually be one. What a horrible message to send to Americans during election season. Worst of all, Ryan brought his kids to the soup kitchen to stage this fake photo shoot. What kind of message does that send to them? Answer: a terrible, selfish one. I’m more ashamed of Ryan than I am angry at

what he did.

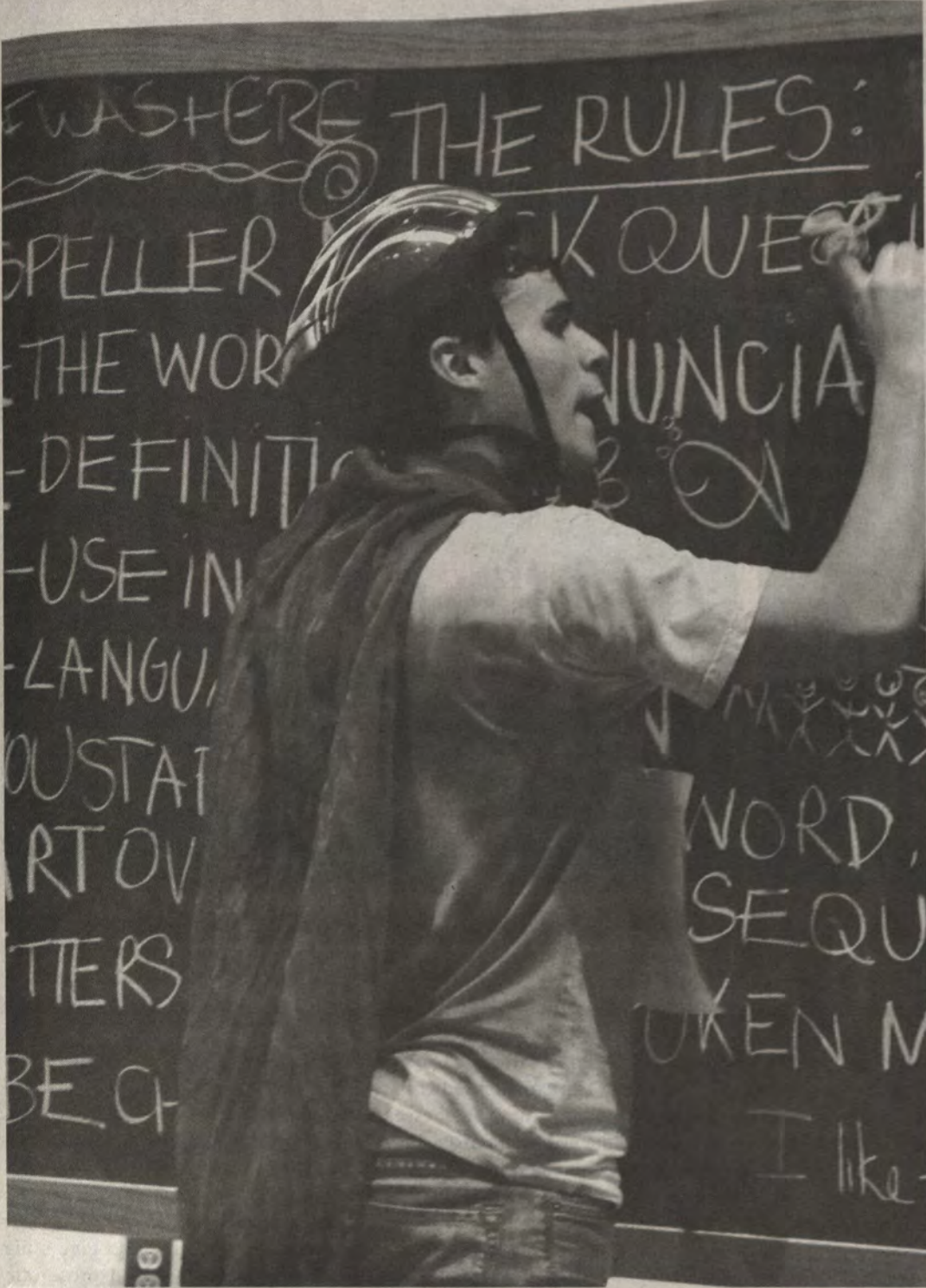
Ryan’s photo shoot fiasco reflects a larger issue in our society: the idea that if we can look like a decent human being, we don’t actually have to be one. Everything in our culture centered on appearances. If Ryan can take a photo, get it to the press and trick everyone into thinking that he spent time at a soup kitchen, that sends a message to the public that he’s a “good” person without his actually having to do the labor that would afford him those credentials. Not only was Ryan lazy and selfish to ask if he could visit a soup kitchen, wash a clean dish, snap a photo and peace out of there, but he also must think very little of the American public’s intelligence if he thought he could dupe everyone into thinking he’s a stand-up guy.

