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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 4



LGBTQ Center. Photo by Kelsey Cohen

LGBTQ Community Among Most Active on Campus: “We Recruit”

SARAH KOSOFSKY
STAFF WRITER

Messages from the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning) community are visible all over campus, from posters advertising the National Equality March to signs for movie nights and (CQ)2 meetings, to Queer on the Can.

Since its inception, the LGBTQ community has always taken an active role toward making our campus more egalitarian. For years they have hosted annual events such as Drag Ball, National Coming Out Day and a Matthew Shepherd Vigil for hate crime awareness.

But it was in the 06-07 academic year that students began pushing for an LGBTQ resource center and formal director.

The campus was struggling with issues of targeted homophobia: a few students were regularly harassed with the word “fag” written on the white boards outside their doors, and brought the issue to SGA.

In Spring 2007, Connecticut College opened its LGBTQ resource center on the first floor



of Burdick beneath a rainbow flag, and Dr. Jennifer Manion became the director and operator of the center.

This resource center is something that many colleges, including some in the NESCAC league, lack or have only very recently established. Its presence has allowed the LGBTQ community to become an even more active presence on campus.

The community leads one of Conn's largest clubs, Spectrum, which fights homophobia and advocates for equal rights, as well as (CQ)2 (Connecticut College Queer and Questioning), a group of students that meets to talk about gender identity and sexuality and helps those adjusting to their new identities. The center also hosts the Campaign for Gender Identity Awareness, which developed last year to address gender and transgender issues.

Spectrum has about thirty active members, and works regularly with the other LGBTQ clubs, Unity House and the Women's Center to promote events.

According to junior Chad Stewart, “There's not a week that goes by that we don't host

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Newspaper Readership Program Returns for Trial Run

Temporary Return Could Become Permanent with Student Support

SARA WEINER
CONTRIBUTOR

Here's some good news: newspapers are back on campus as of Monday, October 5. However, the not-so-splendid news: they might be gone again by the semester's end.

On September 10, SGA created a Task Force dedicated to bringing the *New York Times* back to campus.

The group currently consists of two students, sophomore

Teddy Fisher and senior Corey Testa, as well as Professor Borer of the Government department.

They have been meeting weekly to work with the administration on getting newspapers back on campus. They have been communicating with *The New York Times*, and plan to conduct research to evaluate the student body's interest in a Readership Program.

Members of the Task Force implemented a “pilot program”

on October 1 in collaboration with our administration and the *Times*. SGA passed a funding resolution to pay for this pilot with a small fund kept for such last-minute situations.

This program will last only eight weeks, however. Conn will stop receiving the papers by December.

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THE COLLEGE VOICE
NEWS

October 6, 2009 | Editors: Samantha Herndon and Jazmine Hughes | news@thecollegevoice.org

Moon Festival Celebrated on Campus

CCASA's Traditional Event Discusses Cultural Difference
Between Asians and Asian Americans

JAMES SCALES
CONTRIBUTOR

Long ago held as the superlative deity, we set the moon today on a stunted pedestal, reducing its divine mystery to samples of dust and the universe's longest (known) six-iron drive.

This was not always the case. The Babylonians, like many other ancients, held the moon-god as the progenitor to those planetary gods who came later to dominate the sky. Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments, is related to the Babylonian word "sin," which stems from their word for "moon." There is a parallel etymology, which traces mount Sinai to the Hebraic "mountain pure as cheese," possibly foreshadowing the cultural myths of the moon being made of green cheese.

This fascination is indeed global. Known in eastern Asia alternatively as the Moon, Mooncake, Mid-Autumn or Lantern Festival, the custom of lunar celebration stretches back over 3,000 years.

The festival is celebrated by many nations, including China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore, each maintaining their own traditions while sharing certain common practices.

Like the festival itself, many versions of its mythical origin exist. The most common factor, it seems, is an archer by the name of Houyi.

In his age there were ten suns and the people were suffering from their intense heat.



Traditional dance from Moon Festival in 2007.

To save them, Houyi managed to shoot down nine of the suns with his powerful bow. For his skill he was rewarded with a pill of immortality.

As with nearly all myths, a tragedy is then introduced. Like Pandora, Houyi's wife Chang'e could not contain her curiosity. She opened the box

Over fifty students and faculty celebrated the Festival in Unity. Photo by Koreen Shoham.

and swallowed the pill.

Of course with immortality comes great lightness. No exception to the rule, Chang'e begins to float into the sky.

Yearning for her terrestrial past, she stations herself on the last remaining sun so she may look back onto the Earth. Overcome with grief, Houyi is unable to shoot down this sun, and instead was reduced to standing on Earth, lamenting his loss.

Today we know this sun as the moon, and to commemorate the event people all over the world gather in mid-autumn to enjoy mooncakes, a delicate treat made from a nut paste coated in dough.

This week at Unity House the festival was celebrated and

hosted by CCASA, the Connecticut College Asian/Asian-American Student Association, with a discussion of Asian identity, including a film that depicted a group of Chinese-Americans banding together to save their neighborhood from city developers trying to install a new baseball stadium. The film touched on national identity, and posed the problem of cultural communication between Asians and Asian-Americans, including the most basic problem of the language barrier.

Like any identity, culturally identity is rather complex. Adapting to a new land, a new language and a new culture poses an obstacle for many immigrants.

To counter the influence of a culture that may sometimes feel alien, people often band together, asserting their own cultural traditions.

The Moon Festival is one such example. Traditionally, the Festival is a time for families to enjoy cakes, light lanterns and incense in honor of the deities and, most importantly, to gather.

Bo Xiong, a student here at Connecticut College, has recently arrived from China. Facing barriers both linguistic and cultural, Bo remarked on his excitement and his longing for his home and family.

"The Festival is meant to bring families together," he noted, "and I'm here..."

An Insider's Guide to Climate Ride

ANNIE BIGWOOD
CONTRIBUTOR

After months of begging people for money, whipping ourselves into shape and doubting the fact that we would actually participate in Climate Ride 2009, on Saturday, September 26, Erik Karwowski and I embarked on a 300 mile journey from NYC to Washington DC. Fellow junior Emily Conrad followed along by car to document the experience on camera. Our goal? To spread awareness of the current climate crisis through curiosity. It's not often you see a group of 125 riders in matching attire fly through your sleepy hometown.

The benefit ride took place just in time to bring our message to the Capital, 67 days before the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. Here is a day-by-day account of our 5-day journey...

Day 1: Saturday morning in NYC, we rise early to meet up at the Central Park Zoo, where registration took place the previous evening. We grab our bikes, fill our bottles and hoard Clif bars into our jersey pockets (Clif sponsored the ride). 125 of us then make our way over to the CBS Morning Show where Climate Ride is featured!

After our television appearance we hit Pier 11, where a ferry awaits us for a 30-minute jaunt over to New Jersey. After a delicious lunch we are on bikes and our way to Princeton!

We hit a rut when Erik's bike breaks to the point of unsalvageable after the first few miles. The Climate Ride rescue squad brings a replacement after an hour of waiting on the side of the road.

Back on our bikes, we pass the infamous McMansions of New Jersey, followed by some surprisingly beautiful farmland. A fellow climate rider joins us for the second half of the mileage for the day and the three of us arrive at our destination for the evening fashionably late, after a few unintentional detours. The evening includes two speakers and a performance by climate riders and bluegrass band, The Great Salt Licks. Erik's dad wins "Dad of the Year" for bringing a new rental bike for the rest of the ride.

Day 2: The rain is actually refreshing and as we power up hills, and the soreness has yet to kick in. Best speakers of the week occur tonight: Alison Gannett is an Olympic freeskier who rode the whole way with us. Her website explains her best, as "World Champion extreme big mountain freeskier, competitive endurance mountain biker, and global cooling consultant has spent her life dedicated to solutions to climate change." Seriously cool woman. Climate scientist David Kroodsma tells us about his bike tour from Washington State to Argentina, then from the east coast back across the country.

Makes me want to do something with my life!

Day 3: 65 miles of biking in 25 mph winds, through the Amish country. It is Amish in its entirety, complete with horses, buggies and some serious hills. Slow day to say the least.

A downpour greets us in the afternoon, but luckily the accommodations for the evening, at a Mennonite camp, include an inside option. The directors of Climate Ride take really

good care of us, but at this point, I miss my mattress. Speakers for the night include Roz Savage, a British woman who rowed across the Atlantic Ocean by herself. Totally inspiring. We also hear from Colin Beavan, AKA "No Impact Man" and try our best to stay awake during his movie.

Day 4: Today hurts the most. Still windy, but today is the only rain free day of the trip!

After 55 miles of pain, a Jewish retreat center in Reisterstown, MD is a sight for sore eyes and legs: a beautiful place with hotel-like rooms and bathrooms. Dinner is delicious, and extra special climate rider Friis Arne Petersen, aka the Ambassador of Denmark, tells us about why Denmark is more climate conscious than the U.S. We also watch a really cool music video about bike culture in Copenhagen, where everyone is attractive, and hear from Mike Tidwell, the President of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

Day 5: EARLY morning. Today is the day we have all been waiting for - 68 miles to go before the Capital! 46 miles before lunch in Silver Spring is



followed by the last 22 into DC, where we are accompanied by numerous ambassadors, family members and friends.

We make a scene throughout the city and do some victory laps in front of the Capitol before we settle down to hear appreciative talks from congressmen Markey, Waxman, Kucinich and Senators Cardin and Shaheen. How appropriate that Kerry and Boxer presented the Senate Climate Bill right as

we finished our last miles!

My body may hate me, but Climate Ride 2009 was an invigorating and inspiring way to spend five days of my life. 5 days, \$5,367 of fundraising, 300 miles and several newly discovered muscles later, Erik and I are back at Conn to share our experiences. The amazing people and beautiful sights made the pain bearable.

Climate Ride 2010 here I come!



Questions of Pluralism

MEGAN REBACK
STAFF WRITER

Professor Deborah Moore prefaced her talk with a story: a man presents his perspective to a Rabbi who replies, "You're right." Another man presents his opposing perspective to the same Rabbi, who again replies, "You're right." Then the Rabbi's wife exclaims, "What? They can't both be right!" And the Rabbi responds, "You're also right, these and these and these are true."

This story tells us about the concept of pluralism, particularly in Judaism, the topic of Moore's talk "Pluralism in American Judaism: A Historical Perspective" on October 1. Moore is a professor from the University of Michigan.

In this example, each person who spoke with the Rabbi had a differing, and sometimes inconsistent, perspective. But when the Rabbi confirmed that each person was right, his wife grew unnerved and frustrated, yet the Rabbi claimed that each person was right - multiple truths exist.

Moore gave the talk in memory of Jerry Winter, a professor of sociology at Connecticut College who died this past March.

Former Connecticut College president, Norman Fainstein, introduced Winter as a Lucretia L. Allyn Professor of Sociology.

Fainstein said that Winter served as the "conscience of Connecticut College," who truly "put truth to power."

Moore's talk was given in Winter's memory because of his multi-faceted nature in the Jewish community. Moore's own studies were focused in 20th Century American Jewish history.

In the vein of this simple story, Moore named four periods in American history when the nature of pluralism in Judaism changed.

She began by discussing the evolution of Judaism in the United States. What began as efforts to move from simple "toleration" of a minority religion progressed into the acceptance of Judaism as an integral

part of American life.

Moore contends that this progression would not have been possible without accepting the positivity that arises from pluralism, or from having diverse perspectives. Often-times, these perspectives are contradictory, however Moore contends that "multiple, contrary truths are a good thing."

One dynamic period Moore discussed was Charleston, South Carolina, circa 1794.

During this time period, Charleston numbered close to 600 Jews, then the largest Jewish population of any US city. A group of Jews established a new synagogue that epitomized the concept of pluralism.

Most of the people who belonged to the congregation were Ashkenazi Jews, or Jews of German descent. They wanted to make Sephardic Jews, or Jews of Spanish descent, comfortable in the congregation.

One of the differences between these divisions is the placement of the Hekhal, or the Torah ark. While Ashkenazim place the Hekhal on the west side of the synagogue, Sephardim place it in the center. The two sects compromised and placed the Hekhal in between these two points.

This is a clear example of a pluralist accommodation, and fostered unity among the Jewish community in Charleston.

Thirty years later, a group of American-born Jews wanted to alter the synagogue.

They were inspired by Catholic and Lutheran services and requested shorter, weekly services in the English.

