College Celebrates Latino Heritage Month

BY LAUREN MORROW 09

Hispanic Americans have played a major role in shaping contemporary American culture as we know it. Hispanic ideas, experiences and traditions have contributed to the progression of the United States through the literature of Gabriel Garcia Márquez and Sandra Cisneros, the music of Celia Cruz and Carlos Santana, and the scientific discoveries of Mario Molina and Severo Ochoa.

In 1968, the United States government decided to acknowledge the accomplishments of Latinos with Hispanic Heritage Week. Finally in 1988 September 15 through October 15 was declared Hispanic or Latino Heritage Month.

Today, there are 42.7 million Hispanics in the United States, making them the largest minority group, at 14% of the total population. It seems that Latino Heritage Month should be widely celebrated and appreciated, yet many are not aware of this commemoration. Some members of the administration here Connecticut College is trying to change this.

Elizabeth Garcia and Aracelis Vazquez of Unity House have taken charge of a large effort to raise awareness about various heritage months. Before Garcia and Vazquez arrived at Connecticut College, nothing was being done to recognize Latino Heritage Month. This was simply because students did not have the time to arrange events on their own, and there were few faculty members (administrators) backing them. Now, these two women, along with student organizations and various other administrators and offices at the college, are making these heritage months more publicly known.

Campus Security Stiffens in Aftermath of Violence

BY KASEY LUM '11

Around college campuses nationwide, recent incidents of campus violence has simultaneously stirred terror and confusion. Yet along with the fear, there is now a stronger determination for change. Since the Virginia Tech incident of last April, colleges and universities around the country have updated and improved security measures drastically. In addition to mental health training and new alert systems, it seems that colleges are taking as many precautions possible to guarantee the safety of students.

The recent shootings at Delaware State and St. John’s University all seemed to occur when public sentiment was still wary about new campus safety policies. However, the procedures exercised by these colleges during the events proved everyone wrong. Using new security systems that alerted students and faculty through text messaging, campus security was able to quickly close down campuses and safety direct students away from the violence. These events have awakened public attention and influenced new actions by campus safety.

At Connecticut College, similar security improvements have been implemented this year. Last Wednesday was the first trial run of the college’s new emergency alert system, Connect-ED. Patricia Carey, vice president of College Relations explained the purpose of the system: "Our first hope is that we will never have to use this system. However, if we do face an emergency situation, this system should permit us to alert our community more quickly and efficiently than ever before. Having this capability increases the safety.
Superfans of Big Hig

President Higdon has become somewhat of a pop culture phenomenon on campus. He is Conn's leading celebrity and has earned the endearing nickname "Big Hig." His face and name are even emblazoned on tee shirts created by various student groups.

So what has Lee Higdon done to earn such a devoted student following? This sort of reaction to an administrative leader is opposite to what I'm used to. USA's reckless teenagers are meant to stick it to "The Man," not actually think that "The Man" is, in fact, the man! But President Higdon has made continual efforts to appeal to the students' wants and needs. He respects us, and as a natural reaction, we respect him. Since Higdon's arrival to Connecticut College, the atmosphere has changed. I can say that it changed for me personally because our collective efforts at The Voice were finally getting attention from the college at large. We all believe that a student newspaper can be very effective and representative of the campus mentality, and we are continually working toward that goal.

President Higdon is an ever-present force on campus. He isn't some mysterious bigwig in a power suit up in his office, and I think that is why students are drawn to him. He is putting a face and a personality to his name, and on a small campus like this, that is what should be happening. Anonymity is not conducive to fostering a strong campus community, and at the heart of Higdon's efforts, I believe, is the desire to build such community.

-Aroti

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Conn Student to Celebrate Bat Mitzvah at Harkness Chapel

On Saturday, October 20, at 10:30 AM sophomore Julia Berman will celebrate becoming a Bat Mitzvah at Harkness Chapel. Julia, who hails from Harvard, MA says that she did not come from a religious family, but always felt that something was missing in not becoming a Bat Mitzvah at age 13. Although she began Hebrew studies in the past, she says that she did not fully understand or appreciate the full meaning of Bat Mitzvah.

Shortly after beginning her studies last year at Connecticut College, Julia approached Rabbi Aaron Rosenberg, a Jewish chaplain, and shared her interest in beginning the process to become a Bat Mitzvah. Julia and Rabbi Rosenberg have been meeting weekly practicing prayers, learning her Torah and haftarah portion and discussing her sermon. Rabbi Rosenberg mentioned that another student, Heather Wolpert, became a Bat Mitzvah at Conn College over a decade ago. The rabbi truly relishes the opportunity to study intensely with interested students.

Julia Berman has welcomed the challenge of fitting her Hebrew studies into her busy schedule. She is a Theater major with a focus on stage management and set design. This past summer she stage managed Richard III with Nicu's Spoon in New York City. Julia and her parents, Mindy and Daniel Berman, would be delighted to have you join them for this special occasion.
Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

**National:**

**Bush Vetoed Children's Health Bill**

President Bush vetoed the children's health insurance bill, which was approved by Congress with bipartisan support. The measure would expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or Schip, from its current enrollment of about 6.6 million children to more than 10 million. It would also provide $60 billion over the next five years, $35 billion more than current spending and $30 billion more than the President proposed.

"It is estimated that if this program were to become law, one out of every three persons that would subscribe to the new expanded Schip would leave private insurance," the President said in explanation of his veto. "The policies of the government ought to be to help poor children and to focus on poor children, and the policies of the government ought to be to help people find private insurance, not federal coverage. And that's where the philosophical divide comes in."

But the philosophical divide is not just between Republicans and Democrats, as the reaction of some Republicans demonstrated.

"Unfortunately, I believe that some have given the President bad advice on this matter," said Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Republican of Utah. He said supporting the health bill "is the morally right thing to do," and that he hoped Mr. Bush’s veto could be overridden.

"Today we learned that the same president who is willing to throw away a half trillion dollars in Iraq is unwilling to spend a small fraction of that amount to bring health care to American children," said Democratic Senator Edward M. Kennedy, the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

**Source:** "Bush Vetoes Children's Health Bill." By David Stout. The New York Times.

**Europe:**

**Putin says he might become PM after end of term**

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced Monday that he would be the leading candidate on the ticket of Russia’s dominant political party in parliamentary elections in December, and said he might become the country’s prime minister next year. He is barred by the Constitution from seeking a third consecutive term as President when his current term expires in 2008.

Putin’s statements strongly suggested that he planned to maintain a hold on much of the power he had accrued during his eight years in the Kremlin, a period during which Russia’s economy and international influence have expanded and living conditions improved for many Russians. He is popular among Russia’s citizens and has a centralized lock on his government, has often said that he intends to remain involved in politics beyond his second term and even that he might seek re-election after another president had held the office.

**Source:** "Putin says he’ll lead party in next election." By C. J. Chivers. The International Herald Tribune.

**Middle East:**

**Blackwater Sought to Cover Up Shootings**

Employees of Blackwater USA have engaged in nearly 200 shootings in Iraq since 2005, in a vast majority of cases firing their weapons from moving vehicles without stopping to count the dead or assist the wounded, according to a new report from Congress.