Someone with higher authority than I should force Ryan to repent for his “douchiness” by making him apologize to the people who put their time into volunteering and force him to actually offer his time and labor at a soup kitchen while people are there and meals need to be prepared. I would hope he could take a few hours out of his busy workout schedule to help a few Americans in need, but I’m not willing to bet any money on it. •

Arts & Entertainment

OCTOBER 29, 2012

THE COLLEGE VOICE



CECILIA BROWN

Wig and Candle Spells Success With *Bee*

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Perhaps one of the most enjoyable aspects of *Spelling Bee* is how it pokes fun at the awkwardness of adolescence while honing on the pressures of striving for "perfection." Although many of the characters have exaggerated personalities, they reveal some very real emotions. Leaf and Olive each suffer from non-supportive families. Faris comically portrayed Leaf's visible goofiness while also showing his underlying lack of confidence through "I'm Not That Smart." Volpe showed Olive's determination to succeed in musical numbers like "My Friend, the Dictionary," as well as her inner sadness and frustration with her absent mother in "The I Love You Song."

Marcy and Logainne, on the other

hand, have the opposite problem; they must over-perform to please their demanding parents. Throughout the musical, Shimko depicted Marcy's rigid and strict personality until she realizes, with Jesus' help, that she does not have to "live up to expectations." Kitchen captured Logainne's youthfulness (she is the youngest competitor in the bee) and her determination to please her two dads (Faris and Jacoby) through her lisp singing of "Woe is Me." At the same time, Kitchen showed how Logainne feels morally divided when her competition-hungry father, also played by Faris, spills soda on the floor to prevent Barfée from using his "magic foot."

While the characters' underly-

ing anxieties definitely play a huge role in the musical, their comedic sides are not lost at all; the fact that *Spelling Bee* focuses on adolescents makes it even funnier. Chip Tolentino's self-discovery after he develops a crush on Leaf's sister, Marigold, causes him to lose the bee. Socolar hilariously depicted Chip's inconvenient situation as he is forced to spell the word "tittup," only making his erection worse. Socolar continued to portray Chip's disappointment as he sings "My Unfortunate Erection (Chip's Lament)," while tossing candy at various areas of the audience.

Chip's enemy during the bee, William Barfée, also had the audience's attention during his musical numbers and interactions with the other spell-

ers. Landes's captured Barfée's awkward walk and congested voice in a comedic way without overplaying it. Landes's repeated line, "It's pronounced Bar-FAY, not Barf-ee," in response to Panch and Ms. Peretti's mispronunciation of the character's last name, seemed to never get old as the audience laughed every time.

Spelling Bee also showed the Conn community how multifaceted its actors and singers are. Many of the actors in the musical played various other roles too. Baltay and Jacoby played Olive's parents, harmonizing perfectly in the "I Love You Song" before quickly returning to their main parts. The whole cast, including the three or four spellers from the audience who were selected shortly

before the show, acted as Leaf's family. Socolar descended from stage left in a white toga-like robe when he played Jesus Christ. Everyone stepped outside of the confines of their main roles in the highly energetic number, "Pandemonium," to throw papers, dance around and toss chairs. Much later, they stepped back into their roles in "The Last Goodbye."

