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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 5



KARAM SETHI/PHOTO EDITOR

Over fifty venues took part in New London's Fall Food Stroll on October 14.

Putto 4 over 4

Art Addition Takes Campus By Surprise

NORA SWENSON
STAFF WRITER

When students poured into Blaustein last Monday, October 12, a little more than the fresh waft of Pinesol probably took them by surprise. That is because Connecticut College is now the honored recipient of a modern sculpture by Michael Rees, entitled *Putto 4 over 4*, graciously donated by Don Opatrny and Judith Tindal Opatrny, graduate of class of 1972 and trustee member, respectively.

It seems as though Connecticut College is making a name for itself as being "a campus garden of modern art," said the Director of Donor Relations, Mary-Jane Cassidy, given that even the most miniscule of furlong allotments seem to spawn new sculpture appearances.

Cassidy stated in an interview, "The modern art cer-

tainly makes for an interesting juxtaposition amongst the more traditional buildings. It's nice to see that Conn has been able to pull off the architectural mixture."

But how have students been reacting to the structure? Many were quite taken aback by the addition, and didn't understand what it was supposed to be or why it was already rusted when it was supposedly a new addition to campus. The former question requires a slightly more complex response, but as for the rust: it's because the sculpture has in fact been residing in the Opatrnys home yard for the past five years.

"We decided to donate the sculpture with the hope that it would enliven and inspire, and perhaps spark some commentary and debate on campus," Opatrny commented. "I've also heard some great things

about the arts and technology department [at Connecticut College], so hopefully this sculpture will contribute to the program as well."

At first glance, it may be difficult to figure out exactly what the 12'x7'3"x11'6" sculpture represents. Constructed of "Luminore iron on Fiberglass over Styrofoam with steel tube armature," *Putto* was crafted with the intention of allowing the steel color to rust, and through the use of new technologies, to "manufacture and give meaning to [Rees'] work."

The sculpture no doubt adds a whimsical sense of humor to the central campus atmosphere, with childlike features, toes and fingers.

In an exhibit held at Connecticut College's Shain Library this past week,

SEE PUTTO, PAGE 2

Student Activists Participate in National Equality March

SARAH KOSOFSKY
STAFF WRITER

As the attendance at this Monday's vigil for the victims of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning) hate crimes demonstrated, Connecticut College's support for LGBTQ rights is overwhelming.

Conn's fervent activism was also present at the National Equality March (October 10-11) as twenty students traveled to Washington D.C. to take part in the march organized by Equality Across America.

The march called for equal rights and protection in all fifty states in matters of civil law. These rights include the right to work and go to school free of discrimination and harass-

ment, the right to be protected against hate-crimes, the right to equitable healthcare, the right to equitable immigration policies, the right to serve in the military openly and the right to marry.

The group of Conn students left Conn at 5:45 AM on Saturday, traveling with sixteen Trinity students and seven students from Wesleyan. This larger group stayed the night in St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, along with about two hundred other activists participating in the march. The students from Conn returned to campus at around 12:30 AM Monday.

SEE LGBTQ, PAGE 3

NEWS

Wondering why it takes half an hour to get into Harris?

Is our campus really overcrowded this year, or are we just imagining things?

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Information Services talks about pricing, and the future of cable TV on campus

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Should Conn have a football team?

Learn why Conn is legally required not to have a team, and the debate whether or not a football would improve life at the college.

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Responses from the Matthew Shepard Vigil.

Students speak out at the Vigil about their experiences at Conn, and what we can do on our own campus.

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The New York Times is back! But for how long?

You can read the newspaper online, but are students more apt to keep up on the news with the free newspapers outside the dining halls?

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KELSEY COHEN/PHOTO EDITOR

Putto 4 Over 4

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some of the advanced techniques explored for the creation of *Putto* included software like Cinema 4D, Maya 3D and Studio Max. For those who aren't familiar with these programs, it enables an artist to carefully construct and analyze movement of 3D objects, which is exactly what sculptor Michael Rees did to choose exactly the shape he wished to replicate in magnified size.

In order to choose the shape Rees would eventually sculpt, he crafted small 'Marquettes,' which are also currently on display in Shain Library, from which he selected the best design.

Rees claims that it is through the animation that his work as a sculptor "becomes clear," when one can see the "smoothly organic movement

of an individual being" that is often overlooked. Rees' job as a sculptor then becomes replicating this movement through a medium as seemingly constricting as steel.

Putto 4 over 4's shape emulates Rees' appeal for the human body, and the many ways in which it can be reshaped through art. Careful observation will reveal the stubby legs and fingers attached to a 'sausage-like body' sans a head of *Putto*.

Some students have asked why the location between Shain Library and Blaustein was deemed most appropriate for the piece.

"[Several members of the college] decided on Blaustein with the input of Mrs. Opatrny knowing that it is a frequented location on campus and people would be able to view it from a number of angles," Cassidy

explained. "That is, when walking into Blaustein, it may look as though the sculpture itself is running in with you."

When viewed from the main walkway running through Central campus, it can conversely be spectated as a balancing being of sorts. "It all depends on your perspective!" beamed Cassidy.

Concerns have been raised as to why more student input was not offered in deciding the piece's location.

As one student noted, "It would have been nice if the students had been consulted on the location. It is, after all, a pretty big structure, and some of us don't really like how it looks. It's a big change, and we didn't really have any say in its placement."

However, Andrea Wollensak, Connecticut College Professor of Studio Art, is especially

excited by the contribution.

"This semester I'm teaching a freshman seminar entitled Basic Concepts in Design, in which students are utilizing programs like Maya 3D in the Ammerman Center in Olin Observatory's computer lab," she said. "We will be studying Michael Rees' work in an upcoming project, specifically, looking at how a three-dimensional form is visualized digitally."

Additionally, within the school year, Rees will join the Connecticut College team of faculty in the arts, even incorporating the studying of his sculpture into the department's curriculum.

In the meantime, the exhibit located in the main entry of Shain Library will remain on display for all to view and become better acquainted with the latest campus addition, with a discussion scheduled

for early next semester in the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room, where Rees and Opatrny will attend for further commentary on the structure.

"The donation of this sculpture," Cassidy stated, "is more than just the gift of art. It's also a gift to the classes that will benefit from this work," which will inevitably carry out through the incorporation of new dimensions of art and technology, all married into a unique style of design."

A few final touches are still needed, including a plaque that will give the basic title, donor and sculptor identification.

"When alums and other donors reach out to support the Connecticut College community," Cassidy noted, "our job is to ensure that all the history and documentation of their gifts are recognized appropriately."



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Is Conn Over Capacity?

Admissions Yield and the Increase In Enrolled Camels

DANA WILSON
CONTRIBUTOR

There has been a lot of talk on campus this fall about "overcrowding" and the supposedly larger-than-usual freshman class. In Harris, lines have been consistently out the door, people have been forced to battle over free chairs and others have been banished to the wall-facing counter seats, rejected even from the "anti-social room."

While there are, in fact, more students on campus this semester than usual, the numbers are not actually significantly higher, according to several members of the administration, and the campus is "by no means overcrowded."

According to Martha Merrill, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, "The college's current enrollment is only fifteen students above our 'normal' or projected status."

There are currently 502 freshmen in the class of 2013 (the target was 500).

The college did see a significant increase in the number of transfer applicants this fall, which was a more significant source of the overall increase in population than was the freshman applicant pool.

Merrill explained that "it is not always easy to hit our targets perfectly. We thought we might lose more currently enrolled students due to the economy, so we admitted a few more transfers and ended up seeing a stronger yield than in recent years."

While there is normally an average of twenty transfer students each semester, this fall there were thirty-two.

Perhaps because Conn has such a small campus, even the slightest increases in student body seem more significant

The number of students studying abroad or taking personal or medical leave also contributes to the fluctuations in the population. Two to three fewer students than average are studying abroad this fall, and despite the economy, slightly fewer students than usual have transferred.

This summer, some rising seniors received e-mails stating that Residential Education and Living was "considering allowing a very small number of additional students to move off campus for the fall... we could extend permission to live off campus as late as July 15."

These missives led to speculation that the college had admitted too many students for the campus to house.

The pre-arrival e-mail to students from the Res Ed office also stated, "We are expecting to be very full in the fall and we are doing our best to house everyone according to their preferences."

Ever-changing numbers and their unpredictability are some of the challenges that the Residential Education and Living office faces each semester.

But to student concerns, Amy Gauthier, Director of Residential Education and Living, said in an interview that "while the campus is certainly full in terms of bed space, it is not at capacity."

Generally a certain number of rooms are kept open in case of irreconcilable roommate differences, asbestos and other health or safety hazard problems in rooms, and, especially this semester, for quarantining seriously ill students or housing their roommates while they recuperate.

Gauthier continued, "There are still about twelve or thirteen available beds, and there were no new "forced" doubles,

triples or quads this semester." In terms of room change requests, "we haven't had a lot of complaints. I think people know we're pretty full, so they are more likely than usual to work through issues rather than try to move."

While there is a waitlist for room changes, this is the case every semester.

In terms of continuing to manage enrollment numbers, Merrill said, "We will continue to monitor overall enrollments as we move into decision-making for the Class of 2014, but we do not anticipate making any significant changes. Our first-year target continues to be 500. We will likely use transfers and the waiting list as a way to manage incoming enrollments, but it is always difficult to anticipate wait list use elsewhere (that would impact 'summer melt' [when students who have enrolled do not arrive on campus in the fall for various reasons]) as well as what effect the economy might have on upperclass student enrollments."

Armando Bengochea, Dean of the College Community, said that the slight increase in student body this semester has not had any significant negative impact.

"Taking a handful more of very good transfer applicants last January and this fall does not put great stress on the curriculum, advising program or other systems of the College."

Overall, he views the increase as a positive reflection on Connecticut College. "This is really great for the College as it is one among many signals that we remain a very desirable school in a very crowded admission landscape in New England."

LGBTQ Activists

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I've been to over ten public LGBTQ-centered events, like gay prides and gay rights marches, but never have I felt so deeply connected with other LGBTQ activists," said Jessica Bombasaro-Brady, '11, co-chair of Spectrum, and one of the participating Conn students. "The sense of community and shared experience with a crowd of strangers was overwhelming and incredibly intense."

Andrew Sowle '13, had similar thoughts about the march. "It was really inspiring to see so many people out marching so passionately and peacefully. The lack of protestors was also very heartening."