In at least two cases, Blackwater paid victims’ family members who complained, and sought to cover up other episodes, the Congressional report said. It said State Department officials approved the payments in the hope of keeping the shootings quiet. In one case last year, the department helped Blackwater spirit an employee out of Iraq less than 36 hours after the employee, while drunk, killed a bodyguard for one of Iraq’s two vice presidents on Christmas Eve.

The report by the Democratic majority staff of a House committee adds weight to complaints from Iraqis officials, American military officers, and Blackwater’s competitors of that company. Guards have taken an aggressive, trigger-happy approach to their work and have repeatedly acted with reckless disregard for Iraqi life.

Since mid-2006, Blackwater has been responsible for guarding American diplomats in and around Baghdad, while DynCorp has been responsible for the northern part of the country and Triple Canopy for the south.

**Source:** "Report Says Firm Sought to Cover Up Iraq Shootings." By John M. Broder. The New York Times

**Asia:**

**Peace Deal between North and South Korea**

The leaders of South and North Korea have signed a joint 8-point declaration calling for a permanent peace deal for the Korean Peninsula. After three days of talks in Pyongyang, South Korea’s President Roh Moo-hyun and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il issued the declaration. The declaration called for international talks to discuss a treaty to replace the armistice that ended the Korean War. It called for leaders of the nations concerned to meet on the Korean Peninsula and agree to an end to the 1950-1953 war. These talks would likely involve the US and China, which, along with North Korea, signed the armistice that ended the war. South Korea did not sign the armistice and remains technically at war with the North. Moreover, they agreed on economic steps that include resuming cross-border freight service across the heavily fortified border for the first time in more than 50 years. Further reached agreements included establishing a joint fishing zone in a disputed sea area and on holding regular summits.

**Source:** nytimes.com

**Latin America:**

**Banco Wal-Mart de Mexico**

Wal-Mart is in the process of opening its own bank in Mexico. Branches of the bank, to be known as Banco Wal-Mart de Mexico Adelante, are schedule to open as soon as November. It is the second retailer to gain access to Mexico’s banking sector. In 2002, Mexican retail and financial services group Elektra launched a banking operation - leading to the foundation of Banco Azteca.

Wal-Mart’s Mexican division is the country largest retailer and private sector employer with about 950 business units. “With Banco Wal-Mart we will be able to complement the services we provide to the segment of the population that currently lacks the benefits of having accessible banking services,” said Wal-Mart de Mexico’s Chief Executive Officer Eduardo Solorzano.

**Source:** bbcnews.com

**Africa:**

**Peacekeepers Attacked in Darfur**

An African Union peacekeeping base in the central Darfur region of Sudan was overrun by hundreds of Darfurian rebels in a surprise raid over the weekend.

According to African Union officials, at least 10 soldiers were killed, dozens more were kidnapped, and the African Union peacekeeping supplies, including heavy weapons, were stolen.

"It’s indicative of the complete insecurity," said Aln McDonald, a spokesman for the Oxfam aid organization in Sudan. "These groups are attacking anybody and everybody with total impunity.”

It is estimated that most of the base’s troops were Nigerian. More than 50 are still missing.

The conflict has expanded and transformed from a rebellion and brutal counterinsurgency into a free-for-all among dozens of armed groups, with aid workers and peacekeepers as targets and victims.

Sudanese government officials blamed a splinter faction connected to the Justice and Equality Movement. Yet the Justice and Equality Movement denied involvement and blamed the government for staging the attack.

This attack happened just as the United Nations has been trying to persuade member countries to commit troops and support to a hybrid Darfur peacekeeping force which would expand the number of peacekeepers from 7,000 to 26,000. There is now fear that some of those countries may reconsider participating.

**Source:** nytimes.com
FRANNIE NOBLE ’08
contributing writer

Fall weekend 2007 brought Conn. alumni back to campus, including LaShawn Jefferson ’88, a keynote speaker and guest of the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and Liberal Arts (CISLA). Jefferson, formerly the Executive Director of the Women’s Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, spoke about her experience and perceptions of human rights in her discussion “Human Rights; Are They Really Universal?”

Jefferson graduated from Connecticut College in 1988 with a double major in government and English, and acknowledges that her college experience strongly inspired her interest in human rights. She remembers the influences of Professor Janet Gezari, the Lucy Marsh Haskell ’19 Professor of English, and Professor Marian Dodor, the Lucy Marsh Haskell ’19 Professor Emeritus of Government.

With 14 years at Human Rights Watch, Jefferson was able to travel the world and further develop her interests in international issues and women’s rights. During her career Jefferson saw women’s rights move from the margins of human rights’ discussions into the core of the movement. The advances she has seen in the field of women’s rights overall may be attributed to advocacy, tenacity and education, said Jefferson. Although great problems still remain, Jefferson was proud to say that there have been few setbacks.

Human rights as a whole are the tools for those working for and benefiting from advances in social activism. These rights, Jefferson reminded the audience, are under constant attack around the world. Within the United States a woman’s right to make decisions concerning her own body is currently in jeopardy, and the present administration supports an abstinence-only sex education program. These examples make it clear that acceptance of human rights does not mean perfect implementation; however, Jefferson believes that this acceptance is the first step on the state level, and that laws and implementation will follow.

Many of the most important issues in women’s rights today stem from cultural practices and their confrontation with human rights. Female genital mutilation, land inheritance, and sexual reproduction rights are just a few issues caught between cultural practice and international human rights. Yet Jefferson argued that a desire to preserve the status quo is both dangerous and unrealistic. Cultures are in a continuous process of evolution and practices within a culture change as well. Thus, harmful traditions may be phased out or replaced and brought more in line with human rights standards.

With the constant challenges associated with human rights, are they really universal? According to Jefferson, yes, but this universality must come with the availability of recourse under the law for those whose human rights have been violated.

A division of Human Rights Watch solely devoted to women’s rights is not a positive indicator of the current world system. Ideally, Jefferson admitted, advocacy for women’s rights should put people like herself out of a job. Jefferson added that she hopes that in the future women’s rights work becomes preventative, not responsive. Continued mobilization on

CAMPUS SECURITY

and security of the campus community.” Through this new alert system, students, faculty and staff create a list of primary and emergency contacts who can be reached through email, voicemail or text messaging should a campus emergency occur.

At the cost of $7,720 per year, the Connect-ED system was initiated at Conn not only because of the event at Virginia Tech but additionally for the need to acquire new safety measures. Carey explains, “We began looking at alternate emergency communications systems more than a year ago, but the tragedy at Virginia Tech certainly increased our sense of urgency.”

Continued from page one

Although the money spent on these security improvements is substantial, colleges seem to be willing to learn from past events and be more prepared.

The University of Toledo in Ohio spent $13,800 on 15 long-range rifles to be stationed on campus as well as $71,000 worth of deadbolt locks for residence hall rooms. Similarly, Hofstra University proposed a $750,000 emergency communications system featuring alerts via email and cell phone as well as remote building lockdowns. There have also been moves to train faculty and resident advisors to identify and report troubled or psychologically stressed students.

LaShawn Jefferson ’88 delivering keynote speech for CISLA last Saturday (Scarano)

Connect-Ed proved successful and Carey reports that 96% of the contact numbers and email addresses uploaded to the Connect-ED database had received messages produced by the program. Minor glitches involving computer programming did occur and the observation that the different contact mediums received messages at different times were noted. Text messages were the fastest option followed by e-mail messages and phone voicemail.