Although *Spelling Bee* has ended, I am sure it will still be talked about well after this week. The cast's fresh take on the roles, the band's upbeat accompaniment and the work of the crew have shown the Conn community that great productions can happen through strong student involvement and determination. •

Hip Hop and Humor

Macklemore's latest album delivers fresh tracks and laughs

EMMALINE DEIHL
STAFF WRITER

Socially conscious, goofy, introspective, thought-provoking and absolutely hilarious. These are not words often used to describe the latest hip-hop album. Unless that album is *The Heist*, the most recent work from Seattle-based rapper Macklemore and producer Ryan Lewis, whose unique style, compelling lyrics and sense of humor shine through on this production. It is always refreshing to hear rappers break away from Top 40 dance tracks with monotonous, and usually misogynistic, lyrics. One example is T.I.'s latest single "Ball," featuring the creative refrain: "This club so packed, these hoes so drunk." These songs fill a purpose (club music, dance parties, etc.), but the popularity of this style has been mirrored by a decline of innovative hip-hop. However, it seems that more previously underground rappers have broken into the mainstream to refresh

the genre. The instant success of *The Heist*, which debuted at number two on the U.S. Billboard 200 and reached number one on the iTunes store, attests to Macklemore's ability to blend serious and often taboo topics with insanely catchy and addictive hooks, making for an absorbing listen.

Macklemore has previously garnered attention and a following through his first album *The Language of My World* (2005), *The Unplanned Mixtape* (2009), the *VS. EP* (2009) and the *VS. Redux* he made in 2010 with Ryan Lewis. *The Heist* builds on the sounds and themes that Macklemore and Ryan Lewis established with these previous works. While Macklemore is front and center, almost every song on the album features a guest artist, including Ray Dalton, Wanz, Mary Lambert, Allen Stone, Eighty4 Fly and Ab-Soul, which makes for a nice range of stylistic influences and a variety of voices. The instrumentation uses piano, trumpet, tambourine, trombone, violin, electric bass and

drums, giving the album an organic, melodic quality. The background music stands on its own, but it is effectively incorporated into the vocals, strengthening their lyrical impact while allowing the lyrics to be the focal point of the songs.

Macklemore's talent is evidenced most greatly through his lyrics. He is a powerful rapper, alternating between rapid, spitfire rhymes and slower, more melodic musings. Whether he is showing his humorous, goofy side on tracks such as "Castle" and "Thrift Shop" or being serious, he raps with intensity, emotion and sincerity. He articulates each word, allowing his lyrics to stand out, which is important as each song tells a story. Macklemore critically engages with our society's values and expectations. "Same Love" is an ardent support of gay marriage, and "Make the Money" and "Wing\$" deal with our culture's obsession with consumption and our desire for superficial commodities. "A Wake" has Macklemore reflecting

on racial tensions and struggling with his place in society: "White privilege, white guilt, at the same damn time / So we just party like it's 1999 / Celebrate the ignorance while these kids keep dying."

With his past of substance abuse, Macklemore is particularly adept at candidly and frankly talking about his struggle with alcoholism and addiction. "Neon Cathedral" cleverly uses the metaphor of a bar as a church to illustrate dependency. "Starting Over" recounts his relapse and the feelings of failure and frustration, ending with his renewed desire to remain sober. These themes could easily have made Macklemore sound self-righteous or preachy, but his emotion, humility, lyrical talent and the flawless production make the songs moving and enjoyable.

One of Macklemore's greatest strengths is that he can balance meaningful songs with completely fun, often ridiculous tunes perfectly for blasting in the car or on Saturday night.

"Can't Hold Us" is a stand-out track, with its rapid rhythm and swelling strings guaranteed to get people pumped up, as Ray Dalton sings, "Here we go back, this is the moment / Tonight is the night, we'll fight till it's over / So we put our hands up like the ceiling can't hold us, like the ceiling can't hold us."