"They did not want to destroy the synagogue or its traditions, they simply wanted to reform it," noted Moore.

The synagogue resisted and ultimately did not accept the reform. This example differed in the success of its outcome for pluralistic modern Judaism.

Moore questioned, "Why did triumph and compromise have two different outcomes in the two examples? In the first instance, the Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews sought unity, while the American-born Jews sought change and thus, provoked opposition."

Newspaper Readership Program

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In years prior, the Newspaper Readership Program provided between 170 and 180 copies daily of *The New York Times*, as well as copies of *The Boston Globe* and *USA Today*.

These subscriptions were funded through a yearly charitable grant (the *Times* alone cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000 per school year), but, according to statements made by Dean of Student Life Jocelyn Briddell, this year the grantee decided not to renew the endowment.

In order to keep the newspapers on campus, the student body must actively express their desire for its reinstatement.

After the pilot program ends, the Task Force plans to conduct a survey that will measure students' interest in the return of a long-term newspaper program.

Fisher reported that as of the first few weeks of school, approximately "sixty percent...of [Conn] students were speaking out in favor of the Readership Program."

Now the Task Force is

recruiting members who are passionate about getting the papers back. Any student is encouraged to join and help to the research and interviews on student interest. They may also work with the administration to find the most fiscally

Approximately "sixty percent...of [Conn] students were speaking out in favor of the Readership Program."

efficient method of instilling another newspaper program.

SGA and the administration are still unsure about how the school will pay for a permanent Readership Program.

During an SGA meeting on Thursday, September 10, the speaking list ran long with questions for visitor Kevin Cappallo, the New York Times' Director of Education. They asked primarily about the cost of subscriptions, and other colleges' and universities' monetary revenues.

According to Cappallo, many other schools rely on grant sources to fund their newspa-

per programs, while others, like Pennsylvania State University, have the cost of newspapers built into their tuitions.

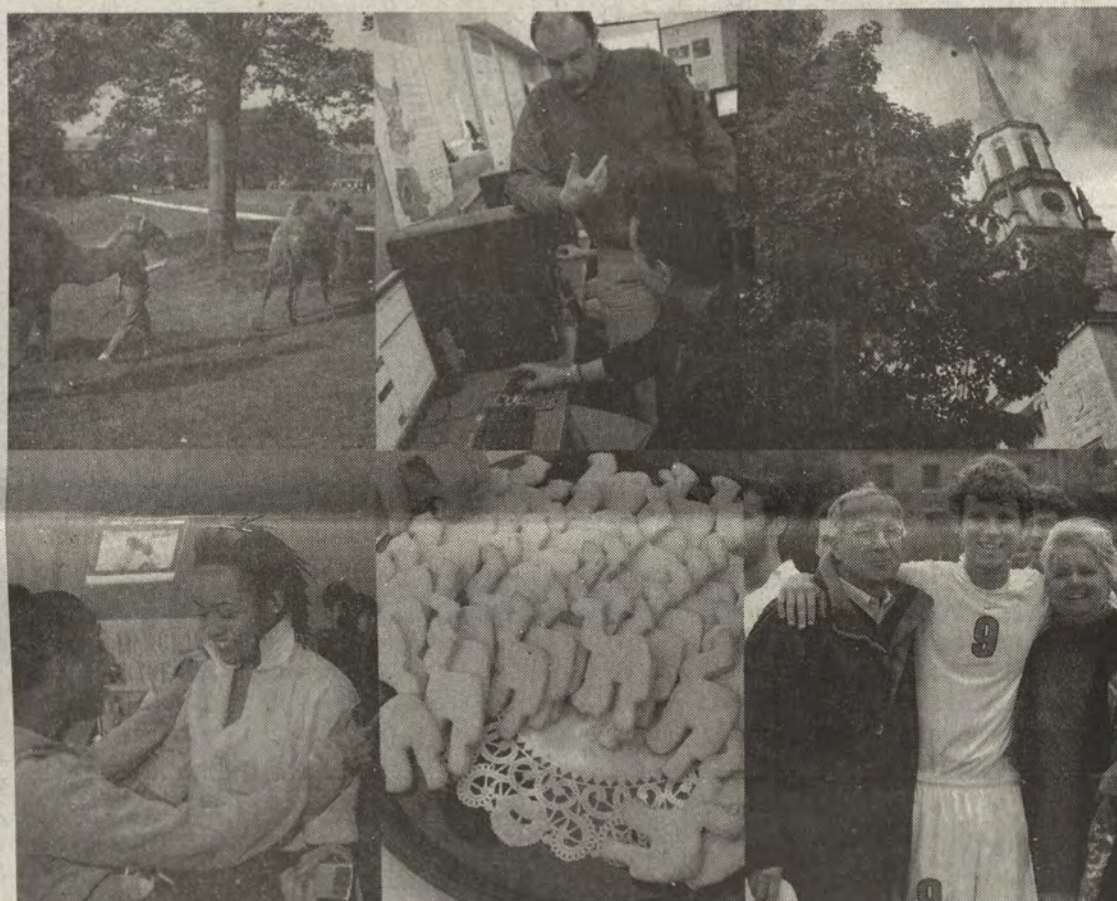
Conn's Task Force and Administration are currently not focusing on raising tuition as a top option.

They are instead looking into a private donor for the spring semester, and are putting in an Above Current Level (ACL) request that will be reviewed by the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee.

The more Connecticut College students show the administration that they care about staying connected through a print edition of a national paper, the better chance the school has of sustaining that connection through a lasting Newspaper Readership Program.

Show support by writing a letter or editorial to the College Voice or send a signed email or letter to President Higdon, Dean Bengochea, Briddell, or Brooks.

SGA's Task Force also ardently encourages anyone to join them in working more closely with the student government and Conn's administration.



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
FALL WEEKEND
OCTOBER 23-25, 2009

STAYING CONNECTED

Join us on campus for a fun-filled autumn celebration for alumni, parents and students. The weekend is all about "Staying Connected," with a special focus on how technology is changing the way we live.

Find more information
visit <http://fallweekend.conncoll.edu>.

Want to get involved?

Write for news and cover breaking news or write feature stories that uncover lesser known facts about Connecticut College.

news@thecollegevoice.org

Or come to our meetings on Monday nights at 10 PM in Cro 224 (by the student life offices).

Honduras: Common Hour Lecture at Conn, Crisis in Central America

SAMANTHA HERNDON
NEWS EDITOR

This summer, in the first military coup in Central America in a quarter of a century, Honduras abruptly changed leadership — literally overnight.

Early on the morning of Sunday, June 28, 2009, president Manuel Zelaya was removed from his home by members of the Honduran army. Zelaya was not served with any impeachment documents or evidence, and was not given time to change out of his pajamas before being deported to Costa Rica, according to several guest speakers at Connecticut College's lecture on the subject.

The Common Hour on Friday October 2, entitled "Militarization and Resistance: the Amazing Struggle for Democracy in Honduras and Why We Should Care," featured two former Connecticut residents who now work for a non-government organization in Honduras.

Sydney Frey and Patty Adams, working with the Quixote Center and the Hemispheric Social Alliance, spoke about life under the Honduran coup regime, the goals of the grassroots social movements and what U.S. citizens and other internationals can do to support Hondurans' struggle for democracy.

The new government has



Photo by Nevena Deligineva.

stated that Zelaya intended to violate the constitution by extending the term limit for presidents.

President Obama and other leaders in the hemisphere have insisted that Zelaya be returned to office.

The United States, the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have all suspended aid to Honduras in protest.

Over ninety days have gone by since the coup, and Honduras has experienced riots on a daily basis. Frey and Adams' work has kept them mainly in

the capital city of Tegucigalpa, where the largest resistance to the coup government has been organized. Nationwide demonstrations have also taken place, the women said.

They showed pictures of the marches, which are nonviolent, as well as images of protestors who have received heavy beatings by riot police.

Several deaths have also occurred from the use of tear gas by military police on crowds.

Adams and Frey discussed the challenges to democracy through state control of the media: after Zelaya returned

to Honduras, taking refuge in the Brazilian Embassy in the capitol, the majority of radio stations reported that it was not Zelaya who was in Tegucigalpa, but in fact, a famous actor impersonating him. At that time, footage of Zelaya speaking to audiences was already circulating among the international press.

Roberto Micheletti is the leader of the current government, considered by some to be implementers of an elitist coup, and as an interim constitutional body by others. The international community,

Adams said, has already stated its stance on elections that Micheletti says will be held soon: they will not consider results valid without non-Honduran participation in vote collection and counting.

Many of the military officials keeping the Micheletti government in place were trained at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia.

The mercenary facility has since changed its name to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

Frey and Adams speculated that June 28 was chosen as the takeover date because a nonbinding survey of Hondurans regarding making changes to the constitution was to take place that day.

"There had been a lot of excitement among the grassroots groups," said Frey, over the potential for adopting new standards for the state.

"No one is saying Zelaya was an ideal president - in fact, many of the lawyers, teachers, and other groups now advocating for him were protesting Zelaya before the coup - but the point is, he was democratically elected."

The organization for which the speakers work, the Quixote Center, can provide more information at <http://quixote.org/>

Immigration, Identification, Integration

Major Academic Conference to be Held on Undocumented Hispanic Immigration

JAMISON HERMANN
STAFF WRITER

Students, scholars and social workers from across the country will convene on October 16 at Connecticut College

the conference. It fits perfectly into the college's idea of an interdisciplinary, international education," said Graziano.

The list of speakers includes some top-notch academics, including professors from

(MEChA) a Chicano/a group on campus, said her main fear is that Conn students will overlook this important event.

"I'm not sure that most students understand the magnitude of this conference.



to discuss an issue of great importance here in los Estados Unidos: undocumented immigration, mainly from Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to Professor Frank Graziano, the conference could not have come at a better time.

"Immigration policy in the United States is a mess — a lot of people call it 'broken' — and under Obama's administration the US Congress is beginning comprehensive immigration reform. The conference coincides with this historic moment."

Connecticut College students are more than welcome to participate in the conference.

Eleven classes are being offered this semester that tie in with the event, and the conference also has a support staff of nine dedicated students.

"All Conn students are welcome to attend free of charge and do not need to register for

three Ivies and many other outstanding universities from the United States and beyond.

Just as impressive are the non-academic speakers who will be joining the conference, including public servants from the Department of Children and Families, officers of the Coast Guard tasked with intercepting the vessels of undocumented immigrants, personnel from non-profit organizations, practicing immigration attorneys and Latino/a immigrants telling their own stories.

The conference will consist of a series of panels, each consisting of two to four speakers.

Topics up for discussion range from activism, human rights, healthcare, education, second generation immigrants and the representation of undocumented immigrants in fiction and the media.

Daniela Madrid '10, a public relations rep for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán

Dozens of speakers from all over the country will be there. I didn't completely grasp its importance until I looked at the speaker list — all three pages. We are very fortunate to have this conference here at Conn," said Madrid.

According to Nancy Martinez '10, the other MEChA co-chair, students from all over the Northeast region, including Yale and Smith Colleges, will travel to New London to attend the Migration Conference.

The conference will be held from Friday, October 16 through Sunday, October 18. Admission is free for Connecticut College students; other interested parties must register for the conference ahead of time. Contact Professor Frank Graziano or visit the conference website: <http://www.conncoll.edu/departments/hispanicstudies/migration/>

LGBTQ Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some kind of event."

As the college is beginning to publicize its emphasis on LGBTQ consciousness, the question that arises is how accepting the campus really is towards the LGBTQ community.

Have we changed?

For the most part, students in Spectrum were comfortable with the climate towards LGBTQ students on campus.

"The climate is pretty much accepting. Homophobia is strongly discouraged on campus," said sophomore Brenner Green. "I'm on two varsity sports teams here, and they've been really supportive. Obviously there are going to be people who are homophobic, but from what I hear, this campus has progressed a lot over the past few years."

Others worry that the issues still linger. Said an openly gay junior, "On any Saturday night, you can hear a lot of hate-speech. It's subtle, and it goes unnoticed by most of the campus. But for the most part, however, Conn is a liberal microcosm, and it's still more LGBTQ friendly than the rest of the world."

Active Spectrum members throw not only on campus events, but also promote off campus political activism. Last year they had letter writing campaigns, attended protests in Connecticut for marriage equality and stood outside of ballot places on voting day.