The march included speeches from celebrities, such as Lady Gaga and Cynthia Nixon, along with speeches from well-known LGBTQ activists like Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student brutally murdered for being gay. Other speakers included Jarrett Barrios, President of GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) and 1st Lieuten-

ant Daniel Choi, an openly gay Arabic linguist and combat veteran who was discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," policy.

The night before the march, President Obama addressed the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest LGBTQ civil rights organization, at a black-tie dinner.

In his speech, Obama spoke about many equality issues, including employment discrimination, the defense of marriage act and HIV/AIDS. Obama also promised to end the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," policy.

For LGBTQ civil rights activists on campus, the march is just a small step towards the goal to achieve equality.

"Now that we are back in our comfortable world at Connecticut College, it is paramount that we continue the work that we began before the march and demand equal rights for all on our campus, in our state, and in the country as a whole," Bombasaro-Brady said.

Spectrum meets every Wednesday at 9:30 PM in the LGBTQ Resource Center.



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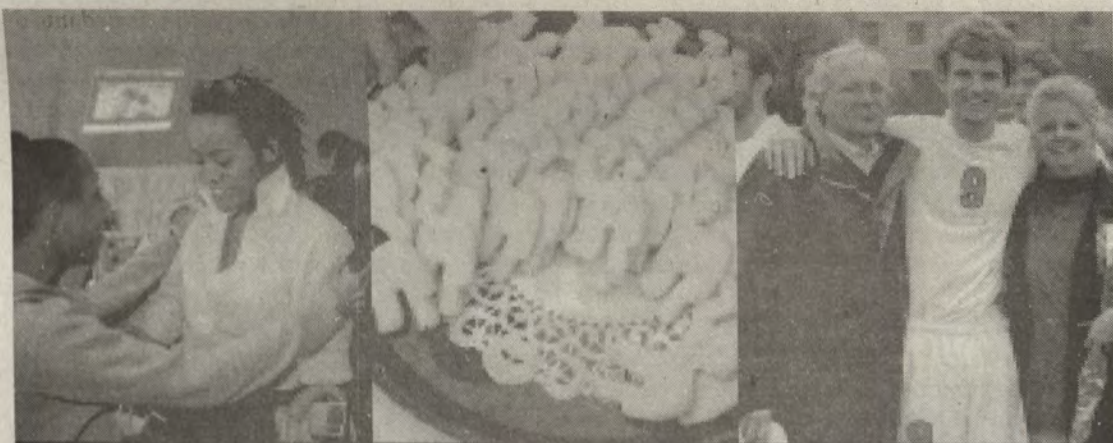
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A Look At Crackdown: Immigration in America

Obama Administration Cracks Down, Company Responds with Pink Slips

RACHEL BLITZER
CONTRIBUTOR

Hipsters beware – your American Apparel essentials may soon be in jeopardy.

Late last month, the Los Angeles-based manufacturer announced the decision to fire 1,800 of its employees. This statement followed an extensive federal investigation, which reported unscrupulous hiring practices regarding the legal status of the company's employees.

This case is the first widely publicized example of the Obama administration's new approach to illegal immigration by way of discrediting federal investigation, as opposed to the Bush-era raids and subsequent deportations.

In a White House press release detailing the aspects of coming immigration legislation earlier this year, Obama indicated that new strategies would involve "tightening up our borders, or cracking down on employers who are using illegal workers in order to drive down wages – and oftentimes mistreat those workers."

Interestingly enough, the first publicized implementation of this policy was inflicted upon a company well-known for its fair treatment of workers.

American Apparel prides itself upon a corporate philosophy of "vertical integration", a model that centers on domestic innovation and production. The company began manufacturing in the heart of Los Angeles when no other company would venture into the gang-filled and poverty-stricken territory. They now employ over 5,000 workers at an average of \$12 an hour pay rate, and offer benefits.

The American Apparel business model provides a contrast to the Midwest meatpacking conglomerates, which are well known for their abuse of illegal immigrants and disregard for labor standards.

"It is my belief that immigrants bring prosperity to any economy," wrote Canadian-born American Apparel founder and CEO Dov Charney in his pink slip letter to terminated employees.

"Although many people forget, migration has been going on for thousands of years, and it will continue for ever [sic].

My true dream is that one day we will all live in a world without borders," Charney's letter continued, conveying emotion and referencing Charney's own immigrant background.

This is not the first time American Apparel has been at the center of a public relations firestorm. CEO Dov Charney has been implicated in at least three suits of sexual harassment by former employees. According to journalist Claudine Ko, Charney also masturbated in front of her numerous times during the course of her interviews about the clothing company.

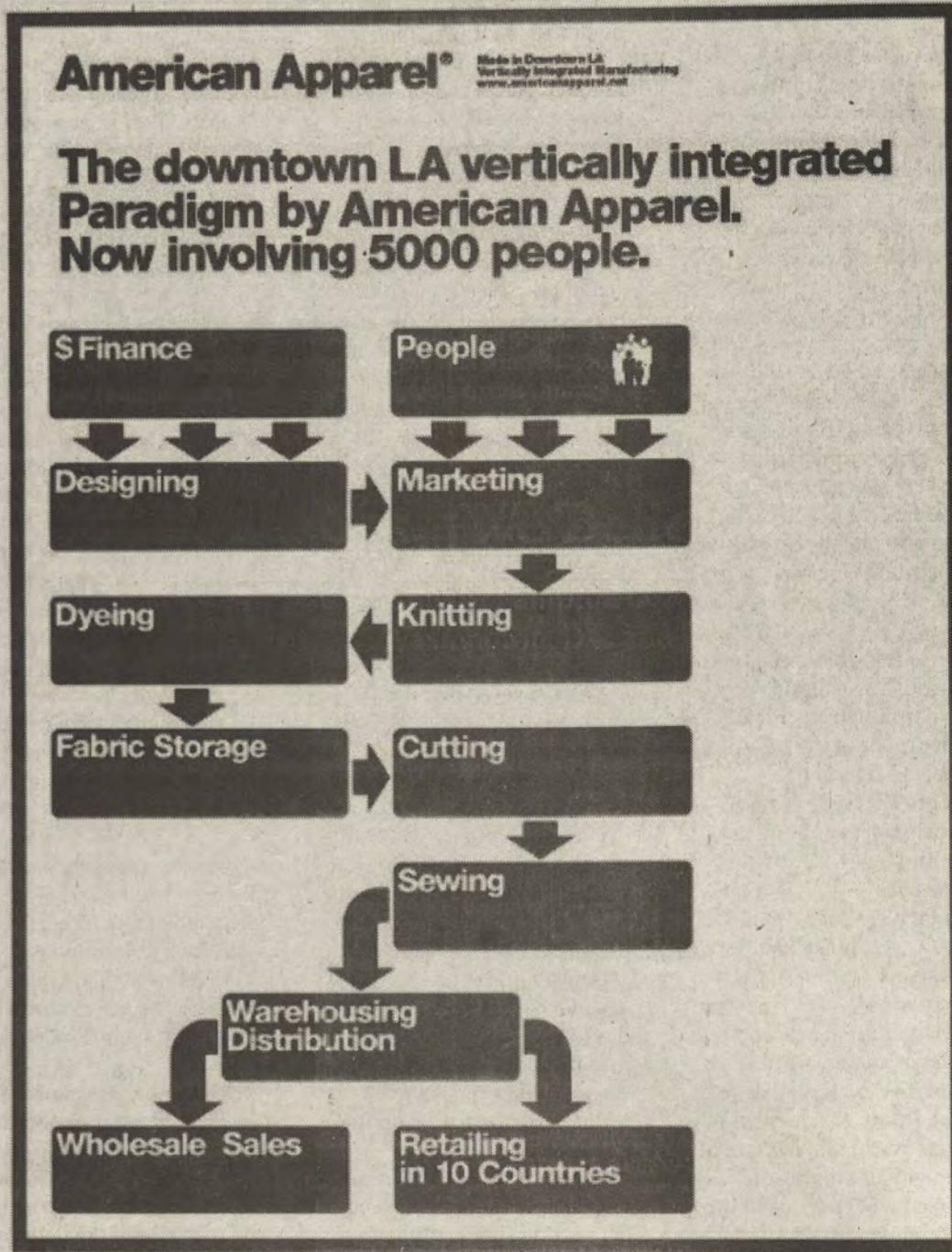
Charney has been quoted as saying, "Feminism is extremely restrictive. You can't call a woman a b---, you can't call her this, you can't call her that... Yet she can do whatever she wants. It's out of balance and that's why young people haven't embraced feminism." Later in the same interview, Charney is depicted as famously stating, "Women initiate most domestic violence."

The timing of the decision to let the employees go is also notable; the firings occurred in the midst of a global recession and a massive fiscal crisis in California, with unemployment doubling from percentages earlier in the decade. Some figures in the California legislature have argued that freeing up these jobs will enable U.S. citizens to achieve greater employment. However, the massive immigrant population in California has created an employment situation in which employers have grown to expect lower worker demands.

Nancy Martinez, co-president of Connecticut College's MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, a national Chicana/o heritage, rights and politics student organization) chapter, stated that, "[American Apparel] treats its workers well, giving them a lot of other things that companies don't. These immigrants are going to go to sweatshops and get mistreated and paid nothing."

However, she also pointed out that the Obama administration's approach was favorable to previous methods, remarking that "...it is really upsetting to see them being fired, but at least they are not being deported."

Martinez appreciated Char-



L.A. based company American Apparel has made claims of a unique business model. Recent actions by the company, including the firing of almost 2,000 employees, have suggested otherwise. Image from Web.

ney's pro-immigration reform stance, but, as co-chair of Conn's Feminist Majority, also found allegations of his inappropriate relationships with employees to be problematic.

At this point in the immigration debate, all parties involved concede that a continuation of Bush-era policies would be unacceptable.

Professor Maria Cruz-Saco indicated that a continued program of raids and deportation "would be severely criticized by the international community and would bring back doubts about U.S. immigration policy."

This is especially true in light of the administration's late summer commitments to Mexican President Felipe Calderón, which promised extensive revision of immigra-

tion policy. That is not to say that immigration legislation is at a stand still; on Wednesday, October 14, Rep. Luis Guterierrez, member of the House subcommittee on Immigration, outlined the core principles for a reform bill.

In a prepared speech to thousands of pro-immigration protesters on Capitol Hill, Rep. Gutierrez explained that "...we simply cannot wait any longer for a bill that keeps our families together, protects our workers and allows a pathway to legalization for those who have earned it. It is time we had a workable plan making its way through Congress that recognizes the vast contributions of immigrants to this country and that honors the American Dream."