One of the album's most popular songs "Thrift Shop," which is incredibly catchy, celebrates the fun of shopping at Goodwill and going clubbing in all the weird old clothing you can find there. Macklemore cruises down the freeway in his Cadillac in "White Walls," and "Castle" has him inviting everyone to party with unicorns and wizards in his castle.

Despite his engagement with somber topics, Macklemore has a great sense of humor and doesn't seem to take himself too seriously. His diversity and range make *The Heist* enjoyable, entertaining and worth listening to over and over again. •

Lovin' New Local

A Profile of Washington Street Coffeehouse

JORDAN THOMAS
STAFF WRITER

Is Jazzman's too corporate? Coffee Grounds too busy? Are the hours at Blue Camel too sporadic? Do you want to get great coffee off-campus, too? Show local New London some love, and check out its newest coffee shop, the Washington Street Coffeehouse!

On October 15, New London welcomed the official opening of Washington Street Coffeehouse, aptly named for its location at 13 Washington Street. Devoted Bean & Leaf fans, do not fear: the coffee shop has merely relocated to Bank Street, leaving behind its old venue to downtown's freshest business endeavor.

Proud owners Misha Lebell and Chris Sherman are certainly no novices to the food industry. The young couple met through work at Oyster Club, an acclaimed seafood restaurant in Mystic. Lebell worked as the pastry chef while Sherman was the oyster expert. It wasn't long before the couple realized that they were ready to try their hand at their own cafe.

"I've always wanted to open a business," said Lebell. When asked what will set this new business apart from downtown's long-standing coffeehouses Muddy Waters and the Bean & Leaf, Lebell had one main answer: food. "We want to do big breakfast and lunch," Lebell admitted. "We will expand our menu, but keep it simple."

The current menu showcases many of Lebell's finest desserts, as well as a variety of sandwiches, salads, coffees and teas. All the food is made from scratch, a fact in which the owners take great pride. Many of the ingredients



PHOTOS BY AYANO ELSON AND MEREDITH BOYLE

come from local farmers and New London's food co-op Fiddleheads. "We are conscious of where we buy food," said Lebell.

The coffee shop's atmosphere is definitely inviting. Music filters out over the loudspeakers and mixes with the comfortable chatter and the trickling in and out of customers. Freshly-painted white walls and black trim give off a sharp, clean look. Beautiful wood tables, all carved by Sherman, decorate the dining area, a feature that Lebell hopes will appeal to college students as a productive place to work.

For now, the coffeehouse is concerned with announcing its arrival and building a strong customer base. Eventually, however, Lebell and Sherman are open to catering more to

the desires of college students, such as hosting open mic nights, poetry readings and private dinners and parties after store hours. Lebell additionally mentioned the possibility of obtaining a liquor permit to attract more students. "We're pretty happy with how it's been, but we're looking forward to getting more people in," she admitted.

Washington Street Coffeehouse is only one of many downtown's recent revitalizations. In November, a new bookstore, Monte Cristo Bookshop, will open in the adjacent lot of the coffeehouse. The bookstore, also run by a young couple, will sell new, used and specialty books. Lebell speculates that New London hopes to make the plaza on Washington Street more appealing to like-minded people: people

who enjoy a great book, good company and tasty coffee.

"We're both excited to work together," Lebell says of her and Sherman's relationship with the bookstore's owners, Christopher and Gina. Whether the debut of new businesses will alleviate the economic disparities that currently plague New London remains to be seen, though Lebell is staying positive.

A business can't stay open on its own, though. Rather than take a trip to Dunkin' Donuts for an iced pumpkin latte you can get anywhere else in the world, visit Washington Street Coffeehouse for a tea that you can get *only* there. Support our town by staying local. Although it sometimes may not seem like it, we do live in New London. We should take advantage

of opportunities beyond the gates of Conn, and give back to the community that, without, there wouldn't even be a Connecticut College.