During the Presidential Election, members of the LGBTQ community stood outside of New London High School advocating "No" for question one: refusing a Constitutional Convention to amend the constitution against same-sex marriage.

This weekend, a group of twenty students are attending the National Equality March in Washington, DC, which is expected to be the largest gay rights march in history. And yet while LGBTQ members are actively involved, they worry that the general student body is too passive.

Sophomore ally Megan Kelley feels that more involvement is needed from the student body as a whole to improve the atmosphere on campus.

"Here's one thing we could improve on: campus-wide involvement," she said. "I feel like we're a generally accepting campus, especially considering how things have progressed in recent years. But there's still an unspoken hesitation, or awkwardness towards the LGBTQ community — our events are still mostly attended by the LGBTQ community and allies."

Members of the LGBTQ community urge students to actively help improve the campus climate by attending Spectrum Meetings or stopping by the resource center anytime.

Additional reporting by Lilah Raptopoulos.



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MLB Playoffs 2009: Predictions

NICK WOOLF
STAFF WRITER

Last week, I previewed the AL playoff matchups and gave my opinions on who would win each division series and the AL pennant.

This week, the National League remains to be examined.

As I'm writing this article, the NL matchups are very much in doubt. If you thought the race in the AL Central division was close between the Tigers and Twins, just take a look at the NL West.

In this division, the LA Dodgers hold a small lead of 2.5 games over the surging Colorado Rockies.

The NL divisional round matchups themselves are not final at this point, because no team in the league has clinched the best record on the season. The Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis Cardinals, Dodgers, and Rockies have 92, 91, 93, and 90 wins, respectively.

Talk about coming down to the wire! So, not only will I be predicting winners, I'll also be predicting the playoff matchups themselves.

Phillies vs. Rockies

Due to the fact that the Phillies' last series is against the slumping Marlins, I predict that they will either sweep the Fish or win 2 out of 3 games. I believe these wins will be enough to clinch the NL's best record and home field advantage throughout the playoffs for the Phils. Their opponent in the first round of the playoffs will most likely be the wild card-winning Rockies.

Who will prevail?

The defending world-champion Phillies look quite strong again this year, but the Rockies have been spoiler underdogs in the past (specifically, two years ago, when they made an improbable run to the World Series).

The Phillies have a lineup led by Jimmy Rollins, Shane Victorino, Chase Utley and Ryan Howard. These players are dangerous because they are all good at exploiting pitchers' mistakes, and this makes them viable power hitters.

The batting averages, however, have been slightly depressed for the Phillies' hitters this year; as a team, they are hitting .258, which is the worst team batting average for any team in the postseason this year.

The Phillies' pitching, however, is a different story. With the additions of Cliff Lee and Pedro Martinez near the trade deadline, the Phillies have a strong rotation anchored by Cole Hamels, Joe Blanton and surprise sensation J.A. Happ.

Happ leads all Phillies pitchers with a 2.85 ERA and is in a three-way tie with Blanton and Jamie Moyer to lead the team with 12 wins.

This pitching staff will be

hard to beat.

The Rockies are a surprise success story this year, and they are looking to repeat the type of playoff run that got them to the World Series in 2007. With higher averages than the Phillies' top hitters, Todd Helton and Troy Tulowitzki lead the Rockies' lineup. Since joining the Rockies, Jason Giambi has also proven his worth at the plate; he is hitting .350 since his arrival in Colorado.

The Rockies have slightly weaker starting pitching than the Phillies, and this is mainly because no one in the starting rotation has an ERA less than 3.50; however, wins have not been a problem for the pitching staff, as Jorge De La Rosa has 16, Jason Marquis has 15 and Ubaldo Jimenez has 14.

Huston Street is the Rockies' closer, and he has had a fairly successful season with 34 saves and an ERA of 3.13. If the Rockies' hitters can get their starting pitchers some run support, they should find the same type of success as the 2007 team.

This series, should it occur, would be quite evenly-matched simply because the teams each have their own particular strengths and weaknesses.

As hard as it is for me to pick against a team with a feel-good story like the Rockies, I'm taking the Phillies in this one because I believe their superior pitching will effectively stifle Colorado's bats. Prediction: Phillies in 5.

Cardinals vs. Dodgers

This series will feature two teams with explosive offenses. The Cardinals dominated the competition in the NL Central division, while the Dodgers will be lucky if they finish the season in first place.

When I think of the St. Louis Cardinals, I think of Albert Pujols hitting monstrous home runs all day long. He is a perennial All Star, and he's without a doubt the leader of this Cardinals team. He has a .330 batting average, 47 home runs and 134 runs batted in. Those stats are a clear indicator that Pujols is in the running for another NL MVP award this year. Of course, one player does not make a team, but Pujols is not the only Cardinals hitter with a batting average above .300.

Matt Holliday and Skip Schumaker are hitting .350 and .303, respectively, and catcher Yadier Molina is batting a decent .291 on the season. The Cardinals certainly have the hitting capacity of a championship-caliber team, but do they have the pitching?

Of course they do!

Adam Wainwright and Chris Carpenter are both NL Cy Young award candidates, and why shouldn't they be?

With ERAs below 2.60 and 35 wins between the two of them, it's clear that hitters have had nightmares about fac-

ing them at the plate.

What about the Dodgers? This team started off with the best record in the entire MLB for months, but they have been stumbling somewhat since August. They now find themselves possibly facing a very tough challenge in St. Louis. Can they handle the Cardinals like they did the Cubs last fall?

I doubt it.

Even if Manny Ramirez's hitting picks up, this team has struggled against the Cardinals this year (the Cardinals won 5 of 7 games against LA this season). Matt Kemp and Orlando Hudson will also need to continue their productive years offensively if this team wants to win.

Dodger pitchers Randy Wolf, Hiroki Kuroda and Clayton Kershaw all have ERAs below 4.00 (Kershaw leads the team at 2.89), but they haven't proven that they can win consistently against the Cardinals this season. The Dodgers had a good team for much of this year, but I don't see them beating a well-rounded, superior Cardinals team. Prediction: Cardinals in 4.

NLCS: Cardinals vs. Phillies

This matchup would hinge on the success of each team's pitching. Hamels and Lee against Carpenter and Wainwright; Phillies closer Brad Lidge against Cardinals closer Ryan Franklin; it doesn't get much better than that. If the Phillies can't break out of their slightly below-average production on offense, however, I don't see how they can win against St. Louis. Albert and the Cards look hungry for another trip to the World Series, and if they keep the heat turned up on offense, they have a good shot at getting there.

I think it's clear that St. Louis has what it takes to make it to the World Series for the third time in this decade. Prediction: Cardinals in 5.

My AL and NL picks have led to a 2009 World Series matchup prediction: the Boston Red Sox against the St. Louis Cardinals. That sounds somewhat familiar...I recall a similar matchup occurring five years ago.

If I remember correctly, it ended with something like the Red Sox breaking an 86-year championship drought, right?

Of course, this Cardinal team will put up more of a fight than the team of 2004, but I'm reluctant to pick against my hometown team. And so, to avoid displaying further bias, I present a solution: Let's see how my picks pan out until the World Series. At that time, I will return (either triumphantly or with my head bowed in shame) to give a World Series preview that you won't want to miss. Enjoy the 2009 MLB playoffs, Conn!

Michael Crabtree, Get Over Yourself

SAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

Dear Michael Crabtree,

Congratulations on flushing away an absolutely golden opportunity that has virtually condemned you as a completely greedy and ego-inflated moron to the rest of the world. Michael, you have it all.

For the past two years, you have without a doubt, been the best wide receiver in college football. As a two-time First Team All-American, you accumulated a staggering 231 catches, 3,127 receiving yards, and 41 touchdowns in only two years of play.

You won the Biletnikoff Award, an honor presented to college football's best wide receiver every year, twice and put your team Texas Tech on the national stage last year, coming one victory away from playing for the National Championship.

Michael, it is safe to stay you have quite the resume for a college football player. So it makes sense that you felt it was time to enter the pros and declare for the 2009 NFL Draft where you were predicted to be a high first-round pick, a position that essentially guarantees you a monster payday from an NFL team.

On top of that, you have lucrative endorsements with Subway, EA Sports, Nike Jordan shoes, three separate trading card companies, and MogoTXT.

You were even on the cover of a video game. And when April 25 rolled around, the San Francisco 49ers selected you with the 10th overall pick.

Michael, you have everything right now in the palm of your hand.

Unfortunately for you, Michael, something happened after April 25, 2009 that severely impaired your good judgment and rationale. The 49ers training camp began on July 28 and you were not present with the team when it started.

Now granted I understand that generally many rookies do not report to training camp on time until a contract has been signed (a term called holding out). If something were to happen to you, like an injury, the 49ers would technically owe you nothing because you had not officially signed.

But the reasons you have decided to hold out are simply too much.

Michael, the problem I have with you is simple. You are probably in the top 99.9 percent of athletes in this country and certainly one of the most accomplished college football players in the last ten to fifteen years in the NCAA.

Yet for some reason the 49ers contract offer of \$22.5 million (with \$17.7 million in guaranteed money) somehow just isn't going to pay the bills or feed the family.

Life is so rough dude.

Your justifications for it are absolutely ridiculous. You feel "disrespected" that you weren't a top five pick?

Get over it Michael.

I felt disrespected making \$8.50 an hour this past summer. You want to be the highest paid wide receiver in the NFL draft?

Unfortunately for you, the Oakland Raiders made Darrius Heyward-Bey from the University of Maryland, the 7th overall pick based mostly because of his speed. Get over it.

You are NOT the 7th overall pick.

Michael, what you are doing makes no sense. We are currently living in recession with millions of people losing

their jobs, houses and money. People are dying of hunger and disease all over the world. The United States is fighting two separate wars.

But for some reason, Michael, you feel like it is necessary to hold out for that extra \$15.75 million.

You have been quoted by the NFL Network's Deion Sanders as saying you weren't in "dire need" of money. If you don't need the money then what on earth is the problem?

Is it the "disrespect" issue?

I bet the 49ers feel pretty disrespected by your immature and ungrateful attitude. In the long run is it really going to make a huge difference? Is life going to be so much more glamorous with that extra amount of money then what it would be if you just signed the damn contract?

Perhaps the dumbest thing you've threatened to do is to simply not play this year if a contract is not reached by November 19 and re-enter the draft next year.

I don't know if you know anything about the history of NFL holdouts but it's not promising.

The last first round draft pick to hold out an entire season was Kelly Stouffer in 1987. (Yeah I don't know who this is either. I had to look it up, which doesn't bode well for you Michael).

Stouffer was traded after his holdout year to the Seattle Seahawks and threw an amazing seven touchdown passes in five seasons before injuries and bench-riding forced him into retirement.

Does this sound good Michael? Is this what you want?

You cannot go a whole year without playing football not to mention your attitude makes no team want to work with you. Two recent college players, Maurice Clarett and Mike Williams, did just what you are threatening to do. Both took a year off between college and the NFL because they lost their eligibility after signing agents too soon.

Clarett is currently incarcerated for federal weapons and robbery convictions while Williams hasn't amounted to anything and has been unsigned for over a year now. Also by re-entering the draft after not playing football for a year, you virtually guarantee you will be drafted much lower than 10th overall and thus making less money if you just signed the contract now.

Michael, I sincerely hope you get your act together.

You were a dynamic and exciting player in college and much of the country (especially 49er fans) would love to see what you could do at the next level.