This past weekend at Conn, the community did their part in highlighting illegal immigration at the Undocumented Immigrants Conference, which covered wide-ranging topics surrounding the issue.

The college provided a forum to discuss the changes needed and to raise awareness, both among the national scholarly community and the Conn student body.

So next time the dress code calls for spandex and bright colors, we may think twice: just how American is that apparel?

Sources for this article included KnowMore.org. Additional reporting by Samantha Herdon.



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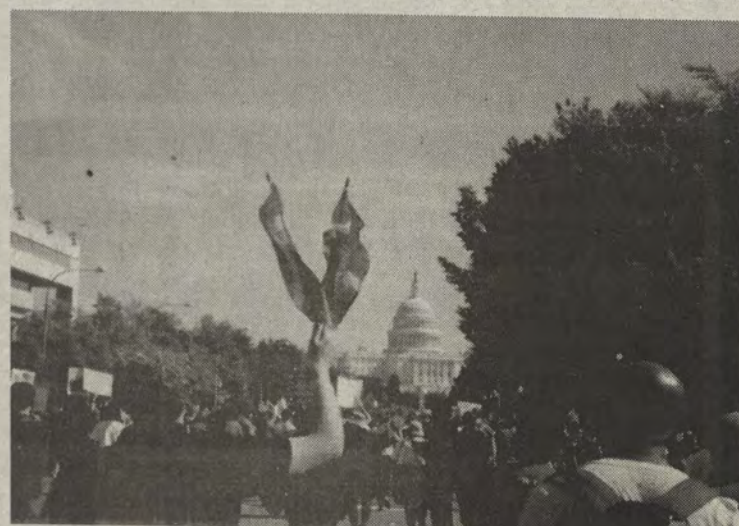
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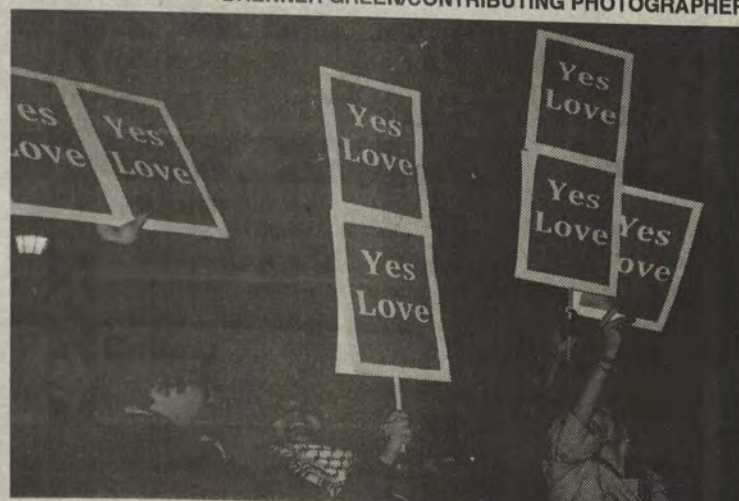
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Yes, [We Believe in] Love

Camels champion LGBTQ rights, both in Washington, D.C. and on Tempel Green



BRENNER GREEN/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER



MIHIR SHARMA/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

To Have Football or To Not Have Football at Conn: A Debate

Behind the Times: Why Conn Needs Football

NICK WOOLF
STAFF WRITER

I often see fellow Conn students roaming our campus wearing t-shirts that bear a witty slogan that reads, "Connecticut College Football: Undeclared Since 1911." Why is this shirt so clever? It is, of course, because Connecticut College has never had a football program, which makes our "team" undefeated. It also makes it winless as well.

Why have we always lacked both a football and a baseball team at the varsity level? It's largely due to Mary Harkness' wishes. When the college was founded, Harkness and her husband Edward donated large sums of money to help the school get started (a large fraction of these funds were used to build what are now Harkness Chapel and Harkness house).

Edward Harkness had inherited a fortune from his father, who was an early partner in what later became John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil. Edward and his wife Mary became philanthropists who gave money to several institutions (including Connecticut College).

However, Mary Harkness donated money to the college with certain conditions. Among these was the stipulation that Conn could have neither a football team nor a baseball team for as long as it existed. She may have had this wish because she viewed these sports as masculine ones that had no place at a school for women. The only problem here is that she did not live to see this college go co-ed.

But enough about why we don't have varsity-level football and baseball teams at Conn. Here's why we need to have them now.

It is a well-known fact that college football (and, to a lesser degree, college baseball) is popular in America. What's on every Saturday afternoon on the ESPN channels, ABC and CBS during the fall months? College football. Students and alumni tend to rally around their school's football team more than any other sport (with the possible exception of basketball). Conn would benefit from the large increase in Camel enthusiasm that a football team would generate, and I'm confident that our subsequent Fall Weekends would attract many more alumni than the current ones do. In addition, we are the only (and I mean the only) school in the NESCAC league that lacks both a football and a baseball team.

Why are we clinging to the wishes of a woman who clearly had biased notions about sports? It's now the twenty-first century, and if Harkness were alive today, I'm willing to bet she'd still be against the inclusion of these sports (not to mention the distinct possibility that she'd also want the College to return to its roots as a girls-only school). Ever since she made her donation, Conn has respected her wishes, but not without question. Is Harkness' century-old stipulation the real reason we still don't have these sports at Conn? I hope not, but I've heard no answer that refutes this question during my time here.

I understand that Conn likes to honor the wishes of all of its benefactors, but I believe that adopting these sports at the varsity level would greatly benefit the College in the future. I envision a time when the campus construction goals are extended to include a beautiful new baseball diamond and shiny, yellow goalposts for an expanded Silfen Field. This is my dream. Will it ever come true? For the sake of all that is glorious about these distinctly American and collegiate sports, I hope it does.

Why Camel Football Should Remain Undefeated

SARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

It is a well-known fact that Connecticut College is the only NESCAC school that lacks an organized football team. Would the Camels actually benefit if one were established?

While the social life on campus would probably improve with the addition of a football team, the NESCAC league is so competitive that we already have many great games for students to attend.

Every Saturday, rain or shine, students, faculty and families crowd Tempel Green to cheer on the Camel soccer teams. Echoing from Harkness, the sounds of blaring horns resound across campus.

The much-anticipated field hockey, volleyball and soccer games on Fall Weekend gain considerable turnout from both current students and alumni returning to campus. If we were to have football, these teams would be overshadowed and lose the necessary recognition they deserve and currently receive.

The high energy of fan attendance does not end at the conclusion of the fall season, either. Conn has great sports teams in the winter and spring as well.

Men's hockey has greatly improved over recent years, and their games are filled with adrenaline packed hitting, pushing, and general aggressiveness. The women's team is also much accomplished after reaching the semi-finals in NESCAC playoff action last year. Dayton Arena is always packed on winter weekends with boisterous fans looking to taunt opposing teams and support their fellow Camels.

And just a short walk into the Fieldhouse brings the familiar ruckus of Connecticut College students as they egg on the men and women's basketball teams.

The spring semester, while bringing the worst weather to the Conn campus, also marks the start of lacrosse season. Much like hockey, the men's lacrosse games draw a mass of students to the hill of Silfen Field to watch opposing players get knocked to the turf.

The more finesse-oriented women's lacrosse team also receives much support from their peers as they use their speed and impressive stick skills to eliminate their competition.

Conn students do not need to rely on football as a means of satisfying their desire for rough, aggressive and high-energy sports games. Each of our sports teams is composed of talented and motivated athletes who work hard to make games worthwhile.

While Conn athletes are devoted to their sport, they also have the ability to focus on other things. Many students are two sport athletes, with some even competing in all three seasons of NESCAC athletics. Since the sport of football is so demanding and requires year-round training, football players at large universities are barely able to focus on anything besides football.

The great thing about Conn is that students can participate in multiple activities without having to exert all their energy on one particular aspect. The goal of a liberal arts education is to develop the student as a whole through academics, athletics and extracurricular activities.

Conn has been without a football team since its creation in 1911. With the multitude of other athletics available to students, the addition of a football team would only serve to take support and recognition away from other sports at Conn.



Camel Sports Update: A Look Into the Success of Conn Athletics

EMILY WEBB
STAFF WRITER

This fall the Camel sports teams have made an impact in the NESCAC across the board. With eight teams competing, there has been a large amount of sports action on campus.

Men's Cross Country

Coach Jim Butler, who is in his twenty-second season as the men's cross country coach, has had a very successful program this fall. On October 10, the Camels competed in the All-New England Championship. Sophomore Doug Wright was the top Camel runner, and came in 9th among Division III New England Schools with a time of 25:37. He was closely followed by his teammates Shawn Mulcahy '11 and Nate Lovitt '11 who finished

with times of 26:30 and 27:18 respectively. The Camels will next compete in the NESCAC Championship at Trinity College on Sunday, November 1.

Women's Cross Country

On October 10, the Connecticut College women's cross country team competed at the Walt Disney World Cross Country Classic in Orlando, Florida. Coach Ned Bishop had twelve of his runners competing in the race. Juniors Faye McKenna (20:04) and Kelsey Taylor (20:35) helped lead the team to an 8th place finish out of 35 teams. On Saturday, October 24, the women's cross country team will compete at the Wellesley College Invitational.

Field Hockey

The Connecticut College field hockey team has had a successful season thus far. On September

26, the Camels took a win over Amherst College, the team ranked 16th in the nation. Additionally, Junior Abby Hine was named NESCAC Player of the Week for the second time in her Field Hockey career. The Camels will take on the Babson College Beavers on Thursday, October 22 in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Men's and Women's Rowing

Although both men's and women's rowing participates in the majority of their competitions in the spring, the women's squad placed third of eleven teams in the Snake Regatta in Worcester, Massachusetts. For both the four and eight women regattas, the Camels found success in their season opener. On Saturday, October 17, the men and women competed at the Head of the Charles Regatta in Cambridge,

Massachusetts.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team has had a very successful season this fall. Coach Kenny Murphy, who is in his first season coaching the Connecticut College men's soccer program, has effectively led the Camels to a series of wins. Earlier this season, Junior Trevor Prophet was named NESCAC Player of the Week for his consistent contributions to the team's victories. The Camels will next play at Tufts University on Tuesday, October 20.

Women's Soccer

The Camel women's soccer team has faced a difficult season this fall. Despite several losses, the women have remained steadfast and continued to fight in each and every game. The Camels have

several winnable matches left this season including home games against Colby College on October 24 and Wesleyan University on October 30.