Washington Street Coffeehouse opens daily at 7 AM and closes at 8 PM, except for Monday and Tuesday, when it closes at 3 PM. As for recommendations, Lebell lists the oatmeal chocolate chip cookie and the brown butter almond teacake as two of her best pastries, though I also give a big thumbs-up to the egg and prosciutto English muffin. And, of course, you can never go wrong with a coffee. If you have any questions, or would be interested in performing at the shop in the future, check out Washington Street Coffeehouse on Facebook, or shoot the owners an email at washingtonstreetcoffee@gmail.com.

Harris Creations by Maia Schoenfelder and Cecilia Brown



Pita pizzas: Grab two pitas and toast them. Then head over to the pasta bar and cover each one with a different sauce. We chose a marinara and a garlic alfredo. Pick your veggies and ask the nice men behind the egg counter to sautee them for you (a little known secret!). Lucky for us, it was breakfast for dinner which meant there was a neverending flow of bacon (yippee!). We topped our garlic alfredo with bacon, sauteed mushrooms and onions. The marinara pizza was topped with sauteed spinach and tomatoes with shredded cheese. Nuke 'em if you so desire.

Chicken with peanut sauce: Using some Harris staples, we created one of our favorite Asian-inspired dishes: chicken with peanut sauce over rice and veggies. Starting with the peanut sauce: grab a cup and fill it with creamy peanut butter, soy sauce and sriracha. Add a bit of oil and mix it up. Throw it in the microwave to soften. Pour over chicken breasts (or tofu!) and rice. Easy and delicious.

Pasta: Finally, the bottom right image is pasta with califlower gratin and cut up chicken breasts. Throwing together a bowl of pasta from the pasta bar with the vegetables from the vegetarian bar and topping it with chicken is definitely an easy meal. Don't let your inner chef down by dousing your bowl with creamy sauces. There's an easier way to cure your pasta craving. •



PHOTOS BY CECILIA BROWN AND MAIA SCHOENFELDER

Sports

THE COLLEGE VOICE

OCTOBER 29, 2012

SAAC Committee Helps Promote Leadership

DAN MOORIN
SPORTS EDITOR

Every semester there is a gathering of the New England Small College Athletic Conference's Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC); two student-athletes (one male and one female) from each of the eleven NESCAC schools meet to discuss student-athlete involvement in the community and new initiatives within NCAA Division III athletics.

Caroline Corbett '13, the current president of Conn's SAAC, and Matthew Murdock '13 who has just been sworn in as the All-NESCAC SAAC Chair, represented Connecticut College at this year's conference.

The NESCAC SAAC meeting was preceded by leadership training with representatives from all of the schools associated with the Eastern College Athletic Conference. In total, about eighty student-athletes represented ECAC. The leadership training was centered on creating confident and consistent leaders.

The training emphasized that, while leaders may have various val-

ues or demeanor, what matters is the consistency with which they present themselves.

The strongest leaders are those that are self-aware and strongly rooted in their personal values, but are willing to take on the challenge of representing a greater organization or cause. Whether on the water, court or field, or even in the political arena, consistent leaders provide their followers with a much-needed sense of stability. Effective leaders admit when they are unable to perform a given task and appoint those with the greater ability to accomplish said task.

Following this deeply reflective training session, the student-athletes began a leadership workshop entitled "True Colors." "True Colors" is a method used to determine how we all think and operate based off of two factors – pace of life and the propensity to be either logical or emotional.

While the lectures mentioned above on values, morals and personal branding combined to make a heavily personal reflective experience, the conference at large served as a powerful vehicle for collaboration amongst the institutions. In the afternoon, all



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CAROLINE CORBETT AND MATT MURDOCK

eighty SAAC representatives broke out into their respective conferences where Corbett and Murdoch participated in discussions regarding NESCAC-specific issues.