To the small portion of students who opted not to participate in the Connect-ED system, Carey pointed out that the level of the system’s usefulness is dependent on student participation and those who chose not to be involved will risk not being instantly aware of emergencies.

“We are asking everyone to keep their campus voice mail boxes cleaned out so messages can reach you there. We also want to remind everyone that if a key phone number or e-mail address changes—either yours or one of your emergency contacts”—you should go into the system on CamelWeb and make the change as promptly as possible.”

The college’s Emergency Response Committee has been discussing future safety endeavors to put into practice as well. Proposals to install more blue lights equipped with sirens or alarms on campus and to provide campus safety officers with guns or other deterrents (batons or pepper spray), have been presented and are being considered by the college administration.

The Committee has also been conferring over an emergency pandemic plan for protection against such things as flu epidemics and widespread contagious illnesses.

Ultimately, there seems to be some light coming through the dark tunnel of campus violence. One can only hope that improvements through these changes will influence future safety endeavors. As more colleges start to buckle up on safety measures and worries begin to fade, hopefully school-wide violence will also see its demise.

Sources: nytimes.com

The Committee’s work has also been a reaffirmation of its own rights, and the growing understanding of the power of human rights treaties, Jefferson noted, is “a picture of hope in the face of staggering human rights abuses.”

NEWS

“Human Rights: Are They Really Universal?”
Getting to Know the Housefellows: Part 2

BY CHRIS BUONINCONTRI ’08

contributing writer

“Come in,” Bianca called out to a visitor at the screen door to her suite in 360 house. Inside, wrapped snugly in a blanket, she sat behind a small table in the middle of a big room, smiling despite the notes and physics books spread out in front of her. After offering apple pie, and going to the kitchen to heat up a piece, she began discussing how her year as housefellow has been thus far.

“Nobody thinks I’m a housefellow anyway,” she said laughingly. “Overall though, the year’s going ‘ducky.’ Or would it be ‘swimmingly’?” Her friend, seated next to her, nodded in approval at the suggestion of ‘swimmingly.’

Bianca Kissel, just turned 22, is in the CCBES program, runs both the 400 meter and 100 meter hurdle for the track team, and just returned from the “best summer of her life” working in Peru. In the year ahead, she has big plans for her houses; both to dispel any false stereotypes and show the real Earth 360 to the campus at large. “Earth House is a great model for environmental living, and can serve as a role model to all of us.” She said, adding: “We have some awesome themes in 360 this year too. I hope people keep their eyes out for upcoming events.”

Across the highway, Hannah Fisher watched Family Guy in her Abbey House suite after coming upstairs from a home-cooked meal in the basement. “We have a wonderful community here,” she began, going on to explain that this was her second year living in Abbey. “It became like a family for me last year, so I figured I’d take some responsibility and see if I could make it even better this year.”

“The little things I miss from home are here and, more,” she added: “sitting around fires, hunting for firewood, great cooks making dinners every night, and cookies at midnight—I mean, you can’t beat that.”

Hannah, 21, from Los Angeles, also has big plans for her dorm this year. Currently, her and her housemates are planning to meet with the administration to discuss renovations for Abbey. “We’re trying to spread the word to fix this place up for us, and for future generations. The house is an important part of the Conn community, and I don’t want to see it fade into the background.”

Just down the short, crater-ridden road to the Ridge Apartments, Jess LaVallee took a moment from studying for an upcoming exam to talk about her last few weeks as housefellow. “The year’s been good so far... the cops coming the first week did not make me happy, though.”

“I wanted to be a housefellow since freshman year, mainly because I had a great housefellow then.” She explained while settling down, Indian-style on her futon. “I chose the Ridge this year because it’s all upperclassmen, and everybody here wants to be here. It’s a lot easier for us to mold our community together.”

Jess admits, though, that the layout creates challenges. “Some people want a community, while others would rather keep more to themselves. The biggest challenge is figuring out what works best for everyone.”

As a note to the campus, “River Ridge is quiet housing: if you do stop by, you need to respect the residents and community. Because people come down here and act like fools.”

Jeff Postera has lived in Hamilton all four of his years at Conn. “I’m kinda Mr. Hamilton,” he said, going on to explain the differences in his suite, and the entire dorm, after the recent renovations.

“I was a little afraid,” he added, “because this building usually has a good sense of community, and I didn’t want the changes to affect that. Fortunately, it didn’t lose the sense of what it used to be.”

Jeff, of Exeter, New Hampshire, seemed pleased with the way the year has been going. “I’ve been pretty direct in my dorm,” he said, going on to say that there haven’t been any problems in Hamilton, and across campus for that matter. “When one of [the housefellows] are in trouble, we all descend on that house and help out.”

On the other side of the fishbowl, Marshall appeared even more drastically altered following the summer’s renovations: for one, the housefellow suite had been moved to the other side of the hall.

Like Jeff, Leigh Ahrensford was initially a little concerned about the changes. “People are surprised when they walk in for the first time.” She said. According to her, however, it’s been the “same bonding experience” so far.

The common room was one of the areas most affected by the construction, looking much different than it had last year. In addition, a freshman seminar is now held in the room, which now contains classroom furniture and is bordered on one side with a glass wall, separating it from the hallway.

“We recently had a study break with wings from Hot Rod’s,” said Leigh, “And we still have kegs and social events in the common room. We just move everything out before hand.”

She went on to praise the new group of housefellows, as well as the ResLife staff, especially Sarah and Joe. “I’m their favorite.” She laughed. “Shh, don’t tell anyone!”

Over in KB, Zach Olson talked about his year, describing it as “really tiring, but good overall.”

“Going to the hospital, not so much.” He added, noting that he’s had to go twice already for people in his dorm.

Overall, though, he described his dorm as “very relaxed... much more relaxed than expected. If they’re having floor parties here, they’re doing a good job keeping it from me.” He laughed, admitting that this wasn’t entirely expected, given the KB stereotype as a louder dorm.

Zach, an international relations major from Lake Tahoe, California, relaxed on the couch in his suite. “We also expect to dominate Camelympics this year.”

Just north in Morrison, housefellow Sarah VanHoogenstyn also relaxed on her couch: she, however, had a much more difficult time moving around on her crutches, given her injured leg. “I’m the third housefellow this year to be on crutches!” She joked. “I honestly thought that it would be more stressful,” she went on, laughing as she described her year so far. “It’s been surprisingly good on weekends... and I’ve met a lot of new people.”

Sarah admitted that some Plex dorms seem “a little disconnected,” saying that the problem is often “a lot of closed doors,” as well as the layout of the dorms themselves. “Even my room’s off in an alcove.” She stated to explain that most of her dorm was made up of singles. In order to work against this, Sarah has organized a number of study breaks, including pizza and Chinese food breaks. “A lot of people have come to the events.” She said.

As a member of CILSA and a double major in sociology and Hispanic studies, Sarah knows what’s it’s like to have to put in a lot of work. At the same time, she advises Conn students to reap the benefits of their time here at school. “It’s a unique situation, because the vast majority of people live on campus. We have a tight community here, and I hope everyone takes advantage of that.”

Housefellows to be featured in the next issue of The Voice:

Eliza Cooper - Smith
Kate Deconinck - Burdick
Matt Dyer - Blackstone
Neal Gibeault - Freeman
Elizabeth Bennett - JA
Katrina Scherben - Harkness
Heather Munro - Knowlton
Colleen Cowperthwait - Windham
Mike Panoli - Laz/War
The Darjeeling Ltd.