Women's Volleyball

The women's volleyball team has been nearly unstoppable this season winning 15 of 19 games thus far. Most recently, the Camels, in their home NESCAC Invitational, beat Middlebury College and Hamilton College 3-0, 3-0. Additionally, Freshman Rachel Schroff was named NESCAC Player of the Week after her strong performance at the Camels Invitational. Schroff has tallied the leading hitting percentage (.369) in NESCAC. The volleyball team will next compete at Salve Regina University on Thursday, October 22.

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

October 20, 2009 | Editors: Racine Oxtoby and Kris Fleming | arts@thecollegevoice.org

Cable Television: A Necessity on Campus?

STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

Every Monday last year, I participated in the Gossip Girl dash. Ignoring persuasion to "stay tuned for scenes from our next episode," I would instead spring to life, say a quick goodbye to my friends, and race down the stairs. I had 116 seconds from the ending credits to get from the fourth floor of KB to Cro for my 10 PM meeting, not that I ever counted or anything crazy like that.



Arriving a minute late and completely out of breath, I always felt a connection with those girls sneaking in behind me; we all just could not bear to leave five minutes early. This is Conn's television culture at its finest: bonding entertainment, time-eating relief and escapism in a neat one hour package.

It is this culture that the college's Information Services (IS) committee plans to study closely over the next year. With

the current cable contract expiring this summer and prices continuously rising to ridiculous heights, Conn is unable to keep up with the increases. Currently, the school is paying nearly \$130,000 to put 88 cable channels into every dorm room on campus, with costs only growing. Thus, in order to make the needed adjustments accordingly, the committee is faced with this question: what role exactly does television play in the lives on Connecticut College students?

The majority of students watch shows, not TV. With little time to spare, those with a TV cannot afford the brainless luxury of flipping through the channels to see what is on, though a good number still do so in procrastination.

"Television provides some momentary mental breaks from studying," explains sophomore Cody Charpentier, "I use it as background noise when I'm studying and a means of lulling me to sleep at night.

Normally, however, I don't have enough time in the day to turn it on."

Time seems to be a consistent problem among students when it comes to catching their favorite shows. Primetime lineups for most major channels directly clash with most club meetings and, of course, with prime homework time. Sophomore Meaghan Kelley elaborates on this dilemma.

"I follow several shows and I really try to keep up with them, but I also (usually) don't let TV come before schoolwork. If I have a lot of work to do or a meeting to attend, I (usually) won't put it off to watch TV."

In this past, this issue would have been solved with VCRs and timers, but the rise of legal streaming sites such as the ever popular Hulu over the last year provides a much simpler solution, allowing students to watch the shows they missed online. This also allows students without a TV to follow along as well, using their computer instead.

It is in this exploding trend that the IS committee hopes to find its breakthrough. A survey orchestrated last year showed that the number one concern on campus is the lack of wireless connectivity in the resident halls. While wireless itself is not really a necessity in the dorms, it is a much desired convenience. Also, installing wireless would raise the college to the level of its peers already offering the perk.

How would Conn go about doing this? Why, by paring down the cable channels, of course!

"It occurred to me that because so many students are

using alternative means to get video [besides television]," Lee

most likely to get the ax. While the committee itself has yet to

YES NETWORK

WEB.

Hisle, the College Librarian and Vice President of IS said, "would the student body want to give up cable for wireless?"

The answers seem to be mixed on that question. Many students only watch shows online out of necessity; if they could, they would much rather watch them on an actual television. Some even go as far to refuse online shows.

"I always watch TV on a TV because I just don't think the qualities the same on a computer," said sophomore Kayla Erikson, "I'm more comfortable with a real TV."

Others take the opposite stance, advocating for online programming.

"So much time is saved [watching shows online] from there being no commercials, so you waste less free time," explained sophomore Olivia Grossman, "[Plus], I don't have a TV."

Even with the bold idea of cutting cable programming, fans of Food Network and Discovery will find little reason to protest; sports channels, with their extreme pricing, are

meet to discuss these ideas, Hisle and others have already begun brainstorming. Forty percent of the \$130K sum comes from sports programming, so one suggestion is to broadcast such specialized channels as Yes and NESN in designated common rooms only. Fans then of the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox would gather in these spaces to cheer together, and those with no interest would be spared the monumental cost of such networks.

"Why should non-fans be paying for Yankees and Red Sox games they aren't even interested in?" explained Hisle, "It is our job then to figure out who even is interested."

However, with all these possibilities floating around, Hisle feels the need to remind us of one thing.

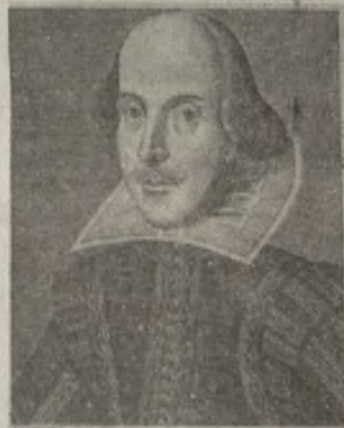
"Nothing has been decided," he stressed, "It's currently all just conversation and ideas. Before we make a final decision, we definitely will share our notions with the student body and SGA."

The Tempest

A Connecticut College Reimagining of Shakespeare

KRIS FLEMING
ARTS EDITOR

The stage is set...almost. Tape marking positions are on the floor, a prop mat to soften falls and no defined set. A trunk full of props is resting visibly to the side, and cast



WEB.

members are littered across the front of the stage as a mock audience.

Brian Jennings is the man calling the shots, and he has some interesting tactics when governing his performers. One moment he is giving whistling lessons to an actress, the next he is making two actors lie on top of each other to measure for cloth - giggling ensues. It is a common noise on the stage, as Brian does his best to provide a comedic yet wise presence to a stressful environment. He is a man of dedication who knows exactly what he wants to do, and that is to unveil his adaptation of *The Tempest*.

The Tempest, as some know, is a play written by William

Shakespeare that garnered more popularity as it aged. The play follows the character Prospero, the rightful Duke of Milan, as he (or she, in this version's case) is stuck on an island with a collection of misfits and scoundrels.

In the spirit of modernity, Brian updated the play for his audience. Jokes involving recent topics such as swine flu (which Brian himself wondered if it was "too soon") are present in this new version, and the play itself is set a few hundred years after it was originally written and performed.

Racine Oxtoby, an actress who plays three different characters in *The Tempest*, told how the idea first came to Brian; "It started as a workshop while he was practicing theater in Cape Verde, so the play features a lot of Cape Verdian elements, from dance, song and language. It's incredibly experimental and different from how people usually think of Shakespeare." She continued, "[w]e had to watch a very long gun safety video together, since the play features firearms."

Guns in Shakespeare? An interesting idea to say the least.

Oxtoby also makes mention of the costume design, praising Sabrina Notofranciso's work. "Sabrina's innovation with the costumes is amazing - my chest plate is actually made out of a placemat." It appears that Brian is not the only one expressing a creative mind in this production.

Madeleine Baldwin, as the

drunken Stephano, talked at length about how the group came together to overcome rehearsal-phase obstacles, saying "We did a lot of physical work early on in the rehearsals to establish trust and a group identity. It was interesting incorporating voice, movement, sound and emotion into these exercises and eventually we evolved from being onstage as a group of individuals to working as a unit. Getting to where we are now involved a lot of abstract exercises that are proving very useful when onstage now, I never could have predicted it before. It's almost spiritual."

All thanks to Brian's expert directing.

"Brian is a fantastic director," Baldwin said. "He incorporates voice, body and soul into every stage picture. He views a play as encompassing more than walking where you're supposed to and saying your lines, it's the whole experience that matters. I really loved working with him, he's definitely helped me grow as an actor."

Oxtoby agreed, "[o]ur director is awesome. The play is completely his brainchild."

With this much hard work behind it, you can expect *The Tempest* to be a unique and mystifying performance. It opens this upcoming weekend Thursday to Sunday (Thurs. and Fri. at 8 PM, Sat. at 2 PM and 8 PM, and Sun. at 2 PM) and will be performed in the Tansil Theater.

The Discerning Aesthetes

DAVIS MCGRAW
DAVE ALFONSO
STAFF WRITERS

In our continuing mission to bring to the attention of the Connecticut College Community the finest in leisurely diversions we have chosen for this week's installment to shine a critical eye on an old taste treat that is currently being rediscovered as a distinctive and zesty flavor: Long playing 33rpm vinyl records.

Sound Quality: Davis' vinyl long player of choice is Van Morrison's 1970 classic "Moondance." Here we find the Irish soul rebel at home in a tight-yet earthy studio ambience. The selection of eclectic jazz-folk tunes on this release run the gamut from recognizable hits like "It Stoned Me" and the title track to the quirky "Everyone," which you discerning cinephiles might recognize from former favorite Wes Anderson's anti-classic *The Royal Tenenbaums*. The sound quality is vintage. It is also perfect.

Dave's record of choice is "That is my opinion and it's very true," Spontaneous, in-the-cab recordings of the New York Taxi Driver as recorded by Tony Schwartz" (circa 1960). Schwartz brilliantly utilizes the lap sized, battery operated Magnemite tape recorder, allowing the listener to hear not only the folk wisdom of these noble charioteers, but also, earthy charm of the New York City streets pre-Giuliani.

EDGE: Van Morrison, by a hair.

Scene Cred: Van Morrison is

not street. You dad listens to Van Morrison when he reads Anne Coulter, and you can find this LP in just about any thrift store. Though it undoubtedly makes your Top 100 Records of the 1970's list, having it in your collection is unlikely to get you laid by any trim young thing in a sliced up tank-top.

As for the scene cred of "That's my opinion and it's very true..." let's put it this way: We think Dave has the only existing copy of this vinyl record. Tom Waits hasn't even heard it, and he'd love it.

EDGE: "That's my opinion and it's very true."

Realism: "Moondance" is a must-own for the 70's rock listener and it does, admittedly, feature an array of acoustic, 'real' instruments (NO SYNTHS!). Unfortunately, being a studio recording, "Moondance" features vocal overdubs and post-production flourishes that cannot be reproduced by even the most talented Irishman.

"That's my Opinion and it's very true..." truthfully and uncompromisingly sheds a spotlight on the cutthroat lives of New York City's blue-collar philosophers; this is my opinion and it is true.

EDGE: Fuggedaboutit! That's all for now, all you ruffians. Next week we'll be going to the theater (yes, we've washed our black tuxes cleaned and pressed) to take in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Cats" and an assortment of live sex acts from the red light district of merry old Amsterdam. Gutten tag!