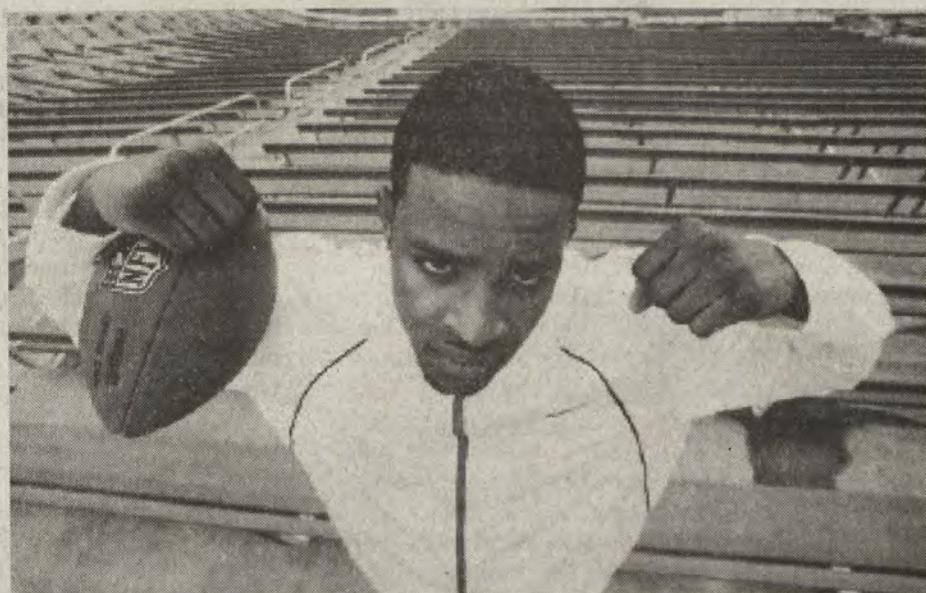
Frankly Michael you need this football thing to work out. Your Wonderlic test, an exam used to measure the learning and problem-solving capabilities of prospective NFL players, was a dismal 15 out of 50, a score that puts you below that of an average security guard and on par with your basic warehouse worker.

And I'll bet good money you weren't exactly going to class everyday at Texas Tech either being a stud athlete and all.

You get the picture? I don't believe too many warehouse workers have \$22.7 million contracts.

That being said Michael, please humble the ego, sign the contract, and play some football.

Sincerely yours,
Sam Perley



49ers draft pick Michael Crabtree causing controversy in the NFL
Photo from Web.

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

October 6, 2009 | Editors: Racine Oxtoby and Kris Fleming | arts@thecollegevoice.org

Connecticut College Idol
An In-Depth Look into the A Cappella Audition ProcessKIMMIE BRAUNTHAL
STAFF WRITER

For a small campus, Conn has a relatively large number of a cappella groups. There are the two all-female groups, the Schwiffs and ConnChords, the all-male group, the Co Co Beaux, and the three co-ed groups, the Williams Street Mix, the ConnArtists and Vox Cameli (Camels' Voice in pseudo-latin).

And for the first week of a new school year, all of these groups compete with each other for the best new voices on campus.

To entice freshmen each year, the groups hold a concert during the first week or so of fall semester, then each group hosts a brunch or snack time for the freshmen to meet a capella group members. In theory this is supposed to help freshmen decide which group (or groups) they wish to audition for.

The next few days, the groups reserve tables lined up in front of Cro, all right next to one another, and blast their group's CD, hoping to coax freshmen over with candy while perky members persuade anyone and everyone to audition for their group.

And it's easier for some than for others to choose among all-male, all-female, and co-ed groups.

Sophomore Julie Bergstein of ConnArtists knew she just didn't want to audition for the all-female groups. "I lived on an all-girls' floor last year and I needed some men in my life, to be honest."

Meanwhile, sophomore Whitney King, of the Schwiffs, opted the other way. "It depends on the person. I think anybody can be happy in any situation but for me it was great having an automatic group of girlfriends who I could talk to and it takes away sexual tension."

The audition weekend is always a busy and very stressful one. The auditionee arrives with a prepared song to sing. After performing, the candidate undergoes a set of exercises that test their sight reading, rhythm, tone and harmony. Afterwards, the group asks the



The current Co Co Beaux serenades a student in Cro.
Photo provided by Alli Arrigoni

auditionee questions to see if his or her personality meshes with the other a cappella group members.

"Halfway through I was singing and I was holding a [traveling] tea mug. I was holding it out and I was so nervous that it was shaking, and then it dropped as I was trying to sing harmony with the other member and [the pitch] gave me this shocked look," said senior Riordan Frost of ConnArtists. Sophomore Nick Rodricks of Vox Cameli remembered feeling uncomfortable with the exercises. "There was rhythm stuff and sight reading where I was just like 'whoa.'"

"It's scary and nerve-wracking," added sophomore Mike Gulotta of ConnArtists. For each audition I thought I had sung the worst I'd ever sung. We all kind of relived it this year."

"It's hard having twenty sets of eyes on you," said sophomore Ben Stepansky of the Co Co Beaux. "They grill you with questions and you wanna be funny but you also don't wanna be stupid."

Bergstein recounted, "I was sitting there this year thinking, 'Why are they so nervous?' but I was terrified when I tried out. I didn't want to try out at all. My friend made me do it. I was most nervous being judged as a person. I was thinking, 'I hope they like me,' probably not being myself but trying to be myself at the same time."

For freshman Matt Rolin, his only complaint was not having a proper place to sufficiently practice his song. "I ended up practicing by the Williams School and serenading route 32 in the pouring rain," he said, laughing.

Many members have complained about the conditions of the audition weekend. They feel that the audition process of song, vocal exercises and questions goes on for too long, since they stay up late that Sunday night trying to figure out who to call back for round two of auditions.

According to Frost, "We had over 65 auditions at 15 minutes each. I ended up calculating and it was over 15 hours of auditions and took up an entire weekend. And besides taking up an entire weekend, we were in a room with no windows or ventilation."

But it's just as exciting for members of the group.

Senior Ben Coleman, who is the "pitch" (the leader) of Vox Cameli, said, "It's kind of like American Idol and being a judge."

And after it's all been said and done, the members don't want to hurt anyone's feelings by rejecting them.

"It's not even that they're doing something wrong. It's just maybe there were a bunch of people who were really good and it just came down to you not being chosen," said Gulotta. "It gets really emotional

and people get angry at each other at the meetings of the 'families' [when the groups come together to decide who to take officially, after all the callbacks]."

Those who excel in round one, however, receive an email saying they got called back for round two. It's easier to get through this round because of the smaller number of competitors. But for the selection committee, it's harder to choose.

Junior Logan Keeler of the Co Co Beaux said, "We wound up having a small group left at the end of last year. It made auditions really hard this year."

Callbacks are different for each group.

According to Bergstein, "We usually call back five or six people from each part [for the ConnArtists]. They'll go off and learn a piece of a song and then they'll come back and we'll put them in quartets so we can hear one from each voice part. It's enlightening for us because we called them back for a reason and wanted them in the group, but we want to see how they work with other people. It's a clear indication."

"When you begin callbacks, the ones coming back are the ones you're really serious about, so what you wanna hear with them is how they blend with the rest of the group. You're listening for a good sound," said Stepansky.

"In the callbacks you are with one girl and getting to know each other and the song for a couple days, so when you're put back in the group situation you still have that connection," said King.

"They split you up by voice part and teach you a part of a song with the others and then you come back and sing with everyone," Rolin remembered. "One thing Vox asked everybody [at auditions] was what your favorite snack is, so when I got called back I got a bag full of Swedish fish."

As for picking the final group, "We try to get 100 percent agreement. This year we were able to sway until we got that outcome, so it was good," said Keeler.

Rolin was an interesting case, auditioning with "O Fortuna" from the opera Carmina Burana instead of the day-to-day pop song.

"I don't know many pop songs and I probably shouldn't go in there singing Rammstein," he said. His choice worked to an extent, since he got called back for two of the groups he auditioned for.

Frost remembered Rolin's audition distinctly. "Matt is the lowest bass I've ever heard and I'm the lowest in the group. He came in and sang a piece from Carmina Burana and it was incredible."

Bergstein said that it's very different to sing a cappella. "You're not singing long beautiful notes, you're singing syllables," she reminded students.

Rodricks agreed. "There are some [who audition] that just have had voice lessons and opera and stuff and they invest so much in it, and then they get to a cappella and it's just the wrong voice. We're not going to throw you into a Miley Cyrus song because you'll just stand out."

Frost hopes it doesn't discourage singers when they're rejected.

"Singing is such a soulful and purposeful thing and I hope someone who thinks about stopping singing never does. I don't know for sure because we don't follow up with the ones we don't accept, we can't. But I hope they haven't."

Magically Delicious
Exploring the Magic Berries FadCOURTNEY FRAZEE
CONTRIBUTOR

For our generation, it is normal to have grown up with dietary limitations imposed by parents in the name of "healthy-eating." I, for one, was not allowed to eat sugar cereals, Fruit-Rollups, Dunkaroos, Lunchables or other such synthetic snacks, and existed off an acetic diet for much of my childhood. McDonald's was a rare treat, offered only when some calamity had occurred that forbade us from following our normal trajectory to Bread and Circus - Boston's precursor to Whole Foods.

My bland culinary upbringing has left me with two unfortunate residual effects. First, Happy Meals and Lucky Charms still feel like contraband, and my trips to the golden arches or the suspiciously colorful cereal section of Harris retain a thrill I would greatly like to stifle in the service of my arteries.

Secondly, I have cultivated an obsession of sorts for the bizarre, shocking and extreme

corners of the culinary world. I practically salivate at my television screen watching episodes of Anthony Bourdain or Andy Zimmern.

This phenomenon of the yuppie child's insipid consumption, which I might argue is unfortunately common in compatriots of my age, is now finally meeting its match in taste-bud altering supplements. I use the generic category, for I am hopeful there will be more of its kind to be marketed soon, but I am directly speaking of the infamous object of foodie cult adoration, the wondrous "magic berries."

I was first introduced to the concept of magic berries in Harvard Square this summer, but it was only back at Conn when the first opportunity presented itself to try them.

"I just ordered sixty berries that make every food taste sweet!" a friend boasted.

"Are they drugs?" was my logical response.

They aren't - the berries, naturally occurring, contain a

SEE MAGIC PAGE 7

Album Review

Townes Van Zandt - *Live at the Old Quarter*DAVIS MCGRAW
STAFF WRITER

Some music cranks would undoubtedly pose the argument that everything's gotten too 'big' these days; that the Radioheads and the Animal Collectives of the world are carrying on the same form of musical classism flaunted by bands like Yes and Led Zeppelin thirty-five years prior.

Alas, those were still the toddler days of the music biz, and that argument no longer carries much water for anyone but the most diehard purists. If anything can be gathered from nearly sixty years of rock and roll, it's that no matter how big or small you are good music owes less to the ebb and flow of trends than it does to chance, chemistry and imitable talent.

Live At The Old Quarter, reissued this year on vinyl by Fat Possum Records, is a simple document that bristles with just this sort of magical 'right place, right time' energy. Townes Van Zandt, alone on the stage, strums and picks at



Photo from web.

his guitar in front of a rapt audience somewhere in Houston sometime in the early seventies, and the product is nothing less than heartbreakingly gorgeous.

Disregarding the typical buildup of many a live set, Van Zandt spends his time at the mic proving to his audience that he can live up to the lofty promise of "Pancho & Lefty" and succeeds admirably, peppering blue jokes between a set of originals and covers by the likes of Doc Watson ("If I Needed You") and Bo Diddley ("Who Do You Love") and never once slipping from his

disarmingly honest demeanor.

"Living on the road my friend / was gonna keep you free and clean / now you wear your skin like iron / and your breath's as hard as kerosene."

Van Zandt chose these words to describe the down-and-out bandit Pancho, but he's really imparting a little something about himself. To know that the man met his own untimely end, likewise a victim of drugs and booze, is as sad as it is unsurprising; even on laid back, jokey tracks like "Talking Thunderbird Blues," the singer's voice betrays a plaintive fatalism.

Van Zandt did make big studio records, but here the man shines with his own easy glory. It's in our own good fortune that someone was there that night to put it to put it all on tape.

4.5/5

Also check out:
Gene Clark: *No Other*

Revealing Characters: A Profile of Sabrina Notarfrancisco

MATT GENTILE
STAFF WRITER

Sabrina Notarfrancisco is at work making costumes for the upcoming show *The Tempest*, which opens later this month.

"We're taking a very interesting approach this time. It's not set in stone yet, but our director, Brian Jennings, is sort of setting *The Tempest* in Africa, so he's removed all the magic and is focusing on colonialism. We're working with masks for natives, print fabrics, trying to incorporate tribal island clothing."

Miss Notarfrancisco has been designing costumes for the Connecticut College theater department since 2004, but she's been interested in theatrical production longer than that.

"When I was growing up in Germany, I had a German mom and an American dad," she said. "My mom used to take me to plays performed at the U.S. military base, all kinds of German theater. She involved me with things that were arts-oriented and fun."

Studying at the John F. Kennedy High School in Berlin from kindergarten through twelfth grade, Notarfrancisco graduated the same year the Berlin Wall was taken down.

In high school, she participated in theater, as a performer and also behind the scenes.