Film Review of an Advance Screening of Wes Anderson’s New Film at Lincoln Square Theatre

BY BRIAN MCCARTHY ‘08

Baggage becomes a prominent if clunky piece of symbolism in The Darjeeling Limited, and the fact Wes Anderson’s new movie comes saddled with some of its own should not be surprising. It’s his first movie since 2004’s The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou, which, while it received mixed reviews from critics, was beloved by teenage and twenty-something audiences. Darjeeling has also received mixed reviews from critics, most of them claiming that Anderson is wallowing in the same sort of thematic and visual tropes that have been in his previous movies with diminishing returns. I’m inclined to agree somewhat as my favorite of his work was his second movie Rushmore, which solidified both his visual style and his thematic concerns into an almost perfect whole. Besides his direction and script (co-written with Owen Wilson), Rushmore featured fantastic performances from Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray, and Olivia Williams. But Anderson’s post-Rushmore movies are a great example of what happens when an auteur believes too much in his own “autocentrism”: he recycles his material into significantly lesser movies. What seems revelatory in Rushmore or Bottle Rocket becomes cliche in The Royal Tenenbaums, which becomes tired in The Life Aquatic, which finally becomes annoying in The Darjeeling Limited. The good news about Darjeeling though is that Anderson seems to be leaving at least some of these tropes behind.

The story revolves around three brothers on a soul-searching train voyage across India. The trip is spearheaded by reckless leader Francis (Owen Wilson), with the lovelorn Jack (Jason Schwartzman), and puckish Peter (Adrien Brody) in tow. That is his other work; overly concerned with the creation of the “comic” persona works well here as the abilities of violence to solve political crises? Possibly...

The Kingdom begins with a cartoon plane flying into a bar graph of international oil consumption then cuts to, of all things, a baseball game. This baseball game is tragically interrupted by two rampaging gunmen, a suicide bomber who uses jacks and marbles as shrapnel, and an ambulance filled with explosives. The tension and suspense is cut short when the audience learns that the baseball game is being played on an American oil-company employee compound in Saudi Arabia and not in Texas as you assumed. By blowing up an innocent baseball game The Kingdom reminds America that the abilities of violence to solve the problems of the world are the same as the problems. The film progresses, Haytham fights against his implied religious bias without reconstituting that bias and comes to see Americans as righteous in their need for revenge. Haytham must act as a constant reminder of the extreme danger involved in the American’s presence in a Muslim country. By the end of the film Haytham is reduced to an Indian guide in a western, or a reformed convict in a cops and robbers film: a one-dimensional character. Unlike westerns or crime dramas, The Kingdom is too stark and the moral implications too weighty for audiences to marvel at the artistry of the action sequences. Rather than functioning like a conventional action film, The Kingdom makes an attempt at a complete understanding of the political situation in the Middle East. It is oddly regrettable that the movie tried to communicate too much; if it had enough sex appeal, or any sex appeal for that matter, to counteract the onscreen violence, audiences would feel invigorated by the pull between extremes. The balance between creative and destructive forces is the promise of a good action movie, making a film exciting rather than depressing like The Kingdom. It could have been a half decent action movie, and had it lived up to that potential, the film’s heavy-handed moral message would have been seen for what it was: the need for an enemy.

I doubt many people will bother to go see it, but The Kingdom is one of many films to come that will begin to address America’s crusade against Islamic extremism, including the war in Iraq. Unfortunately the current financial climate of the film industry will not allow for the risks involved in directly approaching the subject. Multimillion-dollar investments cannot afford to polarize audiences. The Kingdom hoped to survive political polarization by not making sense; nevertheless, it will get the lack-luster audience reception it deserves.
ARTS＆ENTERTAINMENT

I'm Not Gonna Teach Your Boyfriend How to Dance With You

BY CAROLINE DENHAM ’08

If I were going to make a music video where a bunch of kids in acid-washed jeans and converse high tops busted through the double doors of a high school gymnasium and unleashed a perfectly choreographed mass-dance onto the neighborhood streets of some Midwestern suburb, I would set the video to Black Kids’ “I'm Not Gonna Teach Your Boyfriend How to Dance With You.”

This song, scattered the pastel glitter of a disco ball upon a time when one is young enough to expect justice from love and carefree enough to get up again after heartache knocks the kid on his/her inexperienced ass. While the synthesizers and Robert Smith-like vocals conjure up as much 80s nostalgia as Cyndi Lauper’s “Time After Time,” the lyrics take “I’m Not Gonna Teach” to the anthem level for those who make up for a lack of dance partners with an abundance of super sweet moves.

For singer/guitarist Reggie Youngblood, it’s not that dance partners are hard to come by; the problem is that when that night is through, these partners tend to go home with other guys. In an interview with Vice magazine, Youngblood describes the predicament he frequently finds himself in at parties in his hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. “Jacksonville is a sort of anomaly,” explains Youngblood, “in that despite being a somewhat culturally bereft city, we have amazing dance parties at which we dance like motherfuckers. So, in this environment, I’ve repeatedly found myself in situations where girls love to dance with me, (cos I can move, baby) but usually go home with some else, who can’t dance for shit. It’s a problem.”

Apart from this bummer of a trend, Youngblood seems to be doing all right. The synth-pop band he formed with his sister, Ali, and friends Owen Holmes, Kevin Snow, and Dawn Watley is the buzz of many blogs these days. Pitchfork gave the band an extra boost by featuring the abovementioned hit on their site’s “forkcast.” Much of the fuss is thanks to Black Kids’ performance at Athens Popfest in August—say by some to be the highlight of a festival featuring big-timers like Ted Leo and the Pharmacists.

I can see how Black Kids would be great live. I haven’t seen them though, because they haven’t gone on tour yet. Nor have they made an album or signed with a label, or done any of those other serious band things. At the moment, all that Black Kids’ have produced is an EP demo, Wizard of Ahhhs, which is free on their MySpace page. Few as they are, these Wizard of Ahhhs tracks are fun and relatable enough to suggest that we can expect a lot more of this band.

Youngblood has the perfect dose of desperation in his voice to make cute lyrics like “Didn’t mean to do you no harm, I just underestimated my charm.” Sound cool. With peppy background vocals and steady rock beats, Black Kids offer a new spin on a style of old favorites. Even since I started this review, Black Kids has made good on their easy-to-love sound, booking a fall show closer to our neck of the woods than theirs. My bet is that the just-posted New York show (October 18th) will be the first of many appearances for Black Kids.

Check Out
Wizard of Ahhhs
The First EP by Black Kids
www.myspace.com/BlackKidsRock

Cancel My Subscription

BY CLAIRE DOWD ’08

In 2007, Rolling Stone magazine had its own agenda: to be as famous as the people they write about and sell copies.

Instead of seeing the truth in Bangs’ statements myself, I foolishly spent my money on an unlimited subscription and allotted space in my bedroom for over 100 issues. As I progressed through high school, my awareness of Rolling Stone’s complete shallowness began to grow. Their political commentary is a sham. I respect a publication’s right to have a certain affiliation, but Rolling Stone is about as subtle as Fox News on the fourth of July. It is not concerned with providing accurate information or well-balanced opinions, but they only end up being political tirades that use maybe one or two slanted sources to prove its point.