Sendak for Sale

A Review of *Where The Wild Things Are*

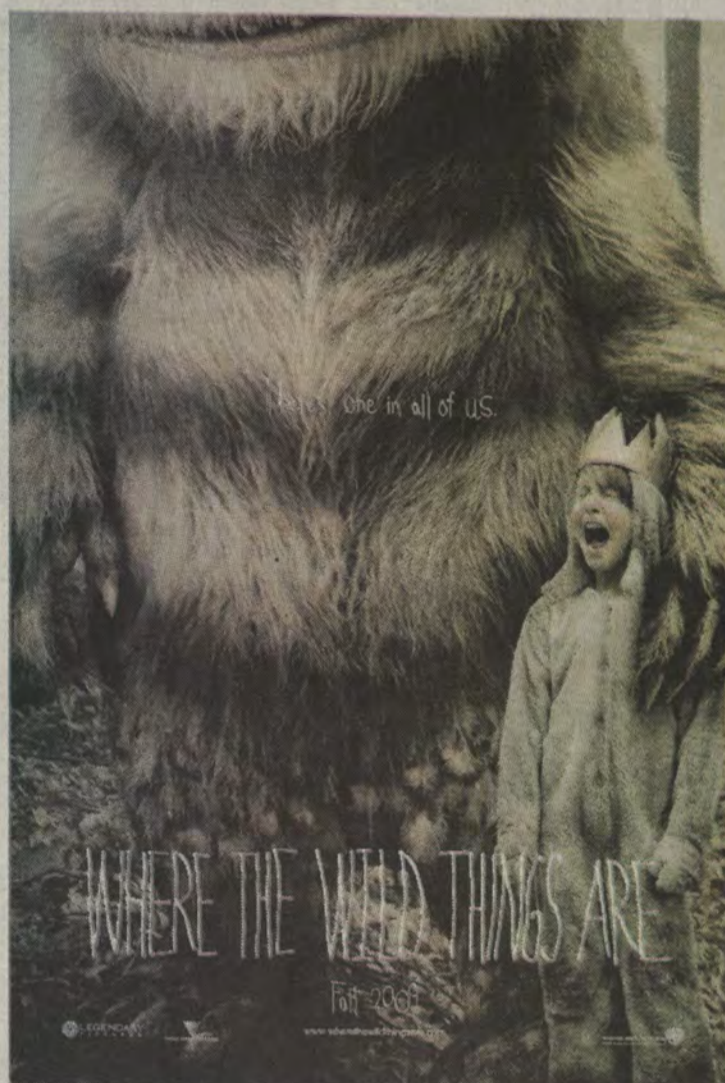
DAVID WATTS
STAFF WRITER

The ideal state in which to enjoy *Where The Wild Things Are* is one of total obliviousness, with regard to its production background and major personnel. If you'd awoken one morning after four months without TV or Internet and then headed straight to the multiplex, you'd be in for a treat.

Start to finish, the film is sumptuously colored, delicately shot and expertly paced. As always, director Spike Jonze nails the realm of living imagination, and the film's best parts stem from his unflinching visual intuitions about plumbing the subconscious for unsettled beauty. If the movie had just dropped serendipitously from the sky, a haunting and fantastical childhood psychodrama played out in furry costumes and shining idylls, it'd be way easier to stomach.

Unfortunately, Warner Brothers, obviously terrified of its own hyper-expensive risk baby, has been so totally hell-bent on bringing you "Behind the Scenes" and "Closer to the Magic" - via its massive year-long cross-promoted web and TV campaign - that once you're actually there in the theater, 24 hours within its release, all of the film's slick commercial anachronisms are virtually impossible to ignore.

Never mind what expectations you might have drawn from the classic mid-sixties children's book that lends the film its name, main characters, and rough-hewn visual ID. WTWTA makes it clear



from the first monster tantrum scene that it's going to take Maurice Sendak's quiet psychoanalytic allusions, mine them dry and then position them front-and-center as the driving force behind the admittedly masterful monster suits and puppetry-play.

And no matter how fantastically sumptuous the F/X is, the original adaptation by Dave Eggers overtakes you with its characteristically soul-baring/teeth-gnashing script, never

letting you forget that boyhood psychodrama is the main course. Not that all this heady Freudian stuff ends up lending itself to any nuanced exploration; Eggers gives the monsters voice to speak only to cast them all as tottering, bemused refractions of his precociously misunderstood nine-year-old protagonist.

Eggers' plot, by the way, is propelled by the primary relationship between implausible wunderkind Max Records and

the comically miscast James Gandolfini, so inescapably famous for playing tough-loving, paternalistic Mafioso Tony Soprano that his depiction of the tough-loving, paternalistic monster Carol never escapes the clutches of his own show-intensive New Jersey-bred voice, as if at any second he's going to bellow out "CARMEL-LAAAA" by accident.

Meanwhile Forest Whitaker's dulcet tones are reserved to maybe five lines total, as if he were saving his voice for a more worthwhile production.

But the film's most tragic betrayal is dealt by Jonze himself. Whereas *Being John Malkovich* and *Adaptation* leant him the luxury of approaching real, uneven, queasy sadness head-on, WTWTA's mixture of fantastic material and corporate kid-focused mandate seem to have caught Jonze off-guard, and he readily loses his characters' humanity in a soft-focus Karen O flurry.

Enter here the director's highly publicized toils with Warner Bros. over the tenor of the film (guess who thought it wasn't kid-friendly enough?). Although these contretemps were supposedly resolved in his favor, whatever concessions were made to either side have resulted in an irresolvable mess.

On the one hand, the film is populated by depressive, endlessly frustrated pre-pubescent, abrasively shot and unsettlingly lit - read: not for kids. On the other hand, all of these taut anxieties get glossed over in favor of aggressive moral-shoving and simplistic

plot movements, almost like a movie for adults imitating a movie for children. The cuteness is terminally cute, the sadness overwhelmingly meaningful.

Ultimately, what makes WTWTA close to unbearable is the way in which it unabashedly crams what might have been poignant commentary on the travails of boyhood into a deftly calibrated pop culture package.

Twenty minutes in, the film's careful pacing unravels neatly as nothing more than the set of intervals between one Karen O song and another. Two-thirds in and you could pretty much cue up the track changes yourself.

It's as if Eggers's script had gone and made a mess of unkempt anxiety, and Jonze, faced with the very real prospect of WB's falling axe, had to make certain the whole project stayed solvent. For Jonze, creative director of VBS.tv, Vice Magazine's web media organ, the answer was clear: layer on the personal branding, boost the marketability index and bring in your ex-girlfriend to do the soundtrack.

If only these gleaming meme-ready parts summed to a better whole. More so than a masterpiece of fantastic innovation, *Where The Wild Things Are* seems vivid proof that your great blog, great soundtrack, great voice actors and great interactive marketing team do not entail in a great movie. If anything, all they've done is cheapen and confuse it.

An Education

Teaches the Hard Facts About Love

RACINE OXTOBY
ARTS EDITOR

Being a seventeen-year-old girl is never easy. The pressures of getting accepted to the right college are always looming overhead. Boys are always on the mind, as is the looming concept of womanhood. It's the time when the real lessons - not math or science, but growing up and maturing - are taught, whether we all like them to or not.

In *An Education*, our young protagonist, Jenny Miller (played by newcomer Carey Mulligan), must deal with suburban London in the early 1960's, her stuffy private school and her overbearing parents, played to hilarious effect by Alfred Molina and Cara Seymour. Her academic goal is acceptance into Oxford, but she rebels against the social norm by sneaking cigarettes, listening to French music and dreaming of traveling the world.

Her dreams seem to come true when she encounters handsome and dashing David (Peter Sarsgaard) while waiting for a bus in a rainstorm. Claiming to be a music lover, David proposes that she load her cello into the back of his car while she walks alongside. The scene is hilarious and awkward, an adorable meet-cute situation that blooms into a devastating relationship.

David is everything Jenny wants (money, freedom and fun) and everything society wants to keep away from her (he's nearly twice her age and a Jew). He brings her to art auctions and concerts and Paris, but there is a devious

mystery to the man - he lies to her parents to get her to come with him on his trips and seems to have hidden agendas at every turn.

His friends Danny and Helen (Dominic Cooper and Rosamund Pike) are elegant and wealthy, but clearly know more than Jenny does. Her parents are just as swept away by David as Jenny is, but her kind schoolteacher (Olivia Williams) and stern headmistress (Emma Thompson) try to reel her back to reality and usher her off to Oxford and a respectable existence.

The movie offers plenty of humor - Molina is especially funny and lovable as a father stressed by the expenses of tuition, and Pike's Helen is a delightful airhead - but there is a constant uneasiness floating with every frame. Sarsgaard's David is charming and cool (and can pull off a yummy British accent), yet his exit in the finale is not entirely out of character.

The real gem here is Mulligan, previously known to American audiences as a younger sister in *Pride and Prejudice* and in the popular *Doctor Who* episode "Blink." We rejoice with Jenny when she finally gets to go to Paris and we feel her hurt and confusion with every lie and betrayal David and his friends force upon her. She's a wonder of an actress and is cute as a button.

An Education's only real fault seems to lie with the ending, which I perceived as too tidy. The rest of the movie is a treat of a learning experience, as we watch Jenny's sudden transformation from a naive schoolgirl into a wise young woman.

Chester's Barbecue

DEVIN COHEN
STAFF WRITER

Open three years and counting, Chester's Barbecue is widely regarded as having some of the best BBQ in the Northeast.

The twin restaurants in New London and Groton have been the recipients of several prestigious awards including one of the ten top BBQ spots in New England.

As I entered Chester's to put its name to the test, I found it hard to believe I was in the Northeast at all, as the sweet aroma of the smoker wafted toward the entryway.

Polished wood booths comprise the seating of Chester's, which line walls covered in old Americana with a barbecue theme. John Fogerty (of Creedence Clearwater Revival fame) was playing at an optimal dining level for the duration of my stay, completing what I would call an excellent ambiance to chow down on BBQ.

Upon talking to the assistant chef (as Chester himself was gone for the day), I was informed that fruitwood was the wood of choice used for smoking. This small fact highly elevated my anticipation for the meal, as fruitwood is not often used by chefs because of its understated smoky flavor.

While waiting for the food, our generous assistant chef brought out a taste of his smoked corned beef - a rendition of corned beef that I had never seen before. The coloration of the corn beef was incredible, glistening red although fully cooked through, making it a feast for both the eyes and the taste buds. Tender and rich in smoky flavor, the corned beef was an excellent slice of meat. Although it isn't on the menu, you should defi-

nitely ask the chef for a sample.