She began college her first semester in Munich, Germany, but when her roommate convinced her to move to school in Florida with her, she decided to take the leap.

Moving to Orlando, Notarfrancisco graduated with her Bachelor's from the University of Central Florida. It was not until she attended graduate school at Missouri State University when she realized that her destiny was in costume design.

"I was more interested in behind-the-scenes work, but I never thought that costume



Professor Notarfrancisco works on a costume for *The Tempest*.
Photo by Tanaha Simon.

design was what I wanted to do. At first I thought it was about making big decisions about the looks, but when I took a costume history class, it all changed."

After being bitten by the costume-design bug, she went on to study at the University of Connecticut to procure her Master in Fine Arts. After this accomplishment, she went on to work free-lance at local places such as University of Hartford, the University of Connecticut Summer Repertoire, and other local places.

When director Brian Jennings worked with her in Hartford, he informed her of an open spot in the Connecticut College Theater Department.

"The main job of a costume designer is to successfully reveal characters," said Sabrina. "People often confuse it with

fashion design, which is also an art form, but the point of costume design is to help the audience understand who the character is and where their journey is going to take them."

Designing hit shows for this department over the years, Notarfrancisco has many favorites that she has worked on, such as her costumes in *The Increased Difficulty of Concentration* and last year's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, both of which were directed by students.

While she works away in her shop in Palmer, make sure to check out the upcoming main stage productions, including *The Tempest* and *Doubt*, both of which will feature her design work. *The Tempest* runs October 22-25 and *Doubt* runs November 19-22.

Magic Berries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

protein that binds to receptors on the taste buds and temporarily obscures the ability to detect bitter and sour flavors. The effect can last from a half an hour to two and a half hours – although none of this is scientifically proven.

As the berries traveled to campus over the next two weeks from their online retailer, I began to consider the promise of the berries.

I have to remark this at first – when it comes to flavor, I am a purist. Dishes that are bitter-sweet make me feel slightly uneasy, like I am being swindled into consuming a commodity that has been meddled with, as the synthesis of two such fundamental flavors seems tawdry and unappetizingly utilitarian.

I find complicated flavors wondrous and convincingly exotic, but I like to control the time a flavor lingers on my taste buds with utensils to manually alternate foods.

Secondly, sour foods don't particularly entice me. In theory, they are interesting, as certain foods that cause slight suffering are always moderately-tempting experiments in tolerance.

However, I usually find that spicy foods have better taste return for your labor. I always feel somewhat jilted by acidity – a grapefruit's pungence stays local in your mouth while a chili pepper gives an alarmingly full-bodied sensation. However, as with most foods that I categorically dislike, I am consistently drawn to sour flavors in the hopes of uncovering the one example that will prove my abstention misjudged.

That the berries could take a sour food and present it as more hospitable to one's jaw widened hypothetical new dimensions to my conception of taste and simultaneously provided the selection of foods available to my palate – who knew what vinegar may taste like alleviated of its acerbic force?

I decided that one of my main criteria by which to judge the experience offered by the berries was successful transformation of a known flavor.

There is a certain level of trust one must place in the berries from the beginning. As with trying any new medicine or drug, there exists the possibility of the placebo effect, but with the berries one has a fairly reliable indicator of whether they actually worked or not.

Let me assure you that barring any significant genetic mutations or a penchant for culinary masochism, eating a lemon straight is fairly impossible. In my control experiment, I vigorously bit into a lemon unaided, and was immediately doubled over in pain, trying to control the pulses of acid emanating from my sorely-compromised jaw line.

It reminded me of the time my cousin and I had a contest of who could pack the most Warheads candies into our cheeks before admitting defeat (we had never been ones for convention, and the marshmallows of Chubby Bunnies seemed far too docile) – in what turned out to be a collaborative effort of my cousin's ruthless ability to coerce and my cheeks' service as sacrifice for science, I wound up losing a night of sleep to routinely pack neutralizing wads of bread into the back crevices of my injured mouth.

Why I chose to revisit this feeling thirteen years later is still unclear, but I can attest to the fact that eating a lemon is self-injury in its most empirical form. Thus my second standard was rooted in fear – I desperately wanted the berries

to yield a pleasant experience.

That said, the night of the trial, I examined the spread of sour foods before me with a concerted wariness – the slices of lemons stared menacingly, tiny spouts of acidity dripping from their corners. The hostile vinegar, leeching out of the white paper ketchup container, seemed to bristle in anticipation of inflicting pain. Even the Guinness, a long-time fair-weather friend, seemed mocking and uncouth.

The berries came out of the package with an icy residue, separated gently from a freeze-dried bundle. About the size of an almond, they are ovoid in shape and the deep, swollen red color of a shiner.

I looked up at the open window – undoubtedly the room was a tiny fishbowl from the street as dusk descended. The berries gave the sensation of doing something illicit, or at the very least, controversial.

The instructions were as follows: place one berry on the tongue. Carefully break the outside skin with teeth, pass the berry along the roof of mouth, cover all surfaces adequately and swallow the pulpy flesh. Do not swallow the pit.

The berry itself wasn't special – it tasted like a dull version of a cranberry, removed of the tonic sharpness of its counterpart. The pit comprised much of its volume and weight, so the scant flesh suggested the unfortunate ratio of rib meat to bone without the generously forgiving barbecue sauce.

However, after about ten minutes of silence and contorted mouth gestures as I slid the berry between rows of teeth, I started to feel a prickly tingle on my tongue.

Emboldened by the hint of a reaction, I reached for the vinegar. Holding my nose from the noxious scent, I sipped it cautiously. I was shocked to feel none of the familiar needling, but a viscous, rich emulsion resembling molasses. I wouldn't quite call it saccharine, but it was something so pleasant I could lick spoonfuls of and feel quite satiated.

I reached next for a wedge of lemon. Taking it in full force like a kindergartener with an orange at a soccer game's half time, I again recoiled at the sinus-clearing scent, but was greeted with all the pleasantries of a well-sugared lemonade stand purchase. It felt oddly nostalgic, like penny candy's dependable glow as it rots teeth, or so I was warned by my mother.

The Guinness was remarkably rich and succulent. I quickly became preoccupied with selecting the perfect metaphor – chocolate milkshake? Too cheap. Liquified Nutella? Too quirky.

It was stately, imperial – the drink of dignitaries and their fashionable entourages. No beverage quite invites anesthetizing like a sip of Guinness on berries.

One may wonder what already sweet foods taste like on berries – a sip of cherry coke was startlingly sweet, but I don't remember a time when it wasn't, and I suppose this sample was augmented by its relative mawkishness.

I yearned for more sour foods – my taste buds, normally recalcitrant in the presence of acerbic authority, yielded willingly to the pleasing intricacies of this new array of flavors.

The berries come indeed highly recommended, but now, inspired to recreate this flavor naturally so that it may be served without the aid of berries, I wonder that it may be a sensory phantom, a volatile and unpredictable caprice, and in this respect, a culinary grail.

Game On!

What's the Gaming Club up to this Semester?

RACINE OXTOBY
ARTS EDITOR

Dan Whittington sat at the end of the table, wearing a witty "Dungeons & Discourse" t-shirt and drinking Diet Pepsi from a roughly goblet-sized snifter.

He's been a member of the Gaming Club since freshman year, but this was the first time that he was in charge of the meeting, having been elected as the club's new president at the end of last year.

"Let's go around the table," he suggested halfway through the meeting, realizing that he was surrounded by strangers. "What are your names, your years and your favorite kinds of games?"

The group – about fifteen students, most of them freshmen – was pleasantly surprised to discover that four of the members were named Dan, including President Whittington.

Many were also pleased to find common interests in games, both in electronic and tabletop modes.

The gaming club has been a staple on campus since at least 2002, shuffling their time between open board game nights and video game tournaments. Upperclassmen probably remember seeing club members tabling for upcoming events right outside Harris, rocking out to a game of Guitar Hero while you're patiently waiting to get your food.



Luigi from Mario Kart Wii.
Photo from web.

There was some discussion as to what the gaming club could do differently this year. The tournaments remained a popular fixture, so expect more multiplayer video games being played in Blaustein some future Friday evenings.

Last year, Rock Band and Dance Dance Revolution tournaments found surprising popularity among students outside the gaming club.

Dan told the club, rather sadly, that members of the gaming club rarely win first place at the tournaments. You just never know who on campus has a secret talent at playing some games, and the tournaments offer relaxing atmospheres that welcome new players to try new things.

What about board games? For the electronically-illiterate

community, the gaming club plans to host open gaming nights, free of charge and open to anyone who wants to stop by the Lambdin Game Room. Don't hesitate to jump in on a round of Apples to Apples or discover new board games you never knew existed.

Dan found the moment towards the end of the meeting to slip in a plug for Humans Vs. Zombies, an intensely modified game of tag, which has swept not only the campus, but the nation as well. Sometimes lasting more than a week, the game is designed to prepare college students for the eventual zombie apocalypse.

Conn started playing Humans Vs. Zombies two years ago and Dan was lucky enough to be the original zombie during the first round.

"You'll learn so much more about your campus than you had before," said a previous player, his statement backed up by upperclassmen who knew all too well about the paranoia which comes with Humans Vs. Zombies.

Mario Kart for the Wii was voted as the first event of the season, scheduled for the evening of Friday, October 16 in Blaustein.

For Mario Kart 64 or Double Dash purists, those versions will be played in adjacent rooms, although the Wii version will be the only game used for the tournament, and therefore the only game where players are eligible for prizes.

SPORTS

October 6, 2009 | Editors: Sarah Haughey and Mike Flint | sports@thecollegevoice.org

Two Camel Athletes Named NESCAC Player Of The Week

Trevor Prophet '11 Garners Award After Performance in Amherst Game



EMILY WEBB
STAFF WRITER

Trevor Prophet, a junior from Nashua, New Hampshire, is a member of the Men's Varsity Soccer and Tennis teams.

This past week he was named NESCAC Men's Soccer Player of the Week after scoring one goal and assisting one goal in the Camels' September 26 upset 4-1 win against Amherst.

Prophet has also contributed several other goals in wins this season and is looking to aid his team in making the tournament play at the end of October.

VOICE: How long have you been playing soccer?

PROPHET: I've been playing soccer since I was eight years old. In fact, Erin Davey '10, the women's team captain, was on my first travel team.

VOICE: What is the highlight of your soccer career thus far at CC?

PROPHET: Getting into the NESCAC tournament my freshman year was definitely the highlight. I'm a very competitive player... I love to play and hate to lose, so making it to the playoffs was great.

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

PROPHET: I do not really have any pre-game rituals, but I will not shave my face or cut my hair after a win.

VOICE: What inspires you to keep playing even when things are not necessarily going your way on the field?

PROPHET: The love of the game is a big inspiration for

me. I have been playing for long enough that I have learned to play through the good times and the bad. Still, my teammates are always there for me so it is always nice knowing I have the support of my teammates.

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

PROPHET: I enjoy music, arts and crafts, food and pretty much any outdoor activity. I also like playing sports of all kinds...basketball, tennis, soccer, really anything.

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

PROPHET: Soccer has taught me many things about life. The most important lesson however is about persistence; if you keep doing the little things right, you put yourself in a position to be successful.

VOICE: What are your hopes for this soccer season?

PROPHET: Our goal as a team is to make the playoffs and host a playoff game here at Connecticut College. We're off to a great start and I think we can definitely achieve our goal.

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

PROPHET: I also play tennis here at Conn. In the winter, I train for both sports and although it can be tiring, I wouldn't want it any other way. Also, soccer is a much greater time commitment so it is a fairly easy transition to tennis in the spring.



Junior Abby Hine Honored for the Second Time in Two Years

MIKE FLINT
SPORTS EDITOR

Junior Abby Hine was recently named NESCAC Field Hockey Player of the Week. It is the second time not only in her collegiate career that she has received the award, but also the second time in two years. Hine leads the Camels in goals (4), assists (3), and points (11), and has been crucial to the team's success so far this season.

In their big win against #16 Amherst earlier in the season, Hine contributed to both of Conn's goals, assisting on the first and scoring the second in a 2-1 Camels victory. Last season, Hine was named second team All-NESCAC and second team All-New England.

She is currently 8th on Conn's all-time scoring leaders list with 57 career points.

VOICE: What was it like to be named NESCAC Player of the Week?