Since Rolling Stone cares so little about everything, I find it highly ironic that now they decide to write about the demise of MTV and its apathy toward music, 10 or 15 years after MTV stopped caring about music and started to “get real.” The article is entitled “MTV’s Midlife Crisis: VMAs Ratings Are Up, but is MTV Still Music Television?”. This same question could be asked directly of Rolling Stone. Is Rolling Stone still a music magazine or more specifically a music magazine concerned with music that matters? They are still publishing the Billboard Top 40 albums, as if the CD sales of Hannah Montana and Nickelback are any indication of what music fans actually listen to. Of course, the magazine still has reviews and articles about musicians, but the quality and interest that the publication holds in its content is questionable. All it sees are dollar signs.

A long time ago, Jann Wenner and company decided not to cater to music fans, but to use their covers to draw in the casual, apathetic consumer who sees the artist-du-jour that is currently making headlines across the country. And every month, in response to these covers, there are several passionate letters-to-the-editor saying, “I am cancelling my subscription. You suck.” But the magazine is adept at getting the reader just enough to stay tuned. It waffles between covering iconic figures of the past—Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Hunter Thompson—and pleasing the young generation, who they horribly stereotype as being interested in no-talent, flash-in-the-pan “hotties”.

This past year, Fall Out Boy, Panic! At The Disco, Maroon 5, and Fergie have all graced the cover of the “hallowed” Rolling Stone.

This past summer, in an effort to up circulation, Rolling Stone chose Zac Efron, that kid with the blonde highlights and stage makeup from High School Musical, to be their latest cover boy. I rest my case.
Coach's Corner: Winnie Edmed of Women's Soccer

BY ABIGAIL MAYER '10

It is not hard to see how Winnie Edmed found her way into coaching. A stellar athlete in her own right, Edmed, a Connecticut native, began her own soccer career at Keene State. She later transferred to Eastern Connecticut State and majored in physical education. Facing many injuries, including a torn ACL and a broken ankle, Edmed turned to coaching as a way to remain involved with the sport.

For six years, Edmed stood as the assistant coach to former head coach Ken Klein (currently the associate athletic director). She then coached at Babson College for one year, before spending two seasons at Mitchell College. Edmed kept in touch with Klein, as he served as a mentor and friend to her over the years. They ran into one another at a wedding in the summer of 2005, and he immediately offered her a position as Part-Time Interim Head Coach of women's soccer for the following year. "It was a very quick process," says Edmed. This is her second season in this position.

Edmed was initially drawn to Connecticut College because her older sister played for Klein during her four years at Conn. Edmed admits that her coaching style is directly derived from Klein's techniques. "It is important to incorporate a fun environment with a competitive one in order to attain success," reveals Edmed. Her philosophy also instills confidence, sportsmanship, and a strong work ethic in her players which allows them to be aware of their abilities.

The team's ability to succeed is evident, explains Edmed, as the girls have won four games in a row. Their most recent victory was an exciting double overtime win against Wesleyan. The team is well-represented, as Sharon Katz '10 was recently acknowledged as the NESCAC player of the week. Still, Edmed is concerned with individual injuries on the team, and she hopes that they will not impede their coming performances against Eastern Connecticut State and Trinity.

Edmed hopes that the girls will make it into the NESCAC tournament, as much of the team's success is attributed to the six seniors, all of whom have played for four seasons. "I think all of the girls want to do it for them," remarks Edmed.

Edmed and her husband, Josh (the women's volleyball head coach), live in New London with their nine-month old, Caeli. When asked whether we should watch for Caeli on the field or on the court, Edmed says, "I want her to be a volleyball player. Ever since I met Josh at Conn, I have a greater appreciation for the sport." Edmed works to balance her team and her family, as she feels lucky to be able to enjoy both.

CAMEL SCOREBOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Soccer</th>
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<td>Men's Water Polo</td>
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Victory Within Reach For The Men's Soccer Team

BY MATT FAVA '09
staff writer

In seven games this season, Conn's Men's Soccer team has held its opponents to two or fewer goals on six occasions. Allowing just 11 goals, Conn has not lost a single game by more than two scores. Unfortunately, the Camels only have four goals of their own, and they have been victorious just once this season (1-5-1) and find themselves in second to last place in the NESCAC standings (9th).

The team has experienced many disappointments during the final moments of their matches, and this trend continued over Fall Weekend. The men enjoyed a definite home field advantage as they took to Harkness Green against Wesleyan where hundreds of fans had gathered to watch the game. After seeing the women pull off a come from behind, double overtime victory (2-1), the fans were anxious to see how the men would fare against Wesleyan.

The visiting Cardinals had a NESCAC record of 1-3 entering Saturday's match, and the Camels certainly saw this as a great chance to obtain their first NESCAC victory of the season. The first half proved to be a continuation of Conn's streak of competitive games, and there was no score at halftime.

Wesleyan got on the board early in the second half with a score from Jory Kahan #10 in the 53rd minute. From this point on, however, the Camels dominated play out-shooting the Cardinals 10-3 in the second half. Conn had many chances to even the score in the closing minutes of the game on breakaways as well as set plays. One of these premier opportunities came from David Driscoll '08, as he sent a rocket just over the crossbar off of a brilliant chested ball from Kyle Neidhardt '08.

Another notable near miss came off a beautifully placed corner kick from the set play specialist GL Genco '10. Well aware of Alex Samma '10 breaking to the goal, Genco floated one right on Samma's head who propelled the ball straight down and out of the reach of the Wesleyan keeper, Jamie Hiteshaw '08. Unfortunately, the ball leapt over the crossbar—a play that mirrored a great scoring chance in the match against Bates two weeks ago.

Accompanying these chances were a few breakaways that could not find the twine for the Camels, including an extremely close call by David Kellogg '09 in the last three minutes. The Camels posted twelve shots on goal, yet the Cardinals only needed ten shots to win. Similarly, Ted Lane '09 managed an impressive six saves in a losing effort, while Hiteshaw only had to stop six to come out on top.

The team has literally been inches away from success all season, and there is still a lot of soccer left to be played. Despite their record, the Camels are poised for a great close to their season and can still make the post season. Their next chance will be this Wednesday at 4:00 PM on Harkness Green against NESCAC leader Amherst. Sitting at 7-0 overall and 4-0 in conference play, Amherst has only been scored on in three of the games, and only one team has managed more than one tally against them. Although the Lord Jeffs may be feeling untouchable, the Camels plan to prove that this is far from the case.

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Connecticut College Faculty Concerts
October 10th and 25th

NEW LONDON, Conn. — The Connecticut College Department of Music will present Faculty Concerts on Oct. 19 and 25.

Linda Skernick, adjunct instructor of music, will play the harpsichord and special guest Julie Ribchinsky will play the cello at "An All-Bach Evening of Harpsichord Music" at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 19 in the college's Harkness Chapel.

Rieko Aizawa, adjunct instructor of music, will perform a Piano Concert, with special guest Jesse Mills on the violin, at 8 p.m. on Oct. 25 in the college's John C. Evans Hall, Cummings Arts Center.

Tickets are $10, $5 for students and seniors. For tickets and information, call (860) 439-2720.