Smoked over fruitwood for fifteen hours at 180 degrees, the consistency of Chester's brisket can be described as "melt in your mouth," and the

on the sandwich to emphasize its Carolina heritage, was overpowering, detracting from the sandwich as a whole by masking all other flavors.

On the other hand, Chester's



New London location. Web.

most tender meat I have had in recent memory.

The flavor produced by fruitwood smoking is much more subtle than that of a hickory smoke or mesquite smoke and those expecting an intense smoky flavor might be overwhelmed by the brisket, which has a light, mellow smoky taste.

This same subtle smoky taste can be found in the baby back ribs. Heavily peppered, the ribs themselves were almost too light in smoky flavor and the crisping that took effect on the skin of the ribs slightly detracted from the moisture stored inside, making the ribs less succulent than I had hoped for.

The pulled pork sandwich was another example of a dish that had a smokiness that was slightly too understated.

Even though the meat undeniably possesses smokiness when taken off the sandwich, the deluge of vinegar, placed

two BBQ sauces were exemplary displays of two distinct Carolina regions. The mustard based South Carolina sauce was a joy, enhancing the dynamic of each prepared meat, as was the northern tomato based sauce.

All must try Chester's Texas Style baked beans. Made from scratch, the perfectly spiced version of a classic BBQ side dish will make you never want lay eye on a can of Bush's baked beans again.

Chester's might not be the best BBQ I've ever had, but food is of good quality. With an ambiance and general attitude that emphasize sociable Southern hospitality, you won't walk out of Chester's disappointed.

Groton Location: 943 Poquonnock Rd. / Open daily 11-9 / 860-449-6868

New London Location: 549 Bank Street / Open Tue-Sat 11-7, Sun 12-6 / 860-447-1406

SPORTS

October 20, 2009 | Editors: Sarah Haughey and Mike Flint | sports@thecollegevoice.org

Freshman Rachel Schroff Named NESCAC Volleyball Player of the Week

Connecticut College Volleyball Gains Recognition After Successful Week

SAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

After an impressive week-end in which the volleyball team took two out of three matches and improved their overall record to 14-4, freshman Rachel Schroff was named the NESCAC volleyball player of the week. In the three-game stretch over October 9-10, Schroff recorded eight kills and seven blocks in a 3-0 win over Middlebury College and an additional eleven kills against Williams College. Connecticut College also defeated Hamilton College in another 3-0 sweep.

Schroff leads the NESCAC in hitting percentage with a .369 hitting percentage and is a major reason why Conn, ranked fourth in the NESCAC, leads the league in that category. / The College Voice/ interviewed Rachel this week to get the lowdown on her introduction to the sport and how her first year on the volleyball team is going.

VOICE: How long have you been playing volleyball?

SCHROFF: I have been playing volleyball since I was ten years old.

VOICE: What drew you to Connecticut College?

SCHROFF: Josh Edmed the head volleyball coach contacted me. I had never heard

of Conn but was interested in going to the East Coast, so I looked into it. I stayed overnight with one of the girls on the team and really liked the school and the volleyball program. I actually ended up applying ED 1.

VOICE: What are your short and long term goals at Conn, both academically and athletically?

SCHROFF: Athletically, I hope to continue to improve each year and ultimately make it to the NESCAC finals. Academically, I am thinking of majoring in psychology and would love to work with children. I also want to travel abroad my junior year.

VOICE: Who are your biggest role models in the sport of volleyball?

SCHROFF: My mom is a big role model for me. She has always been there to support and encourage me. She also played volleyball in college, so it has always been a dream of mine to follow in her footsteps.

VOICE: When you are not playing volleyball, what are your other interests?

SCHROFF: Being outdoors, hanging out with friends.

VOICE: What is the most important thing you've learned from playing volleyball?

SCHROFF: Teamwork. There is no star in volleyball, everyone has to work together and every person on the team is vital for success.

VOICE: What is the best thing about being on the team so far?

SCHROFF: My teammates. We are like a family; everyone is really supportive and encouraging. It is a great group of girls and we all get along really well, which I think shows on the court.

VOICE: What has been your biggest accomplishment so far in your volleyball career?

SCHROFF: My biggest accomplishment is receiving athlete of the year from my high school for my four years playing volleyball. It was an honor and an unexpected surprise.

The volleyball team recorded another 3-0 home win on October 13 against Eastern Connecticut State University. The team will then travel to Trinity College on October 16-17 to square off against both Amherst College and Trinity College before returning home on October 22 for a match against Salve Regina.

Congratulations again to Rachel and good luck to the volleyball team as they continue their great season and begin looking ahead to postseason play.



JOHN NAREWSKI

Schroff spikes the ball during a successful match last week.

Weekend on the Charles River

Camel Rowing Competes in Head of the Charles



Crew members who did not race on Saturday still attended the regatta to cheer on their teammates.



Women's Crew racing in the Head of the Charles.

MIKE FLINT
SPORTS EDITOR

This past weekend five Conn students, Robin Ly '11, Jess Truelove '11, Lesley Gaughan '12, Alex Hielman '12 and Abbe Schickner '12, competed in the Head of the Charles, the largest two-day rowing event in the world.

The Head of the Charles takes place on the Charles River in Boston. The event was first started in 1965 by the Cambridge Boat Club, and over the past 45 years has grown into quite a spectacle.

Today, the Head of Charles hosts approximately 7,500 athletes from around the world for 55 different racing events. It is estimated that about 300,000 spectators attended the Regatta over the weekend, more than four times the amount of people who attended the Patriots game last Sunday.

The Camels qualified for the event at last Fall's Head of the Charles when they finished 6th out of 32 boats in their race. As a result, Conn received an automatic bid to participate in the same event in 2010.

Before their race on Saturday, Head Coach Eva Kovach commented about the importance of the women's four doing well so that they could come back in 2010.

"The women are there to race and, hopefully, earn another guaranteed entry for 2010," Kovach said. "This tradition was started in 2007 with the women's four that placed 14th in a field of 32. Last year

the crew placed 6th. Each crew that races is essentially racing for our future spot at the regatta."

And Kovach felt as though a lot of the crew's success rested on the performance of Robin Ly, the Camels' coxswain.

"Some call this regatta a 'coxswain's regatta,' because the course consists of some major turns where having a great boat driver really helps. I have a lot of confidence in our coxswain, Robin Ly. I am sure she will enjoy the challenge of coxing this course."

Ly and the Camels took to the water on Saturday afternoon. In a field of 29 boats, Conn would have to finish 18th or better in their race in order to receive an automatic bid for 2010.

The Camels finished in 10th place, just seconds behind Worcester Polytechnical Institute (9th) and Oklahoma City University (8th).

Trinity College won the race, clocking in at 19:15.668. Dowling College, the University of Chicago, Marquette, Texas, Georgia Tech and Kansas University all rounded out the top 7. Along with WPI and Oklahoma City, those crews should receive automatic bids for 2010.

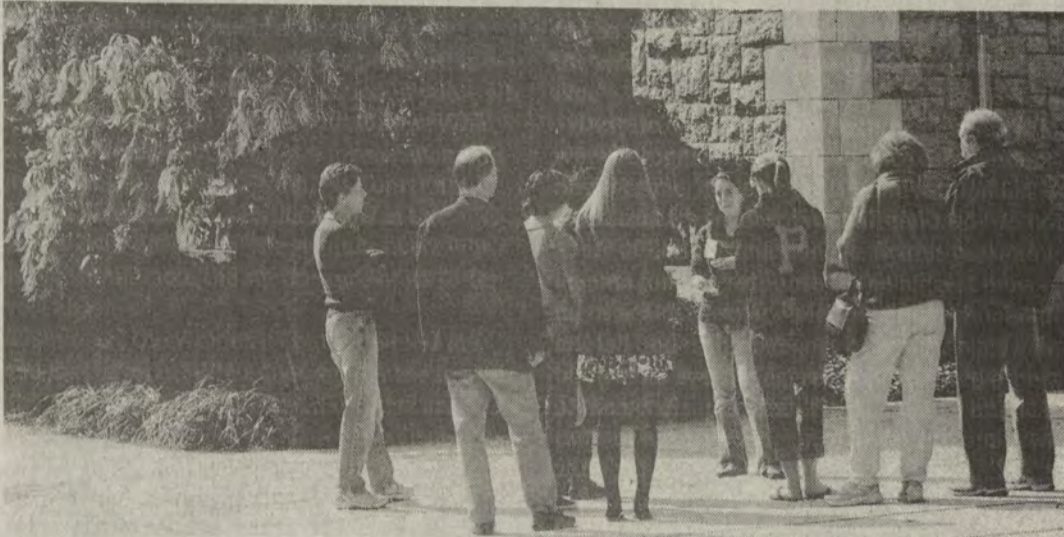
Simmons, Vassar, Bowdoin, Willamette University, Wellesley, the University of St. Thomas, Wheaton and Skidmore qualified for next year as well.

OPINIONS

October 20, 2009 | Editor: Alfred DeGemmis | opinions@thecollegevoice.org

Face of One, Voice of Many

Do Conn's Tour Guides Represent You?



NEVENA DELIGINEVA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

I'm it. I'm "that girl." After seventeen years of cold and otherwise unfriendly activity (don't ask what I did to my parents upon seeing them for the first time), working in the Admissions Office has turned me into a sunny, smiling, door-opening, direction-giving girl who is willing to help any family find their way to nearest dining hall before their 1:30 interview.

It's frightening. This practice is perpetuated by no other reason than the life of a professional Tour Guide (capitals necessary), or, as one grandiloquent caller put it, "Admissions Ambassador". Jazmine Hughes is my name, walking backwards is my game. Please silence your cellphone, be sure to use the facilities before exiting the Admissions Office, and prepare yourself for my speech on the wonders of co-ed bathrooms. Mind the skunks.

Tour guiding is hugely gratifying; there is no doubt about it. Being a family's initial idea of what Connecticut College is like is both terrifying (we don't

all talk as quickly as I do) and powerful (...although I have the power to make people believe that), and there is no better feeling than knowing that you somehow influenced a prospective student to come to Connecticut College with your beloved albeit recycled jokes, winning smile, and heaps of knowledge.

There is nothing worse, however, than knowing that they came, or were highly attracted, to Conn for reasons that weren't necessarily true.

All tour guides are well trained on how to give proper tours, and the Admission office works tirelessly to keep us updated on any changes to the infrastructure of a Connecticut College education, be it in the academic, athletic, residential or extracurricular realm. We are also told when we do things wrong. Often. This causes me, and several other students, to think: are tours truly representative of Conn?