HINE: It is a tremendous honor to be named NESCAC Player of the Week, but I really feel like I owe this one to my team. Amherst College was ranked 16th in the nation before we got to them, and to be honest, I don't think anyone outside of our team was expecting us to win. We were big underdogs going into this game and through the hard work of all my teammates and from myself we were able to come out on top and get recognized by all of NESCAC as a very threatening team.

VOICE: You were named Player of the Week last season, how does this time differ?

HINE: This time differs from last year because of our team this year. We have a whole new dynamic this year and we are so connected. Even though I was named Player of the Week, none of this would have happened if we didn't work as hard as we did as a whole. This award is a great representation of how far our team has come and shows how big of a threat we are in the NESCAC division.

VOICE: You've been an im-

portant player on the team since your freshman year. What's been the key to all of your success?

HINE: I work very hard on and off the field. I usually try to get down to the field early to practice a few extra things here and there and to get a sweat in before practice actually starts. I am also aware of everything that affects my body as an athlete. I focus on eating the right things and getting plenty of sleep before practices and games. I also pretend every practice is like a little game. I try and score as many goals in practice as I can and I feel like that gives me the extra drive in games. If a goalie is in front of me with the ball, I will plow through her so that the ball ends up in the cage.

VOICE: After doing so well over your first two seasons at Conn, what keeps you motivated moving forward?

HINE: Each year I get more and more motivated to play. My teammates are what keep me going. I really don't think anyone knows the effort this team puts into our season. Once a week we get out there at 6:45 in the morning with Wuyke and we pretty much hate every minute of it. But we still do it because we know it's making us stronger. We have many running based practices but we all push ourselves to work harder and be faster. We have team lifts every week to get ourselves in the weight room and keep our muscles at the level in which we need them. We all hold ourselves accountable and push each other to be our best. I play for my teammates.

VOICE: What are your personal and team goals for this season?

HINE: I usually set goals for myself on a daily or weekly basis. I try to focus on my individual game and always strive to do my best. As for my team, we have many team goals and go over them before every game. Our biggest goal is to host the first round of NESCACs and to continue all the way to finals. Throughout the season we expect every-

one to show up for all seventy minutes of the game and fight until the very end.

VOICE: As a varsity ice hockey player as well, what do you like about field hockey that you don't get when you're on the ice?

HINE: I love that I can take the ball and use my stick skills to carry the ball all the way down the field to get a shot. I love how many of my teammates are out on the field with me to work together and support each other. My most favorite thing about field hockey is the sound the ball makes when it hits the backboard in the back of the cage. This sounds silly, but I really do dream about this sound. In hockey it's awesome when the puck hits the net, but when the field hockey ball smacks against the wood in the back of the cage, this feeling comes over me that I can't really describe.

VOICE: Did you intend to play both sports at the varsity level when you first came to Conn?

HINE: I did intend to play both field hockey and hockey here at Conn. I originally only wanted to shoot for D-1 field hockey when I was in high school, but after doing all my visits to these schools I really couldn't imagine throwing away all the hard work and time I put into hockey as a kid. I traveled everywhere from all over Canada to Minnesota to Alaska to play hockey growing up and I just couldn't give it up. I absolutely love both my sports and wouldn't have it any other way.

VOICE: Other than ice and field hockey, what are your main interests?

HINE: I love to work with children. I am majoring in human development and minoring in sociology-based human relations. I have done a lot of work with children with disabilities and intend to further my studies in this when I graduate. I really hope one day to travel to countries in South America to do work with Orphanage Outreach.



Abby Hine '11 during this season's Amherst game

OPINIONS

October 6, 2009 | Editor: Alfred DeGemmis | opinions@thecollegevoice.org

I'm Starting with the Campus in the Mirror I'm Asking you to Change your Ways (Na Na Na, Na Na Na, Na Nah)

LILAH RAPTOPOULOS
MANAGING EDITOR

September of my freshman year, exhausted by the estrogen on my all girls floor, I joined the Men's Novice Crew team as a coxswain. By March, one race and two seasons later, the entire team had quit. It was my introduction to Connecticut College extracurricular life.

Last week, the Larrabee housefellow hosted a dessert and dialogue about women's body image and supplied a giant sized bucket of truffle mix meant for about thirty people. Two guys and one girl attended, the girl just for the truffles.

Bands perform here for our Friday Nights Live, some used to opening for acts as famous as Broken Social Scene, for twelve people sitting on couches along the periphery of Cro's nest.

There's no denying that these facts are extremely disappointing. They are also situations that give us an outlet to assert generalizations and blame on our own student body. But doing so confuses symptoms with causes. There are larger, more specific issues that lead to each of these dispiriting cases. In order to even begin to fix them, we need focusing goals instead of shaming categorizations.

When we make assertions about our school, everything becomes evidence to our viewpoint. Sociologists call it the looking-glass self: A person's self-concept is a reflection of how others perceive them. More simply put, the way you see me has a very strong influence in how I see myself. This makes using any broad-based term dangerous, whether it be as negative as "apathetic," or as positive as "well-rounded". Calling our student body apathetic will only perpetuate the apathy; calling our student body well-rounded will reinforce the well-roundedness, but the term's vagueness, its lack of direction, may detract from other qualities we want to be. In the end, any label is a generalization that can be proven by pointing to a handful of students.

But no label is big enough to include us all; trying to apply just one cuts us short. In falling back on generalizations about who we are, we're first, implying that there are things we're not. Second, we're placing blame on people instead of looking at the effectiveness of the systems we have in place. And third, we're cutting off forward momentum towards changing our habits and attitudes as a whole.

Who are these students: an art major with an emphasis in sculpture, who spends her days in Cummings casting iron and her nights making lattes at the Blue Camel Café. An American studies major who works at Coffee Grounds, sings at Open Mics and is on the board



Camel cookies and milk.

of directors at WCNI. A varsity soccer player majoring in environmental chemistry who spent last summer doing chemistry research on campus. Some of these students are well-rounded, but others are specifically directed. They are certainly not apathetic, and they should all be valued for being some of many things that Connecticut College is.

So if we as a school are a reflection of how others label or perceive us, then the most effective way to induce positive forward momentum is to decide *consciously* how we want to be seen. Instead of labeling and pigeonholing ourselves in who we are at present, we can use this as a basis to work towards a new goal, students and administration together.

Currently, how we want to be seen is controlled primarily through the offices of Admissions and College Relations. Their job is to present our school in a specific way. From my experience as a student working in both offices, I can tell you that there is a disconnect between students and promotional staff: there has yet to be a strong enough, effective enough dialogue between what students find important about our school and what these image-makers have learned are good

selling points for our school.

Take, for example, the Connecticut College View-box Cards, a box of 31 shiny, bright, expensively-packaged cards made by an outside consulting company in accordance with College Relations and Admissions. They are given to prospective students before tours and interviews. According to these cards, the following are the ten things to love about Connecticut College:

1. The View
2. Language Tables at Lunch
3. Camel Cookies and Milk
4. The Chapel at Dusk
5. Location, Location, Location
6. Free Music Lessons
7. Many opportunities to study in extraordinary and faraway places
8. Sprout!
9. MOBROC
10. Camelympics!

The emphasis of the rest of these cards is on the things we have: 28 Varsity Teams. 50+ majors. 750 Acres of Arboretum. State of the art facilities. Ion accelerators. Never mind that Camel Cookies aren't that good, and that people rarely speak languages in the Knowlton Dining Hall. Never mind that Camelympics doesn't go through the night anymore, and that Free Music Lessons also involve credits and coursework. It's okay that some of these systems don't run effectively, because that's the nature of any working system: it has flaws. It's not that the opportunities our school provides are not valuable and beneficial—because they are. It's that the wrong systems are emphasized.

Study Abroad opportunities and electron microscopes are not things that make our school unique from Bates, Colby, Hamilton and Skidmore. What about the fact that we've set up a system of bike sharing? That students have self-designed majors like Bioinformatics and Social Justice? That private companies have been completely pushed out of our dances, to be replaced by student DJs with laptops and Logic Pro? Should how we want to be seen be based on the cool things Connecticut College gives us, or the ways in which Connecticut College Students take roles in the opportunities they're given?

If we promote ourselves as a school of students who actively aim to take advantage of these things, then perhaps that apparent "apathy" will dwindle. Maybe we can put our Looking Glass Self to good use.

This is how I want us to be seen: diverse, intellectually engaged, creative thinkers.

What about you?

It's Up To Us: Determining the Future of Conn's Honor Code

ELLIE BENNER
STAFF WRITER

Every student values our Honor Code - at least in that we'd be happy to talk about it on a campus tour or explain it to our parents when they ask. But we struggle in coming to terms with what it means to us on a daily basis.

It seems that somewhere along the line, the Honor Code has fallen through the cracks of Connecticut College. While most students at Conn would say there is still a need for it, we have trouble fitting it into our everyday lives. As a former member of J-Board as well as someone who will be underage for three-fourths of her college career, I often have had difficulty fitting my beliefs as an upholder of the Honor Code and as a college student who just wants to have fun.

The Honor Code has recently been called into question for a number of reasons. Administrators want to make it more than something we think about during an exam. In terms of residential life, housefellows and floor governors have asserted that their job description entails nothing more than reporting violations of the Honor Code.

Corey Testa, the chair of J-Board, thinks students are taking the Honor Code for granted.

"Currently, students want all of the responsibility without any of the accountability," he said. "However, the Honor Code expects every student to take responsibility for their actions and hold themselves and others accountable."

Even the chair of our student-run judicial system can only criticize the current system instead of offering solutions for how it could improve.

The President of SGA, Peter Friedrichs, said in a campus-wide email that the entire school needed to reexamine our way of thinking about the Honor Code, as "it is a way of life."

Yes, the Honor Code makes up a large part of our school's identity, but it doesn't always govern my own way of life.

Misconceptions about the Honor Code are also widespread. Many students believe there are two Honor Codes, social and academic (there's just one), that members of J-Board can get away with anything (we can't) and that underage drinking isn't included in our student handbook (it is). First, it's hard to amend a system if not everyone understands its full implications.

While I acknowledge the positive implications of having one Honor Code govern our student body, I do see it as divided. Certainly, most of the student body strictly adheres to the academic part while not

worrying about violations of the social component: our academic honor code acknowledges the college's emphasis on the importance of honesty in the classroom, and one reason it is so widely valued is that it allows us to be treated like adults, with total responsibility for our own actions.

However, our social honor code devalues our own judgment, making us feel more like

Our academic honor code treats us like adults, with total responsibility for our own actions. However, our social honor code devalues our own judgment.

children telling on a sibling than college students who will soon enter the real world. Students are supposed to turn each other in for infractions as common as underage drinking and drug use.

And yet these types of digressions are rarely, if ever, reported by students. Is it realistic to have an honor code that dictates that students should report others for violations they have probably committed themselves? Yes, I should be trusted to judge a situation before reporting it to any authority, but that sense of trust

in judgment has never been conveyed to me by the administration. While I wouldn't feel comfortable (as a student leader or otherwise) going up to someone with a beer in their hand, I would be more than willing to turn in a fellow student for knocking down an exit sign on my hallway.

One of the advantages of the Honor Code is that it holds each student accountable to every other student, which forces us to see our actions as affecting not only ourselves, but also the college community. In cases of academic infractions, a student who cheats not only hurts his or her fellow classmates, but also the professor.

From my experience in hearing academic cases on J-Board, I know how offended and upset professors can feel when a student cheating in their class. There are social advantages to the Honor Code, as well: I feel more comfortable in the dorms, whether I am telling a hallmate to turn down their music or leaving my door unlocked when I go down the hall to a friend's room. I always want Conn to be a place where students can leave their computers in the library unattended.

The administration is trying to insert itself further into our conversations and thoughts about the Honor Code than I feel comfortable with. Discus-

sions of change to the Honor Code should be brought up by students who are unhappy with the system, not administrators who would prefer that the school function a certain way. I believe that many students do have legitimate concerns about the way our Honor Code works, but they should be the ones coming forward, not deans and administrators that are concerned about trips to the hospital or the number of alcohol violations. These types of occurrences are bound to happen wherever there is underage drinking, regardless of an Honor Code.

I would recommend that we focus on things that we can actually change - like feeling more comfortable in your own dorm, being able to talk to floor governors and housefellows about your problems without worrying that they'll get you in trouble for drinking, and making sure that we preserve our tradition of self-scheduled exams. Students need to pick up the slack and start focusing on what we want our community to be like in order to uphold shared governance. We can't continue to complain about issues while hoping they magically fix themselves, especially concerning issues that are so crucial to our experience at Conn.