Walking Tour of "Eugene O'Neill's New London"
RESCHEDULED FOR 10 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Waterford, CT — As part of its 8th Annual Eugene O'Neill Celebration weekend, the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center offers the popular walking tour of "O'Neill's New London," led by historian Sally Ryan ($5 charge). The walking tour leaves Union Station, New London at 10am on Sunday, October 14th and lasts one hour. It does not include the Monte Cristo Cottage on its itinerary, so please plan to visit the Cottage separately.

The O'Neill Celebration has been made possible in part by a generous gift from The Frank Loomis Palmer Fund.

Across
1. Trinket
11. Vail hailer
15. Christmas dropping
16. Tennessee Williams' "Summer and Smoke" heroine
17. Delivered
18. Ho Chi Minh Trail
19. Brain check; briefly
20. Advanced
22. Shelley's "Queen"
25. Ricky, really
26. Scintilla, e.g.
29. Lined up
31. Fabulous fellow
33. Sub system
35. Meteorological yardstick
36. Oldest city of all U.S. capitals
39. Snorkel's companion
40. Apprentice
41. "Clintond's ditch"
43. Medicinal license
44. Viking who discovered Vinland

By Bob Klahn

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By Bob Klahn
The Value of Veterans in Sports

BY JASON STARR ’09

Do young athletes dominate professional sports? As college students, we tend to fixate on the young stars whose raw athleticism continues to amaze us. We also associate physical endurance with youth which gives them an advantage over older athletes in our mind.

While the energetic nature of young athletes can excite a team, this does not compare to the effect that veteran leadership has on a team. If you examine the Philadelphia Phillies, Green Bay Packers, and New England Patriots, three teams that have been quite impressive, you will notice that a large portion of their success stems from the leadership and elevated performance of veteran players.

The presence of a veteran will generate numerous intangible qualities that greatly enhance a team. Their experience allows them to handle pressure with poise which often sustains a team throughout the season. A veteran’s composed nature enables him to mentor young players, and his ability to perform at a high level will cause them to excel as well.

Look at how the Phillies overcame a tremendous deficit and won the NL East on the last game of the regular season. They stole the division from the New York Mets by winning an astonishing thirteen of their last seventeen games and clinched their first playoff berth since 1993.

Although they clearly never would have made the playoffs if the Mets had not imploded in September, the Phillies have a very talented team which includes two MVP candidates: shortstop Jimmy Rollins and first baseman Ryan Howard. These two players are extremely talented and they are MVP candidates: shortstop Jimmy Rollins and first baseman Ryan Howard.

The Slide

BY BEN EAGLE ’09

It was a warm evening towards the end of August when the Mets came to Philadelphia. The Blue and Orange had lost five of the last seven, but had only spent thirteen days not sitting atop the NL East standings. In the other dugout sat the Philadelphia Phillies, a team who had looked as though its NL East hopes were dashed. The Fighting Phils’ had lost four games at home before the Mets came to town, and it seemed as though the Phillies had more to play for than the Mets.

The game was one for the history books. The Mets, as was their calling card this season, started the game off slow. They fell behind 2-1 in the first inning and tied it up in the fourth. But they fell behind again on a Pat Burrel sac fly in the fifth. The innings passed, and the Mets found themselves on the wrong side of a 3-2 score in the top of the ninth.

The Mets usually thrived in the ninth inning. The back-cover of the NY Post was littered with the late inning heroics of the Mets this summer. Whether it was Carlos Delgado’s two walk-offs in May (one of which was part of an epic two-homerun evening) or Endy Chavez’s walk-off drag bunt on April 25th, New York was accustomed to dramatic, come-from-behind victories. And it seemed as though this had found another hero during the Phillies game: Marlon Anderson.

There was one on, and no outs, when Willie Randolph told Anderson he would pinch-hitting for the petulant, but talented, young outfielder, Lastings Milledge. Always one to rise to the occasion, Anderson ripped the first pitch he saw for a single. Runners on first and second with one out. Was this the beginning of another Mets comeback?

Anderson, a former Phillies second baseman, shouldn’t have been a Met. The Phillies chose not to offer Anderson a contract after the 2003 season because they were waiting on top prospect, Chase Utley, to emerge as their next second baseman. After bouncing around the league for some time, Anderson signed with the New York team in July of 2007.

When the next batter, Shawn Green, blooped a Brett Myers change-up to the shortstop, Anderson began a sprint to second base that would greatly affect the rest of the Mets’ season. As Tadahito Iguchi, the Phillies second baseman, caught the toss from the shortstop, Jimmy Rollins, Anderson strayed outside the base path and slid into Iguchi to disrupt the double play. The umpire called interference, and the game was over. Phillies win.

So, what does this game matter? In a season where there are 162 games, does one game fit in? In the light of the Mets’ historic fall, this game matters a lot. The Mets blew a seven game lead with 17 games to play, and a slide of this magnitude is unprecedented. You can identify this game against the Phillies as the beginnings of the Mets’ collapse because Philly went on to sweep the series and win the division.

My condolences go out to all those sullen Mets’ fan everywhere, but this season is historic, and history has to take its casualties.

Anderson’s slide into Iguchi was the start of the end for the Mets (Web)

Superfans at the Pep Rally last Friday (Schuerhoff)

Sources:
http://ESPN.com
http://Baseball-reference.com
In This Kingdom By The Sea

By Nick Sullivan '08

With the recent flurry of controversy about the Iranian president Ahmadinejad and the politically charged ad from http://moveon.org, the argument over free speech has made headlines once again. Free speech needs to be discussed now and in the future.

I never thought I would quote Colin Powell, but his words, “Free speech is intended to protect the controversial and even outrageous word; not just comforting platitudes too mundane to need protection,” are correct. The atmosphere around conversations today, particularly in academia, is one of fear of offending, fear of being politically incorrect.

F-k political correctness! (Ironically enough, that will be censored.)

Tell me something crazy and new. I want to be offended. I want to think. I want to hear your thoughts. Just don’t give me silence.

What would we do if Charles Darwin, Martin Luther, or Susan B. Anthony just listened to the critics in society and sat idly? Controversial ideas are the thing that need to be discussed. When people are afraid to speak because they fear offending someone, the passionate, and often times extreme, viewpoints, dominate the conversations. In turn, they clog the argument because they are the only representing one voice. People need to stand up, listen, and speak back to open the dialogue. Go on and offend them. Make them think.

Why aren’t people raising their hands in class and asking the hard questions?

If you don’t agree with the speaker, their opinion makes you reflect, create an argument, and strengthen your own beliefs. The rational and stronger argument should prevail when free speech works correctly.

I knew what my answer was when asked, “Should Ahmadinejad be allowed to speak at Columbia?”

I heard a slew of arguments against it, such as, “He’s irrational” or “You’re just giving him more power.” These differing opinions allowed me to have one of the most interesting conversations I’ve had in a while. People are starting to talk about Iran in a way that is illuminating, and these conversations are encouraging people to learn more about the country, namely the state of affairs in Iran and its political context in the global community.

We can’t take a stance on a region or country without first knowing the reasons behind their arguments.

There is an explanation for why Ahmadinejad has been so popular with some people in the Middle East. If we just write him off as a madman and ignore the situation, than we are ignoring the problem and the solution. It scares me that people want to silence the conversation and have threatened to cut off funding from Columbia for allowing someone to speak.