Tour guides are, essentially, backwards-walkin', fast-talkin', path-blockin' salesmen, without the creepy mustaches. We are coached extensively on what to

say, where to go, how to answer touchy questions; yet, almost equally, we are told what NOT to say, where to NEVER go, the questions to which our sudden amnesia should kick in.

Clearly, this careful planning is all a result of Admissions efforts to make the school look as appealing as possible. By avoiding Lazarus, Warnshuis, the reputation of "the dirty South/ Connecticut College Annex", the bros, the black people table and the dangerous relationship between alcohol and the class of 2012, however, are we protecting or misleading prospective students and their families?

It is nearly impossible to delineate the boundary between being polite and being real, yet there is no one to blame for such a difficult distinction. It may seem wrong to leave a wealth of unappealing, yet true, information out of a tour or a discussion to parents.

At the end of the day, however, we are a college; an imperfect institution, ready to remedy our flaws, but remaining logical. We can't fix everything overnight.

What Does Gender Mean?

"What does gender mean at Conn?" A few weeks ago you might have gotten a postcard in your mailbox asking you this question. If you didn't stop to respond, think about it now: What does gender mean at Conn? At a former women's college with a brand new Women's Center, the matter of gender and its implications in our everyday lives goes surprisingly unnoticed: Perhaps we should note the significance of its (often literal) absence.

This month, the Women's Center opened the theme for the year, "What does gender mean at Conn?" with an art installation. The postcards prompted students to write, draw or collage on the blank side to express their thoughts and experiences in response to this question. These decorated postcards were attached to a cloth banner hung in Cro as a space for the Connecticut College community to engage in a discussion about the different ways gender is experienced on our campus. The project was put together by students from the Women's Center, excited to have an open-ended and creative project to offer the college community.

And yet, the morning after the banner had been installed we discovered it stolen. What was intended to be an art installation unintentionally became performance art: these misogynistic vandals and thieves summarily demonstrated the silencing and hostility to which women are subject on this campus.

Last year, shortly after the uproar of Lobstergate and the far-reaching discussions of race and class that it prompted, (was gender even mentioned? did we note the elitist *male* implications of the stunt?) another event occurred that received no recognition. A group of male students were witnessed tearing down a cloth banner advertising last year's Take Back the Night march, a banner that simply read "Take a stand against sexual violence!"

The group tore it so forcefully that it shred the material; was it so deeply objectionable for women on this campus to publicly stake claim to their own personal safety that it needed to be silenced?

Moreover, when this incident was taken to the administration there was weak debate as to whether this act constituted a "bias incident" on

the basis of gender. Ultimately, it was shelved in the safely uncontroversial category of "vandalism."

Despite decades of international human rights work recognizing sexual violence as a gender-based crime, it seems the administration has decided that these international standards do not apply at Connecticut College. By this reasoning, an antagonistic response to the biggest movement against sexual violence at our school did not fall under the category of gender bias. In the blink of an eye, the aggressive gendered aspect of the act disappeared. This incident's implications of harm and violence towards women were simply dismissed.

So what do we say on a campus where the implications of gender go unremarked? Where asking the community to notice the way gender works in the world around us is in itself so controversial that it cannot be tolerated? Where publicly decrying sexual violence is met with hostility? Where threats to women's safety are kept quiet, disempowering women to protect themselves? Where (in the very prominent *College Voice* article, "Safety Concerns on Campus") one administrator treats the harm that comes to women on our college campus as a "not terribly unusual" occurrence, that violence against women is an unfortunate "tendency" at "colleges with lots of women?" That "it happens" and is therefore insignificant?

In so many ways we have grown complacent, and things that should inspire outrage in us we treat as simply unremarkable. So when it is asked what gender means at Conn, why should we let the matter quietly disappear? It is imperative that we, as individuals and as a community, stand up for our beliefs and ensure the safety and empowerment of the unacknowledged. Do you understand that it is some of those on this campus - your classmates, your roommates, your neighbors - who are targeted while others among us perpetuate the hostility?

Will you think about gender now?

- Angelica Sgouros, Elizabeth Holland, Danielle Murphy, Matthew Mitchell, Samantha Herndon, Cristina Moreno, Susan Reed, Emily Wilcox

Larrabee's Peeping Tom

The Inconsistency of Conn's Emergency Reporting System

SAMMI BRACKETT
CONTRIBUTOR

It was the last day of finals of my first semester of freshman year, and I found myself trudging back to Larrabee after a five hour chemistry exam in Hale. Exhausted and in a less than delightful mood, I yearned to escape from the cold weather and jump into a hot relaxing shower. I made my way into my room on the fourth floor of Larrabee, an all-girls floor - but although relieved to finally be in the shower and done with finals, I was quite uneasy. Over the last few weeks before finals, a Peeping Tom had been spotted twice in the fourth floor bathroom. The man attempted to spy on girls in the shower by looking underneath the stall doors.

He avoided capture both times by darting out of the bathroom and dorm when caught in the act. The incidents were reported to Campus Safety, but the administration never informed the student body, or even the fourth floor girls, of the situation.

I only knew of the incident because one of my roommates caught the man trying to peep on another girl. Therefore, I kept the curtain open enough so I could see the floor outside of the shower stall. I knew I was alone in the bathroom and there were few students left on our floor. About two minutes into my shower, mid-shampoo phase, I heard the bathroom door close. That door, leading into the hallway, was always left open and I found it strange that someone would close it. I looked out of the gap in the curtain and saw a man's bare feet standing in front of my shower door. I froze. I proceeded to watch as the man's hairy arm rested itself on the floor as he tried to look at me. I was peeping at the Peeping Tom!

Scared and angry, I yelled at him and he ran towards the other shower stalls. I immediately put on a towel and bolted out of the shower, suds and all. I ran into the room of a student advisor on my floor. Barely able to force the words from my mouth, I told her that the Peeping Tom was in the bathroom. Two other girls were in the room with her; a fellow student advisor on the fourth floor of Larrabee, and a sophomore friend.

The four of us went outside the bathroom and realized that the man was still inside. Within seconds, the girls called campus safety and devised a plan to barricade the b----- in. We dragged a metal bed frame from the hallway and placed it over the door to prevent him from escaping. As we waited for Campus Safety to arrive, we stood guard, preparing for the man to break out of our blockade.

One student advisor found an ice scraper in her room and

was ready for action.

Within a matter of minutes, Campus Safety arrived. They searched the bathroom and finally found the man hiding in a shower stall. They pulled the man out into the hallway. The man was a college-aged guy, wearing nothing but his boxers. How lovely. He glanced at the officers, the sophomore girls, the ice scraper, the soapy girl in the towel, and he was off!

Like a scene from COPS, the man hurdled himself down the back stairway with Campus Safety on his tail. We sprinted the other way, in hopes of catching him if he came from another direction. Fortunately, Campus Safety tackled the man on the stairs. We found him pinned to the ground with a leg on his neck to keep him down. Campus Safety called the police, who were on the scene quickly. After police handcuffed the man, I identified him and gave a statement about what happened.

At no point in the entirety of the incidents, from the first spying attempt to the man's arrest, did any member of the administration attempt to inform or educate the student body about the circumstances. We have the right to know of any situation that could potentially have an impact on our safety. Some students on our floor weren't even aware of the initial incidents. I was lucky in the fact that I knew about the man and looked out for him. The situation may have ended differently if I hadn't known to watch out for him.

In response to a couple of disappointed emails, the administration stated that the student body was not informed because it was the end of finals week and few students were on campus. Regardless of whether or not there is one student left on campus, it is the responsibility of the administration to ensure our safety. I was outraged by the way in which they handled the situation.

As for Campus Safety, their quick response and diligence allowed the man to be caught and taken into custody. They did an outstanding job that night.

Perhaps what I am most frustrated about is the lack of praise for the sophomore girls who helped me that night. They deserve to be recognized for their intelligence, incredible courage and compassion. If the college will not thank them, then I certainly will.

Through the drama and chaos, I distinctly remember the last moment of that night. As the Peeping Tom was taken away by the New London Police, he asked if he could put on pants. The officer holding him turned, looked at him quizzically, and replied, "if you came without pants, you're leaving without pants." And off he went.

Want to get involved?

opinions@thecollegevoice.org

Meetings Mondays at 10 PM in Cro 224

Let Us Not Suppress the Orgasm

STEVEN BLOOM
COLUMNIST

We all enjoy having that special time with that special someone, but there needs to be a compromise. When the clock strikes quiet hours it's time to lower the music and turn up the respect. We can all think of a time when we're in the library until the bell at 2 AM. We aren't quite ready for bed so we call a girlfriend or a boyfriend or a lovebird or a friend to help us pass the time. We end up over the covers, then under. Little do we acknowledge those students who have been in bed long before quiet hours even began. Everyone knows the only thing worse than being woken by an alarm clock is when wails and whines, grumbles and groans are bellowing from their neighbor's rooms.

There needs to be a compromise. If someone somewhere, on a rainy Saturday, ends with a partner in their room, let them go at it. I want there to be an end to the chiding of one another with sidelong morning glances. Let the oversexed let loose; no need for knowing looks or patronizing back-pats, which might just be the worst.

At our NESCAC-sister school, Tufts University, a policy has been enforced that calls for an end to 'sexling': "You may not engage in sexual activity while your roommate is present in the room. Any sexual activity within your assigned room should not

ever deprive your roommate(s) of privacy, study or sleep time." An administrative charter would never be necessary if those in practice would have practiced respect. In a note to our freshman and a selective group of sophomores: understand and meet each other's needs.

In a recent study of twenty or so Harris diners, all interrupted while enjoying conversations over wraps and souvlaki, it was unanimously decided that it is difficult to keep from blushing when they cross paths with an oft-midnight-roarer. But, it was also noted that they themselves feel embarrassed when "doing the deed" a bit too thunderously.

In an ideal situation, if alone with their partner in an elevated cabin in the middle of the woods, these diners would love to have the loudest sex of their lives. On a scale of 1 (quiet sex) to 10 ("screaming contest" sex), 16/20 chose a 10 or 11. In our current situation, most often in a dorm room amidst others, the most popular number proved to be 4. Some link the difference to embarrassment, while others say they restrain their volume out of nerves.

I hope in the future we can compromise. No more judging when the honess roars next door when the time is right. In exchange, when it's lights out for our studious ones, bring pillow to face and keep quiet to your cries.