For instance, Tufts recently opened an athletic center only accessible to varsity athletes. How do you think that would be received on our cam-

pus? Student-athletes from Trinity and Colby, like those of Connecticut College, are sometimes kept from team practices because professors schedule mandatory lectures, labs or classes during the hours of 4-7 PM. Do you think it is right to force student-athletes to choose between their teammates and a passing grade?

At some schools like Williams, student-athletes have priority class registration for lab sections that could conflict with the athletic training and practice hours. Trinity SAAC is organizing panel discussions with faculty members on both sides of the argument in hopes of concluding this issue once and for all. •

Don't Hate the Player, Hate the Game

MICHAEL AMATO
STAFF WRITER

I think of myself as a young Greg LeMond in some aspects. I'm persistent, charming, handsome and, most importantly, I have no tolerance for drug use among professional athletes.

At its core, doping is cheating. It is wrong, unethical and unfair. I could go on for hours with moral reasons, and yet, it is in my opinion that Lance Armstrong is still one of the greatest cyclists in the history of the sport. We can criticize him for his performance-enhancing drug use, even if he denies it. We can criticize him for lying and trying to hide this activity. Nevertheless, we must admire him as well as pity the existence of his sport.

There is something that separates him from other drug users like Alex Rodriguez, Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens (all Yankees, I notice): the

distinction is the sport.

Competitive cycling revolves around performance-enhancing drug use. While not all cyclists use them, the successful ones (the ones winning and gaining money) do. The mantra for the sport in the past years is either join the list of blood-boosters, dopers and stimulant users or lose, make no money and find another line of work.

French cyclist Christophe Bassons was offered 270,000 francs a month to begin blood doping during the 1998 Tour de France. He refused, chastised the sport for being so focused on doping and was criticized and shunned by other cyclists for his actions, including an altercation with Lance Armstrong himself. His own teammates went against him and "several guys tried to ride me into the ditch . . . it got dangerous, and I realized that it wasn't worth continuing." Two years later he was off the sport and now works as a

teacher. It is join or die. Lance Armstrong, meanwhile, is facing charges for his abuse.

The United States Anti-Doping Agency released a report Wednesday, October 17. It includes multiple reports of his wrongdoing, with insight from his own teammates who want to jump on the good side while they still have the chance. This dossier of information explains the doping methods, primarily EPO, and his ability to be tested for banned substances at least sixty times and still remain clean.

EPO, or Erythropoietin, is, at its most basic, a hormone that controls red blood cell production. More red blood cells means higher oxygen intake, yielding better performance. This new information has led to some changes in Armstrong's life.

On Monday, October 22 the UCI, Union Cycliste Internationale, stripped Armstrong of his seven Tour de France

medals. More importantly, he has since removed that statistic from the bio on his Twitter page. While not a definite admission of being guilty, this small change certainly shows his acceptance of recent events.

These events can be taken with acceptance, pity or disgust. EPO may be a banned substance, but it can also be nothing more than a dietary supplement for athletes. Sports organizations cannot ban everything that gives an advantage: protein bars would be gone in a second. On the other hand, organizations can ban what they would like, getting rid of any substance that gives competitors an unnatural advantage. This would make Lance Armstrong a cheater and should result in the loss of his awards.

However, the real loser is the sport itself. Take a look at the top finishers in the Tour de France in the past fifteen years. A little less than half of these

cyclists are now out of the sport for doping related sanctions, and that just includes those who have been caught. The sport itself is so ingrained in illegality that there are more cheaters than fair players. From this standpoint Lance Armstrong is still one of the best. In a field of blood dopers, Armstrong is just another cyclist popping the Edgar Allen Poe, the street name for EPO. But, since he wins everything, he is the top cyclist. We should not be angry at him; we should pity him, as well as his sport.