Why do our politicians reprimand political groups for their ads, but are unable, or far worse unwilling, to do anything to alleviate the problems in the Middle East, or to address our dwindling economy, or to draft any new immigration reform? It’s pathetic! All they want to do is tell the opposition to sit down and be quiet as the problems get worse and worse. Our civil liberties and our voices are being muzzled. Where’s the outcry?

I urge people to stand up and talk. Ask yourself: why is everything so offensive? College should be a place where you learn how to articulate your ideas. Now, more than ever, we need to be asking the right questions and hearing new ideas. I don’t want our generation to be known for its apathy and silence.

Right Strokes For Conn Folks

By John Swig '08

Why do guys get erections while grinding? - Samantha.

Unless you are in high school, it’s the rubbing. If you are in high school, you get them from anything. Wind blowing, clock ticking, reading about the Great Depression. It’s more helpful to know when guys get boners versus why they get them. For that I have included a useful chart.

Help Me Get To Hartford!

By Alex Frecon '09

So I got locked out of my room last night...sweet.

But enough about that. I’m stuck in a bit of a quandary right now. See, as you all know fall break is coming up and unlike most of you, I live a pretty decent distance away (a two hour plane ride). Now a days, Northwest Airlines is so stellar that they only offer direct flights out of Hartford, a fifty-minute car ride away.

That fifty-minute car ride however, is one of the hardest things to come by on this campus. It’s probably harder than finding a party with more than two kegs. Honestly!

Every time I do go home, I secretly regret it, because I know I’m going to have to beg every single friend I know to drive me out there. And let’s be honest, nobody wants to drive someone out to Hartford and then back.

You know what’s awesome about Yale? They have a school shuttle bus that will take you directly to the Hartford airport or pick you up for under forty or fifty bucks. Do you know how much it costs me to find transportation to the airport? Like cabs or limo drivers or shuttle services? 120 freaking dollars!

Why isn’t Yale get a shuttle service and we don’t? We need to take charge here, and lend a helping hand to the students who can’t just hop in their parents’ car and drive forty minutes home.

Going back home should not run you back a semester’s worth of books, or sixty racks of PBR.

Yes, that’s right, SIX thirty racks of PBR!

I really wish Conn would have my back every once and awhile, whether it’s for the little things or the more daunting task of getting its students to the airport for an affordable price. I understand we’re small, but is it that farfetched to start a student or school run shuttle service to the Hartford airport? I would happily wait an extra two hours at the airport in exchange for a decent rate. In fact I would be more than happy. I would be impressed.

Sure, money’s tight around here, but it doesn’t seem that way. We just spent nine million dollars renovating dorms. Did you see those new lamp posts? The new signs? That SWEET kiosk in front of Cro? We must have money, or at least we’re trying to pretend we do to impress prospective students. I say we should rely on our academic reputation to lure students in and use the money to help out the students that are already here.

Maybe I whine a lot, maybe I’m just crazy, but it’s just so frustrating to have these problems because I know they can be fixed easily. I know they can because other schools do it. And lets be honest, nobody’s smarter than Connecticut College.

But seriously, I need a ride to the Hartford Airport on Thursday, October 11th, for a 2 pm flight. I AM WILLING TO PAY!
Given that the amount one sleeps is inversely proportional to the temporal progression of the semester, a look at recent discoveries in sleep research is merited. Thanks to the cocaine-inspired rants of Freud, society misconstrues sleep as one of the few truly mysterious workings of the human body. That dreams have only recently come under the scope of science speaks to the widely held notion that they have little or no rational explanation. The research begs to differ. Dreams have a neurological basis that can, and is, being studied. This week I bring to you some rather intriguing tidbits of the science of sleep:

- This month scientists found that conception and birth negatively influence mothers' dreams. Postpartum mothers experienced nearly 20% more nightmares, notably starring their baby, than pregnant women. Giving birth doubles a woman's nocturnal motor activity; the same group of postpartum mothers moved, kicked, and swung twice as much as pregnant or non-pregnant women during sleep. Though the harmless habit of snoring is also likely to develop in pregnant women, it could lead to the more serious sleep disorder of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). The actual details on how pregnancy and birth affect dreams are insanely complex, but the phenomenon is understandable given the complete rewiring of the female body that occurs upon conception.

- The minimalist motto, "Less is more", may hold true when it comes to sleep and dreams. Scientists have found that the number of dreams one has each night is roughly constant. Therefore, if you get half as much sleep one night as you usually do, your mind has to cram the dream content of an ordinary night into half as much time. On four nightly hours of snooze, sleep subjects experienced dreams so vivid that many believed them to be real. In 2005, researchers also found that cutting 30 minutes of sleep one night would increase the amount of dream time—known as REM—by over 30% the next night.

- Contrary to common belief, dreams do more than rehash the day's events. Normal, everyday experiences from up to seven days past remain candidates for your dreams (no, not the kind inspired by Disney). This discovery has prompted some to suggest that "sleeping on it" may very well be an effective problem-solving strategy. Subjects in a study by the University of Alberta were more likely to produce solutions to a problem they had been assigned one week prior. It is no surprise that your brain continues to analyze problems even while you sleep—what is important is that your mind may be looking at these problems differently through dreams. The next day—aha!—you suddenly come across the solution, when the problem was really solved at the wee hours of REM.

- Are dreams in color or black and white? Well, it depends on the century. While studies in the 1950s were reported dreams to be colorless, it was recently found that people do in have Technicolor dreams. Professor Schwitzgebel of UC Riverside suggests that the content of our dreams—color included—is heavily influenced by cultural conceptions. He argues that sixty years ago people dreamt in black and white because color television had yet to be invented. Now, with even our cell phones producing a frenzy of neon flashes, our colorful media allows us to dream with colors. If Professor Schwitzgebel's theory is correct, the extent to which dreams are influenced by culture is highly underestimated in 21st century sleep research.

Sources:
www.sciam.com
www.sciencedaily.com
www.ucr.edu

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Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it.

- JAMES BALDWIN

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Che Bellal Magic and Mishaps in Milan

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08
editor-in-chief

Newcomers to the fashion arena, Tommaso Aquilano and Roberto Rimondi, the design duo behind 6267, are on their way to fulfilling demands that established Italian fashion houses are not addressing.

6267 proposes a fifties silhouette with a Japanese twist. Most essential to the spell cast at the September 25th presentation was the quality of the clothing and it's decidedly under-the-radar status. 6267 does not lend itself to looking like a branded, designer look from head-to-toe. With everyone acting as a stylist these days, the 6267 team raised their profile from last season.

Their autumn/winter 2007 show needed “advice on presentation and making sure their identity comes through more strongly,” said Sarah Mower of Vogue. Gone are the hats; the days, the 6267 team raised one acting as a stylist these looks, the show eased into starting with navy and white looks, the show progressed, is on-target. The variety of looks for spring/summer 2008 collection created pieces for the collection, it would have done away with ambivalence regarding future direction. Had someone edited the pieces into a more cohesive vision, the show would have been triumphant.