A Critical Sensibility: Harry Potter 6

W.K. MOTA
STAFF WRITER

The newest Harry Potter film, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (2009), is racist, misogynistic and homophobic.

But before I attempt to show this, let us first get some things out of the way.

In most disputes about racism, misogyny and homophobia, one of the largest barriers to consensus is the question of whether *real* difference exists between *unconscious* and *conscious* racist, sexist and homophobic acts.

Proponents of the conscious/unconscious binary often argue that conscious misanthropy targeted at a particular group (i.e. *intentional* racism/sexism/homophobia) is inexcusable. However, they seem to say that the same misanthropy, if said to be unconscious (i.e. *unintentional*), ought to be seen as excusable – perhaps even permissible.

In other words, they argue that claiming unconsciousness liberates an actor of his

or her responsibility to the *real* outcome(s) of his or her action. And this is where they mess up.

As I understand it, the outcome of an action may be said to be the result of unconscious intention if, prior to acting, the actor lacked complete awareness of its possible effect(s). This is much in line with Freud's commentary that "Ignorance is ignorance."

Yet, even if one were to be in accordance with Freud's comment, the conscious/unconscious binary falls apart when we consider Kristin Shrader-Frechette's idea that "ignorance is not absence of fault."

And this is why Harry Potter is racist, misogynistic and homophobic. Not because I believe it was designed to be so, but

because it is so.

First, it's homophobic, in part, due to its absence of same-sex relationships. In a film entirely centered on and around teenage sexuality and teenage sexual relationships – with 'love scenes' in almost every frame – heterosexuality is presented as 'normal.' And by definition, same-sex relationships are presented as not. David Dorfman recently advised my class that one should pay attention to what's not said, because sometimes the unsaid is just as important

as what is said. I agree.

Second, it's misogynistic because of its static representation of teenage girls. Even my fourteen-year-old sister could see that *every* female character is presented as boy-crazy, over-emotional, and, at times, simply irrational. The boys, on the other hand, are the 'cool' and logical ones – even in their irrationality (this is the ancient Mythos/Logos binary). The message is clear: in 'normal' relationships, girls chase boys. Take Ron for example, too cool to even recognize when the

very attractive and extremely intelligent Hermione spends the entire film drooling over him. Something tells me that across most high schools, it would be the other way around.

Thirdly, for all of its bold display of interracial relationships, the film is racist,

inter alia, because it builds up and puts forth interracial relationships as inchoate and/or as stereotypically destined to fail. In fact, the audience is introduced to this doctrine at the film's opening scene, which I will not describe here. Go back and watch it again, this time with a critical sensibility, you too might see it. But even if you don't, the question of why each interracial relationship displayed is or becomes dysfunctional goes unanswered.

You know, it's not surprising that racism and sexism and homophobia find their way into even magical worlds. After all, racist, sexist, and homophobic thought is a part of one's *subconscious* – which, unlike unconsciousness, is a part of one's consciousness.

I'm more and more beginning to believe that the real problem for all of us is that we unconsciously live in our subconscious. But admitting this would make one responsible for the results of one's actions – intentional or not.

Wouldn't that be an inconvenient truth?



Relax!

RIORDAN FROST
STAFF WRITER

To Welbith and any others who have looked to culture and taken offense to actions without any discrimination intended, I say relax! If someone did not mean to offend you, then you are being much too sensitive by taking offense and demanding anything at all from them – even if it is just an apology. It is starting to seem as though people have begun to look for racism, sexism and whatever other label of offense they can find.

Can you no longer enjoy a film for what it is, instead of only seeing (or seeking out) the underlying, and often unintentional, discriminatory messages?

The problem is this that when we try not to offend, we have to walk on politically correct eggshells and tiptoe around important issues with extreme caution.

It's annoying.

Worse than that, it stands in the way of communication, and it vilifies even those who do not intend to cause any harm. In fact, it even vilifies people who work to right those wrongs of discrimination when they accidentally cause an unseen slight to someone without malice or intent. Too many academic voices have become overly wrapped up in pinning laundry lists of faults to every aspect of culture today. Not every film or book or other medium can have every minority represented – it would simply

cheapen or even destroy the narrative and realism.

I didn't see the new Harry Potter movie, but I shall still do my level best to respond to the criticisms, in principle at least. First of all, how is it actually possible for this movie to be sexist – is the author, who has some oversight of the movie, not female herself? Does she hate her own gender, or did even she not see the unintentional faults?

With regards to race: Harry Potter it is NOT racist. Quite the opposite, they have included interracial couples, but Welbith still objects that the dysfunctional nature of these relationships is offensive. I wonder, isn't it better for the relationship to be dysfunctional, as many relationships are.

Does this not provide realism? Plus, does every member of a minority have to be portrayed as a paragon of virtue, devoid of flaws? Isn't it better for them not to be so, for them to be portrayed as human? When authors and directors do include members of the minority, still you are not satisfied? It is beginning to seem that nothing can be un-offensive, especially not anything in our cultural mediums.

Let's go back to the unintentional question, though. If everyone takes offense to actions that were only unintentionally offensive, then where will our society be? We shall never make any progress only playing the blame game, pointing out how unfair life is to whichever minority you

most closely identify with – is this some form of broad narcissism? The film has no gay people in it, and heterosexuals are portrayed as the norm – but that is how society functions, so why should the film be any different? Is it even possible to make a movie that doesn't offend anyone at all that is politically correct in every way? Perhaps it is time that we started focusing on things like wage-discrimination or affirmative action, things that actually affect people, rather than how you feel when you walk out of a movie and feel slighted from how minorities were portrayed. We cannot live in a world of equality, because it is impossible to not see differences.



Spicy Black Bean
Soup starring
Boof and the
Party Bus
Alligators

by Justin Levy

Healthcare Mandates: A Complicated Solution

DANIEL HARTSOE
STAFF WRITER

In both the House of Representatives and the Senate, Congressmen are currently debating proposals to solve the healthcare predicament in this country. Some of these proposals, however, will not correct the perversions of the healthcare industries; indeed, they will only exacerbate the current problems they claim to solve and create new problems that will have to be solved in the future. One of these proposals is the so-called 'individual mandate.'

The Democratic leadership of the House has made its primary goal in reforming the health insurance industry to provide coverage for the roughly 46 million Americans that at any given time in a year do not have health insurance. In order to do this, they want to require all Americans to buy health insurance, either from private insurers or from the proposed 'public option'. Their justification for such action is this: many people choose not to buy health insurance, primarily because their health expenses are lower than the price they would have to pay for insurance coverage. Therefore, forcing these individuals to buy health insurance would result in a greater rise in insurance companies' revenues than in their costs, and also would result in a drop in the average cost of each customer to the insurance companies. This drop would allow companies to offer lower prices, making insurance coverage more affordable for those who previously could not afford it.

But, in the current health insurance market, such benefits would not ensue from such a policy. Since the

health insurance market is uncompetitive as a result of its fragmentation amongst the fifty states, health insurance companies would not pass any decrease in their costs off to their customers in the form of lower premiums—they would merely pad their own profits. Moreover, the monopoly or cartel statuses of many companies and groups of companies would be entrenched. Currently, individuals and businesses have at least a small degree of choice regarding health insurance: they can either buy insurance from the

The fact is, consumers cannot benefit when governments interfere in free markets, even when governments claim to interfere on their behalf.

monopoly or cartel that dominates the market in their state, or they can choose not to buy insurance at all. The 'individual mandate' would eliminate the second of these choices, forcing individuals to buy from the monopolistic supplier.

Who would be affected by this situation, and how? Monopolistic insurance companies would love it—they would get to charge as high a price as they wanted without any consequential drop in the number of people buying coverage from them. And indeed, the health insurance lobby supports the individual mandate while it pushes heavily to keep the current state-run regulatory system in place—only law firms have given more money to members of Congress in the past year

than the health insurance industry, according to the Centre for Responsive Politics. Members of Congress also gain from this arrangement—they can happily announce that universal healthcare has been achieved, that 'consumer rights' have been protected and that the middle class family of four will now get the health insurance that it deserves. But which consumers would benefit? Those who were already insured? They would be paying more for the same coverage that they already had. Those who were not insured? They would be forced to buy a good they did not find worth their while to buy before and certainly would not find worth their while to buy after a sharp increase in prices. Every private and political interest affected would benefit, but consumers would pay dearly for the policy allegedly passed on their behalf.

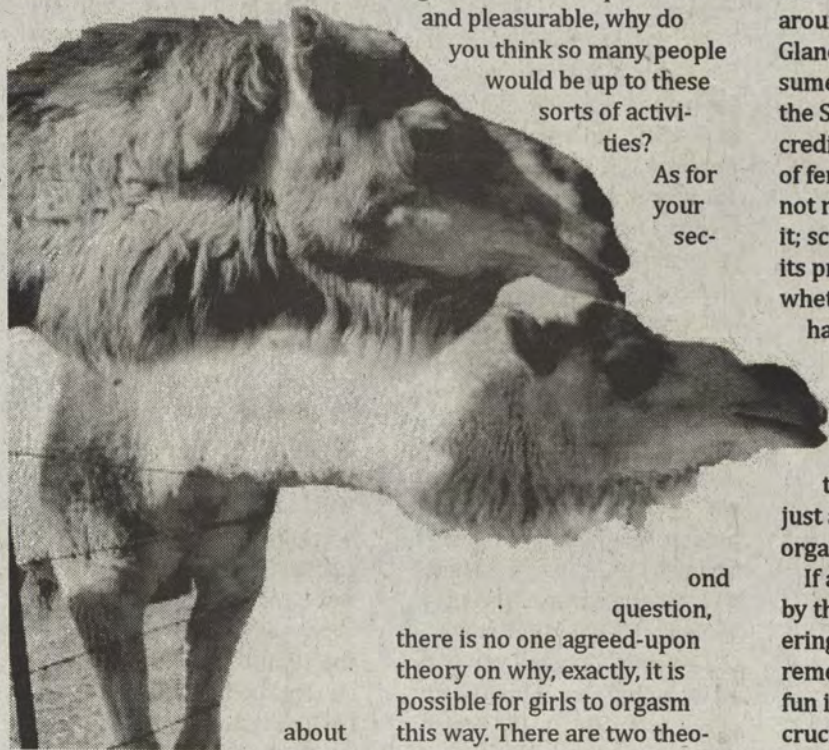
The fact is, consumers cannot benefit when governments interfere in free markets, even when governments claim to interfere on their behalf—prices and costs will always be fair, and usually lowest, when potential buyers and sellers have the choice of whether to buy or sell, at what price to buy or sell, what quantity of goods to buy or sell, and from whom to buy and to whom to sell. Governments cannot give consumers these choices—they can only protect the existence of these choices both by refraining from intervening in the market and by ensuring that markets are competitive rather than dominated by a monopoly or cartel. Unfortunately, the federal government has failed to uphold the second part of its obligation, and is at risk of violating the first.

The Camels Hump

An Advice Column

ANN DALY,
ALEXANDRA LEITH
COLUMNISTS

Sex and relationships. We love them, we hate them, but we are all involved with them in some way. Here at The Camels Hump, we believe that if you're going to do it, you should know how to be safe, how to be successful and how to talk



about
sex
and

relationships in a healthy, positive and informed way. So we're here to help you. If you need advice on what to do, how to do it or how to talk about it with your friends after the fact, you've come to the right place. Welcome back to The Camels Hump – shall we begin?

Questions?
cc.camels.hump@
gmail.com

I recently had a really strange experience where someone was playing with my ass, and I think I came. Is this possible- I know men have a prostate, but what about girls? Was this real or did I imagine it?

First, I'd like to welcome you to a whole new world you've discovered. What you experienced was most likely a real orgasm. If it wasn't possible and pleasurable, why do you think so many people would be up to these sorts of activities?

As for
your
sec-

here, it extends backwards in two parts. The area right before this split is thought to be the location of the G-Spot. The remainder of the clitoris, or "clitoral wings" in some parlance, is what is thought to be the cause of anal orgasms. Because of their length, these "wings" are in a location that allows for stimulation through anal contact.