Cycling needs to clean up its act. It has been said countless times and will be said countless more times unless something major is done to rectify an ever-growing problem. Nevertheless, criticism of Lance Armstrong is void. He is just another sports competitor trying to do his best but breaking under peer pressure along the way. •

NESCAC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by the College Voice

This is the second installment of the NESCAC Power Ranking. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on soccer, field hockey and volleyball. We do not include football because, as we have been undefeated for 30+ years, it simply would not be fair.

SCHOOL	MEN'S SOCCER	WOMEN'S SOCCER	FIELD HOCKEY	VOLLEYBALL	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
MIDDLEBURY	7	1	1	3	3	1 ↑
WILLIAMS	1	2	6	4	3.25	2 ↑
BOWDOIN	5	4	3	2	3.5	3 ↓
AMHERST	2	3	5	5	3.75	4 ↓
TUFTS	4	10	2	6	5.5	5 ↔
CONN COLL	8	7	8	1	6	6 ↔
TRINITY	6	9	4	7	6.5	7 ↔
WESLEYAN	3	8	7	11	7.25	8 ↔
COLBY	10	6	9	8	8.25	9 ↔
HAMILTON	9	5	11	10	8.75	10 ↔
BATES	11	11	10	9	10.25	11 ↔

The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editor, Katie Karlson 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.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Women's Soccer:

Conn 0 - 3 Williams

Men's Soccer:

Conn 1 - 2 Williams

Volleyball:

Conn 3 - 0 UMASS-Dartmouth

Conn 3 - 1 Western Conn.

State

Field Hockey:

Conn 0 - 7 Middlebury

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT

Connecticut College Club Puck

vs Sacred Heart

Saturday, November 3

7:00 PM

Dayton Arena

Volleyball

NESCAC Championships

Luce Field House

November 2-4

11/2 vs Colby 5:00 PM

Men's Water Polo

Northern Championships

Saturday, November 2 @ Brown

11/2 vs St. Francis 11:00 PM

Sports

OCTOBER 29, 2012

THE COLLEGE VOICE



Find Your Running Path

MARINA STUART
CONTRIBUTOR

To anyone trying to get in shape, stay in shape or who just wants to get out and enjoy the New England air, a question they may ask themselves is: where are the best places to go running on campus?

To these people there are several answers.

The two most obvious places are the track at the athletic center or the arboretum. However, both have drawbacks. The track is often occupied by varsity sports teams (not to mention the fact that running in circles sucks). The arboretum would seem like a good place to run except for the in-

timidating sign at the entrance that says, "No jogging," and even if people disregard the sign, the Arbo is clearly not the best place for running.

Most students who enjoy running explore the campus a bit before they find their perfect route. Emily Ryan '16 found her running route "by instinct," she continued, "I do a loop on Williams street, take a right, run along the road until on the right there is another street and there is a good hill to run on, then I run by the colleges houses, after that there is a fork in the road, one way leads to a figure eight around campus and the other is fuller longer loop."

Ryan is not the only runner who takes the back roads west of the campus; Anna Curtis-Heald '15

and the rest of the women's cross country team at Conn also run there. "We meet on Gallows Lane, where the old science center is, and run down the pavement and back; there are a lot of trails up there that we go on."

For those who want a different view as they run, perhaps a water view, many people, including the men's and women's cross country teams, also run at trails to the left of the Athletic Center, at Dolly Field or down by the Coast Guard Academy.

"For people who run a bit more (four miles and over) creating some variety can make it more fun," said Ned Bishop, who coaches the Women's Cross Country and Track and Field teams. "The trails adjacent to the track are much more chal-

lenging terrain but it is a really pretty area," he added. Bishop also had advice for those who don't want to spend their run going up and down hills for long distances. "For people who are only running short distances (perhaps two miles or less) on a fairly infrequent basis (three times per week or less), our campus is a really beautiful spot and loops around the green or inner campus loops are pretty nice."

There are places on campus to run whether you enjoy short distances, long distances, woody views or water views. Curtis-Heald says, "It's fun to find those weird places on and off campus, to be in nature, to see deer, and to not have to think and just de-stress" •



JULIA RODRICKS