But it was a conglomeration of a cohesive vision, and it lacked a strong aesthetic.
Allowed Everything
Radiohead’s Revolutionary Marketing

BY JACQUES SWARTZ ’09

So if you’ve got a pulse and you’re even tangentially interested in current music, you’ve probably heard that Radiohead is releasing a new album. After about a month of posting cryptic messages to their website—which were lovingly (and erroneously) decoded by fans—they made the announcement last week that the new album would be out in ten days. “It’s called In Rainbows.” Of course, much flipping out took place, but there are additional ramifications beyond just what is entailed by an awesome forthcoming album. These aspects have serious implications concerning the current state of the recording industry and the band’s creativity in dealing with it. The first serious red flag is that this major new album is about to drop and there hasn’t been a single theve-like bootleg to grace the interweb. The second is that you can download the album from the band’s website for any price you choose. The notion here is that Radiohead will not make you pay for an album you will eventually be able to acquire for free, but they will give you the option to pay them, if you want. So how, then, will they make any money? Enter flag number three, coming here in the form of the boxed set, also pre-orderable from the website. Inside you find the new album on vinyl, on CD, and an enhanced CD with new songs, photos and artwork, all contained within a diebox, featuring a bunch of other goodies. This’ll run (with shipping) about 80 US dollars. So, to review: No leak, pay what you want, funding through an ill-bonous package.

Then now the question is some combination of “How cool is that?” and “How can they do that?”. The answer to both lies in what may become a growing trend in the marketing and business models of the record industry. Radiohead is banking on the fact that they have essentially a cult following, which will gladly shell out disproportionate money for what some would possibly say is a fetishist item. What’s also important is that the band has been so successful that they don’t entirely need to be raking in on this album, should serious sales fail to materialize. Their whole approach here is rooted in a certain kind of ethos. Making the download available for free creates a kind of incentive to buy the blowout version or to at least pay money to the band because it creates what at least seems like a bond of trust and respect. They’re playing it cool and looking to reap serious benefits in the process.

The fact that they have total control over the album is what’s allowed them to keep it under wraps, keep the demo out of the hands of tech dweebs, and allowed them to write the terms of the release itself. If they’re successful, not just in a cultish fever kind of way, but in a feasible-business model type way, then we can expect to see something that’s perhaps been missing from the creative music industry lately: creativity on the business end too.

BACK IN 1993, THE BRITISH BAND RADIOHEAD SHOT TO FAME WITH A STRANGE LITTLEODE TO SELF-LOATHING CALLED “CREEP,” OFF THEIR DEBUT ALBUM PABLO HONEY. THE SONG WAS A COMICALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD STATEMENT OF LEAD SINGER THOM YORKE’S INFERIORITY COMPLEX, AS HE MUMBLED THE LINES “I WANT A PERFECT BODY! I WANT A PERFECT SOUL” OVER AN EQUALLY BUMMED-OUT POST-GRUNGE ARRANGEMENT. “CREEP” SEEMED AN AUTOMATIC FLASH-IN-THE-PAN SINGLE, A BRIEF CHANCE FOR OUTCASTS EVERYWHERE TO WAIL AT MAINSTREAM AMERICA BEFORE IT PUBLICLY TURNED ITS ATTENTION BACK TO WHITNEY HOUSTON’S “I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.”

Accordingly, Radiohead’s follow-up album The Bends, released in 1995, had only faint underground success in the US. Americans were apparently ready to dismiss them as just another of the ‘90s’ long list of one-hit-wonders. But what many somehow missed was that Radiohead had hatched out a guitar rock masterpiece. Today The Bends sounds utterly enduring, with song after song of riveting guitar fireworks and soaring melodies.

Thom Yorke always has and always will be Radiohead’s weakest link. He’s so caught up with his own misery and the urge to sing in a bleached-out, dying-puppy falsetto that he forgets he’s fronting one of the best bands of our time. This became more apparent on Radiohead’s later albums, in which the guy seemed to be draping his voice over the rest of the band’s brilliance like a wet rag. But for one brief moment on The Bends, Yorke got it just right. He kept it restrained and melodic, and only deployed said wimpiness for the sake of galvanizing transitions into rage. The Bends showed listeners that when wusses rock out the effect can be even scarier than when metalheads do it.

And if you take a look at the album’s lyrics, you’ll see what Yorke was getting so pissed off about. Thematically, The Bends is a very negative album. It’s all about decay, a very unspecific (and very ‘90s) sick-of-everything-ness that Radiohead spoke to better than any other band of their day. Yorke gets right to the malaise on opener “Planet Telex,” which finds him wailing “Everything is broken! Everyone is broken!” Two songs later he croons, “All your insides fall to pieces/you just sit there wishing you could still make love.” And it doesn’t get much cheerier from there.

This all would have been hopelessly depressing had the band not also been cranking out killer rock anthems, and had lead guitarist Jonny Greenwood not tapped into such a blazing, majestic sound on home-run album cuts like “Bones.” The added assistance of Yorke and third guitarist Ed O’Brien made an assault that was forceful, well-wrought and searing.

Before they decided to kill melody on 2000’s Kid A, Radiohead sure had some great ones. “High and Dry” and “Fake Plastic Trees,” the album’s most straightforward pop songs, both boast stately melodies and an elegiac tone that, believe it or not, landed them on radio. Elsewhere, hooks pop up everywhere.

The band was both embracing the irresistibility of familiar song structures and playing around with them, to staggering effect. “Just” goes through its obligatory verse-chorus-bridge before a false ending of screeching feedback jumps back into a full-on rock assault that’ll leave you gasping for air. But the best merging of melody and innovation would have to be the momentous title track, which wades a transcendent crescendo (and Yorke’s finest vocal moment) between hailstorms of clattering guitar havoc.

It’s a towering achievement that Radiohead haven’t been able to match since.
**Weekly Calendar**

**Saturday, October 6th:**
- Women's Tennis vs. Bowdoin, 11 am, tennis courts
- Men's Water Polo Tournament, noon, Lott Natatorium
- "Where We're Coming From," a student-generated performance piece that explores experiences of race, ethnicity and identity, 2 pm, 8 pm, Tansill Theater, $6 students

**Sunday, October 7th:**
- Men's Water Polo Tournament, noon, Lott Natatorium
- Arboretum Afternoon Tour, 2 pm, front of Olin.
- "Where We're Coming From," 2 pm, Tansill Theater, $6 students
- College Republican Meeting, 8 pm, Alice Johnson Room, Cro

**Monday, October 8th:**
- Open House for prospective students, 8:30 am – 4 pm
- Personal Trainer, noon, Athletic Center, $12.50
- "Two Case Studies in Sport Psychology: Examining the Dual Role of a Clinician Working with Division I Athletes," a Department of Psychology Colloquium Series lecture by Robin J. Surwilo, a private practice psychotherapist, 4:30 pm, Bill 106
- "'Just a Word, Just a Symbol:' Recent Racist Events on U.S. College Campuses," discussion with James Downs, assistant professor of history, and David Canton, assistant professor of history, 4:30 pm, Olin 014
- Free Kickboxing Classes, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, Cro's Nest

**Monday, October 9th:**
- Personal Trainer, noon in the Athletic Center, 5 pm in Cro's Nest, $12.50
- Community Yoga, 5:30 pm, 1941 Room, Cro, students $6/session or $60/semester

**Tuesday, October 10th:**
- Fall Break begins at 5 pm

**Wednesday, October 10th:**
- Classes resume

**Friday, October 19th & Saturday, October 20th:**
- Camelympics, all campus event
- Fall Concert featuring RJD2, Palmer

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**The College Voice**

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