Another theory as to how anal orgasms work revolves around the mysterious Skene's Gland. As well as it's presumed role in anal orgasm, the Skene's Gland has been credited for the phenomenon of female ejaculation. However, not much is understood about it; scientists are unsure as to its precise location, or even whether or not all women even have it. While the Skene's

Gland might have something to do with what you experienced, it is far more likely that your anal orgasm was just another type of clitoral orgasm.

If anyone has been inspired by this column and is considering giving anal play a try, remember, it can be safe and fun if you do it right. Lube is crucial: the anus is a delicate body part, and improper lubrication can lead to scratches, tears and other uncomfortable conditions. When you're dealing with fingers, always make sure your partner's fingernails are trimmed and filed. And ladies, this next one is most important: if you ever have anything inserted into your butt, whether it's a finger, a toy or a penis, NEVER let it ANYWHERE near your vagina until it has been thoroughly cleaned; if you don't, you're practically begging for a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). I assure you, one UTI and you will seriously regret it.

and question, there is no one agreed-upon theory on why, exactly, it is possible for girls to orgasm this way. There are two theories as to how this works; they are not particularly different, but are both a bit surprising.

First, some background: the clitoris and the penis are made of the same tissues, and are actually homologous organs (in other words, they are more or less the same structure). The clitoris is actually about six or eight inches long- what you can see is only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, and the rest is buried inside the body.

Now, unlike the penis, the clitoris is not a straight shaft - instead, it is shaped like a wishbone. The external aspect of the clitoris makes up the tip of the wishbone shape; from

Pregnant? Don't Want To Be?

New "Crisis Centers" cause concern



DANIELLE MURPHY
CONTRIBUTOR

Walking across campus one night, I became angry, outraged even, when I came across a certain flier that allegedly provided counseling services for unplanned pregnancies. A week or so later, I saw the same flier on the bulletin board in the library, this one with two info tabs ripped off. My reaction this time was not anger, but concern, not necessarily because I thought some of my fellow community members might be facing an unplanned pregnancy. Statistics show that half of American women will at some point in their lives experience an unintended pregnancy and I'm sure that more than a few on this campus already have. Rather, this advertisement for Birthright New London evoked such reactions because it is attempting to direct any Conn students facing an unintended pregnancy into their Crisis Pregnancy Center (hereafter CPC). The goal of Birthright, and other centers like it, is to "keep women from having abortions." While they claim that they "want you to know the many options available to you," they present only options for carrying the pregnancy to term. While doing so is the right choice — and the right — for many women in such a situation, it is not a feasible option for many women, especially at our age.

On their website and in public areas, Birthright touts offers of free counseling and pregnancy tests, and claims to refrain from engagement in "the public debate on abortion" (as if it could be boiled down to one monolithic argument). However, there are approximately 4000 CPCs in the U.S., and many of them are not so straightforward. In fact, many use straight-up lies in order to further their agenda, making claims that are wildly inaccurate in order to manipulate women into keeping unplanned pregnancies. In addition to reporting false results from pregnancy tests, some other examples of bogus medical claims made by CPCs include linking abortion to breast cancer, mental illness and infertility (none of these links exists). Not to mention the anti-choice favorite, "post-abortion syndrome," a completely made-up condition designed to scare women away from a medically sound, proven safe procedure. Even more deplorable, these CPCs deliberately set themselves up in low-income vulnerable populations of women faced with unintended pregnancies.

During the Bush years, CPCs received over \$30 million from the government. Additionally, many of the states that have mandatory abortion counseling laws have traditionally accepted CPCs as legitimate counseling centers, even going so far as to include them in state-sponsored directories, often with no warning of the limitations to this type of counseling. However, in 2006 Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) conducted a study on CPCs, and called attention to the gross misinformation being spread. Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-CA) has since introduced the "Stop Deceptive Advertising for Women's Services Act." Co-sponsored so far by 29 other Congressmen, it seeks in part to take action against the misleading practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers. These two instances give hope that serious attention is finally being paid to women's reproductive health issues.

After several unreturned phone calls to Birthright New London, I am relieved to see that they are seemingly non-functioning. It is my hope that other women have experienced the same unresponsiveness and turned instead to more legitimate health clinics for counseling. At Conn, Student Health Services will provide counseling and referrals to a student on all of her possible options — abortion, adoption or parenthood. Every woman has the right to complete, medically accurate information about her own body, regardless of where she or anyone else stands in the public debate on abortion.



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EDITORIALS

October 6, 2009

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Editor's Voice

Emergency Communication

One obvious addition to an article was pointed out to me a few times over the past few weeks that I'd like to address.

In Jazmine Hughes's article two issues ago on "Safety at Conn" one question was left out – why were two separate emails sent about the man in Cro with such differing information?

My recent conversations with College Relations (the ones who sent out the email) revealed that emergency emails are written and sent out quickly to ensure that information is sent to students with as much detail as the college happens to know at the time about an incident or concern.

This initial email is often corrected, or at least further investigated with additional details, in a second email.

Anyone remember the two emails about bullets in Freeman last semester?

Something similar occurred, with a quite frightening first email ("There are bullets in the trash can in Freeman? Why?"), though we were quickly assured later in the email there was "no reason to assume" there was a gun to accompany the ammunition.

A second email swiftly followed which assured us that the student who had thrown out the bullets did not have a gun, but that he "found them in his suitcase" and quickly discarded them.

That line still left me quite confused, though fairly confident we were not going to be the site of any campus violence from this discarded ammunition.

This idea of one preliminary email with limited information followed by a second email with more detail or clarification makes sense. I personally would rather be forewarned about a possible sex offender found on campus or a breach of security, than to wait for the administration to look into the issue fully over the next few hours or days in order to confirm all of the details.

However, I still don't understand why the phrase "he was not affiliated with Connecticut College" was even necessary in the first email sent about the

sex offender. If that had not yet been confirmed (since it wasn't even confirmed who he was) when that first email was released, why was that necessary?

Regardless of whether or not he was affiliated with the college as a student, member of the faculty, administrator, Oasis staff worker, custodian, campus safety officer, etc., my first concern would not be whether or not he was affiliated with the college. It would not have made me feel any more or less safe.

He was on our campus, in our bathrooms. Somehow or other he got there, and that's what was addressed and needed to be addressed in the email.

He affected us negatively and we as a community should not, at least in a preliminary email, be concerned with what official affiliation he had with the college, if any, especially since his name was not released to those who wrote the email.

It made it look like the college had something to cover or hide, as if it were some sort of liability if he were hired by the college.

It was simply unnecessary, and made it look worse when the correction was made in the second, more detailed email.

So my points are twofold: continue using the two email emergency system. It keeps all of us in the loop and reminds us to stay especially observant if there is a security or safety concern.

However, make the first email as straightforward as possible with only confirmed details so that large clarifications or corrections do not need to be made.

I'd rather just know there was a prowler in Cro who was arrested for sexual voyeurism and read the specifics later.

Also, I'd love to see the subject line as something more eye-catching since unfortunately not everyone reads every single campuswide email. A title like "Message from Dean of Student Life and Campus Safety Director" is not as stimulating as "Waterford Man Arrested in Cro."

-Claire

Response to Last Week's Letter to the Editor

Implore and ye shall receive, Corey Testa '10.

Allow me the opportunity to clarify a few things and reiterate some of the main points of Lilah's article, because I feel that your frustration is partially due to a misreading of her piece.

First, it is not a "ludicrous assertion" that SGA is not doing their job, particularly with regards to Public Relations and those responsible for tapping into the talent of the student body at large.

In the real world, simply performing the basic tasks set out in a charter or constitution or job description does not constitute a "job well done."

As adults, we are measured against the results that we produce. SGA PR will have done their job when students are informed, with or without their direct participation. Do I care that Apple now "has an app for that" if I have no iPhone to take advantage of it with? Not necessarily, but I am certainly more aware because Apple's public outreach manages to shove it down my throat. SGA should be working with *The Voice* to produce a basic, informative rundown of SGA proceedings to accompany the "SGA on the Can," many of which currently reside, waterlogged, on the floor of my bathroom. It's obviously a different approach than Apple's, but potentially useful nonetheless.

This article is no way an assault on the credentials or efforts of those currently holding these positions on SGA. This problem has existed for years and begs for a thorough examination and subsequent revamp according to a new results-based paradigm at Conn Coll. We are currently working hard to improve upon every aspect of the *Voice's* production in hopes of attaining larger readership and more

student participation.

It is an ongoing process, but we've already seen some informal positive feedback. Our job is not simply to produce the paper, but to make sure that our readers are active and engaged.

Pardon this digression, but there exist potential ways for both SGA and *The Voice* to demand more participation from the student body. For instance, demanding low level participation (one or two semesters on a committee, two weeks of editing as a contributing writer) prior to achieving any level of leadership (senator, exec board, staff writing, editorial staff) will force students who are considering extracurricular involvement to experience all aspects of the process as a means of having them be better informed and thus more effective. Having served on SGA as the Senator of Larrabee, I can tell you that all incoming Senators are not necessarily more well versed in student governmental policies, i.e. more capable of affecting change, than the average student. To me, apathy is leaving in place the masochistic tradition of subjecting SGA to three or four hour meetings on Thursday nights, which dissuade the average student from getting involved at all [side note: I ran unopposed in Larrabee].

Most importantly, you state that it is easy to "complain and criticize about something you choose to not be educated about."

However, your response suggests a cursory, even negligent reading of Lilah's article.

The point of her article is just that – to educate yourself fully before lodging a complaint in an important and meaningful forum rather than just running your mouth at the opening of the new privately-funded AC or the disappear-

ance of the gifts from the Simmons Fund.

Lilah, who mentions the "unnecessary disconnect" that is created by not "thinking, perhaps consulting" with those in the know has created the very same problems you mention in your letter. At the *Voice*, we in no way think of any member of SGA as "failures." We are just offering our perspective in hopes of improving the process that they are responsible for.

The testiness and defensiveness of your letter is indicative of another of Conn's afflictions.

The different branches of Conn's leadership (which often overlap, uncomfortably, due to students' busy schedules rather than apathy) are constantly expressing frustration with each other rather than working together. While you may have been offended by her direct mention of SGA and their role as liaisons between the administration and the student body, try to keep your cool and understand that we are trying to open a constructive dialogue that will help you guys to inform the public and help the public to inform you of their gripes – on their own time – via *The Voice*.

I sincerely appreciate the time you took to continue this conversation in the last issue, and hope that the executive members of SGA, as well as Senators, will use *The Voice* to communicate with the student body. The part of your response that I'd like to dispute the most is that "Opinion articles and Conn Coll Confessional tirades are not constructive avenues towards 'dual communication.'" After all, I consider this a potentially productive conversation and I hope the good folks at SGA do as well.

- Alfred

Corrections

The photo for "Theft in the Plex" on page 3 of last week's issue was taken by Duncan Spaulding, not Kelsey Cohen.

Letters to the Editor

I found myself quite disturbed by some of the comments made by my esteemed colleague, Mr. Matt Baum, in his "No One Wants Cookies For Breakfast" column of September 22. Mr. Baum argues that Cookie Crisp is an inferior cereal, beneath us, he says. Baum calls for a campus wide boycott of the consumption of Cookie Crisp, while at the same time acknowledging that, yes, Cookie Crisp was selected amongst the various other new cereals available at Harris by a vote passed by his peers.

I would like to remind you, Mr. Baum, these cereals were selected by your compatriots. I for one have suffered the

indignity of Grape Nuts, the cereal nobody eats, being omnipresent for three long years, only to finally, triumphantly, be rewarded with my one and only request of Reese's Puffs.

However, I know that this occurred not because of some Cereal Czar, deciding which cereals stayed and which ones were changed for vastly superior ones. This occurred, Mr. Baum, because of simple democracy.

At the Taste of Harris food show last year, the people voted for change. They voted for hope. They voted for Reese's Puffs, and Cookie Crisp, and all the other new cereals that were made available.

To support Mr. Baum's cause is to descend into, at best, anarchy, and at worst, cereal fascism. Who are you, sir, to determine which cereals stay, and which ones go? Who are you, to deny the will of your peers for personal satisfaction? At long last, sir, who are you?

I urge my fellow Connecticut College students to look into your hearts, and ask yourself this question: Do I, in an ideal world, want cookies for breakfast?

I think that you'll find that you do.

Sincerely,
Liz Yoquinto '10

Policies for Submitting Letters to the Editor

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

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and

include contact information.

No unsigned letters will be published.

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

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

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

The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission.

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

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