The Camel's Better Judgment

DONALD BUDGE
COLUMNIST

I'd like to try something new in this article. Loyal readers and fans know that I'm not afraid to voice my opinion on the hard hitting issues of Connecticut College, but I've always done so by telling people what they need to hear. This time around I'd like you to ask me what you need to hear in a new advice column to help my fellow students follow the honor code, or find out where they can park without getting a friendly twenty dollar reminder from campus safety.

Over the past few weeks I've noticed that a new sex column entitled "The Camel's Hump" has appeared in *The College Voice* (pick up a copy for you and your friend today!). While any advice on the complex issue of sexuality is greatly appreciated, I feel that the column doesn't represent a majority of student's perspectives and questions. I think I can safely speak for the student body that sex has its time and place, and that time is after marriage.

In my new section I would like to have a respectful and tasteful Q&A of how to best practice Abstinence. Naturally all names will be changed to protect the identities of students who sent in questions.

"Stewart Smith" writes in:

Dear Donald,
Drunk girls want to have sex with me. What should I do?

Excellent question, Stew. First off, you shouldn't ever be in a compromising situation where you or a female colleague has consumed alcohol, as alcohol

only leads to sin. But if by some misfortune you do happen to stumble upon an intoxicated woman, then there is only one option. I think my close personal friend Michael Jackson said it best: "Just beat it, beat it." Beat it out of there that is. If you see a tippy seductress coming your way then head for the hills. Don't let these situations ruin your chance for marital bliss.

"Lisa Hart" writes in:

Dear Donald,
Some of my friends told me that all the cool kids are having sex. Is this true?

No. These types of ideas are lies spread by glitzy magazines like *Cosmo* or *Lucky*. In a recent survey I just conducted, one hundred percent of the people polled disagree with this statement. Not only is pre-marital sex not "cool," but it makes regular hard-working Americans like you pay more money on your taxes while increasing government spending. Did you know that for every one dollar the government spends on abstinence education, twelve dollars are being spent to promote contraceptives? I didn't know either until I Googled "abstinence education." Needless to say, these "cool kids" we've heard so much about are definitely not having sex, but are saving themselves for that special someone.

I hope that these answers help you navigate the dangerous and tricky world of sex. If you have any questions on abstinence or the constant moral peril that is college life, feel free to e-mail me at dbudge@conncoll.edu.

Unnecessarily Provocative, Eh...?

W.K. MOTA
COLUMNIST

In his article "Relax!", Riordan Frost attempts to debunk my contention that the last *Harry Potter* film is racist, sexist and homophobic. I would like to show that while the arguments offered by Frost are at times emotively commonsensical, the logic and reasoning behind them are both philosophically unsound and socially destructive.

Firstly, I would like to start by juxtaposing our titles.

Frost's title, "Relax!" presupposes that because I am critical about the mundane experiences in my life (say, watching a *Harry Potter* film) I am somehow tense, unable to see past the ugly and unable to appreciate the art. This is not the case. There are many folks who choose to 'see' and lay claim to witnessing the hidden injustices that occur in day to day living - be it racism, sexism, homophobia, environmental injustice, educational injustice, body-type discrimination, and the list goes on and on - and still lead buoyant, or should I say, pliant, lives.

I titled my piece "A Critical Sensibility." And I believe that perhaps the above presumption lies in the fact that the word 'critical' has an undeserved bad rap. According to etymology.com, the word 'critical' has its roots in the Latin word, *criticus*, and in the Greek, *kritikos*, which are respectively defined as "able to make judgments" and "to separate and decide." In English, the word is analogous to "censurer" and "faultfinder."

If we think about it, then, when conjoined these three definitions make up the 'American way of life.' Don't most of us (1) attempt to separate truth from myth (2) seek out the faults in the truth before us, and finally (3) make judgments so that we may be free to take action? I think that most of us are critical in our daily living. In fact, one may not know it as such, but a critical sensibility is a source of self-empowerment.

Secondly, I submitted that intent is always nullified by result. Frost countered my argument by merely claiming that intention (or lack thereof) is what matters most. He provided no substantiated examples to support the claim. He also added that individuals wanting reparation for unintended harm done to them are "much too sensitive."

Okay: This summer as I was driving up to an orthodontist appointment, the car behind crashed into mine. The legal system found her guilty - she admitted that her intention was to stop in time.

Thirdly, Frost proposed that people like me have a goal. That I am on a hunt for racist, sexist and homophobic action so to prove a point. Even I admit that on the surface this is an appealing claim. We know that some folk are simply out to

collect evidence that affirms a particular goal of theirs and that in the process they come to false conclusions. Yet, I want to propose that this argument is problematic for Frost.

My goal is a more equitable and fair world. So you see, following Frost's logic I should be out to prove that an equitable world already exists! Instead, I do something that seems to upset many people: I highlight and pinpoint the ugly. Secondly, this argument is a classic *ad hominem*. That is, rather than truly dealing with the dilemma at hand - i.e., the real affects of racist, sexist and homophobic acts - Frost appeals to the audience's prejudices, emotions or special interests, and without any evidence merely claims that people like me are out to find (a.k.a. create) problems in the world.

Fourthly, I agree with the argument that not every minority character should be put forth as the apex of morality. This does nothing to my claim that not ALL interracial relationships ought to be presented as dysfunctional.

Lastly, at the root of all of the arguments put forth by Frost seems to be the assumption that because X is a certain way, X must remain that way forever. In other words, if the film industry is homophobic, racist, and sexist, why should *Harry Potter* be different?

This is a valid question, one that I do not have the answer to. But I do know a few things. First, a willful X, if willing, can become Y. That is, if the individuals responsible for this film desired it, they could alter the way in which children watching the film are socialized about race, gender and sexuality. (Sure, they may lose some money in the process, but they'd set a standard for what's right).

And we should all care. Mostly, because in due time it will be our own children who inhabit the earth. See, to me this is personal. If ever I have kids, they will be Black and Latino. And I know that, unless something changes, the world will be more daunting and dangerous to (and for) them because of it. And who knows, my kid (like your kid) may end up belonging to the LGBTQ community; he or she might be born to a different body; my kid may be a girl who grows up into a woman; he or she may be...?

In short, I believe that if we are to create an equitable world we will have to highlight and deconstruct the inequitable one that's currently in its place. I have never heard of a house being built on top of trees. The trees must first come down. And to bring the trees down requires that one see them - even the little ones.

(My sincere apologies to environmentalists and to trees alike).

Double Take

RIORDAN FROST
COLUMNIST

It has come to my attention that I have misled you, dear reader. In the last *College Voice* issue, I wrote a piece rejecting the arguments of Welbith Mota on the subject of the latest *Harry Potter* movie. This piece was written as the 'Devil's Advocate,' and it was full of fallacies and off-the-cuff remarks. Let's explore briefly.

First, the critique that minorities are being oversensitive is a strange one to make if I simply don't examine their reason for sensitivity (which I didn't). It's very easy to sit in a privileged position and make that criticism without contemplation - it's not so easy when one delves deeper into the social facts of the matter.

Second, the idea that J.K. Rowling's work cannot be sexist because she is a woman is simply mistaken, because a member of a minority can easily still produce something offensive to their own minority, especially if we are dealing with the unintentional.

Third, in response to the question: can those who engage in this cultural critique not enjoy a film (or other medium) for what it is? The answer is yes in fact they can, but they can still see faults and don't have to overlook them. I find the *Iliad* to be an inspiring masterpiece, but it is also full of patriarchy, which I can take issue with while still appreciating the story.

Fourth, things as 'mundane' as movies actually can cause harm, though they may seem to be less important than the things that 'actually affect people.'

Here's the problem, then. If you found yourself agreeing with my article for the

arguments in my article (and not because you just didn't like the other article), then some analysis is needed, for those arguments were knee-jerk responses and not valid arguments. The only argument close to reasonable in that article was the one about the dysfunctional nature of interracial relationships in the film. Yet still, if the only interracial relationship is portrayed as dysfunctional and this is portrayed as the usual for that type of relationship, then there is a problem. But if it is just dysfunctional as a teen relationship, then there isn't as much of a problem, because that is the norm.

Uh oh though - whose norm? The fact is that there are some issues in the *Harry Potter* film, no matter how unintentional or normal they are, that should not be excused for their normalcy in culture nor their seemingly mundane nature.

So... what? Personally, the issue is what we do with these films and books when we discover these things. We can't exactly ask Homer for an apology for his epics and the patriarchy involved in them, even if we would want to. We can, however, ask the directors of *Harry Potter* for an apology - but should we? Would it really solve anything for the people at the end of the line of causation and culture, portraying things as they deem appropriate and as they have been acculturated to, to apologize? Perhaps, perhaps not. But by pointing them out, we can always bring these issues to the attention of society.

For the excuse that something is a 'product of the times' is more of an explanation than an excuse, and products of the times can be appreciated without destroying the product but still trying to change the times.

POINTS OF VIEW

...Matthew Shepard Vigil

MEGAN REBACK
STAFF WRITER

I was, and still am mystified by the enormous turnout at the vigil this past Monday night. The solidarity and likemindedness of the group was felt by all.

Most importantly, I was struck by the discrimination and abuse our own students have suffered because they identify as LGBTQ. My own peers – the people I sit next to in class, pass by in Harris, my friends – have been victims of hate crimes. Further, these incredible, brave, strong people have endured bullying, physical abuse and alienation. I commend them for their resilience. I admire their bravery to share their stories with us.

Although I have spent uncountable hours questioning the agendas of hate groups such as the Westboro Baptist Church, I still cannot understand how hate is still so prominent in the 21st century. WBC is known for picketing at funerals as well as productions of the Laramie Project. They also protest Communism, Judaism and other sects of Christianity. One such display of their despicable agenda is the press release WBC issued two days after the deadly 2008 Sichuan earthquake, stating that they thanked God for the heavy loss of life in China and prayed “for many more earthquakes to kill many more thousands of impudent and ungrateful Chinese Communists.”

But WBC never showed up. I'm thankful. And although the prospect of their arrival encouraged attendance at the vigil, that attendance encouraged conversation. One idea that stays with me is “I should not be discriminated against for who I love.” Love. In a climate of high divorce rates, domestic abuse and greed, why would anyone inhibit or condemn love? We need more love. We need the passion, the compassion. Warfare, greed, crime, hate crimes, all those things come from hate.

I thank Spectrum and all who attended Matthew Shepard's vigil for their openmindedness, confidence and positivity. Jessica Bombasaro-Brady encouraged us to all keep fighting this fight for love, despite what we have gone through as LGBTQ students and allies. And if Westboro Baptist Church tries to show up again, I expect even more students, more administrators and more faculty to arrive and peacefully protest a heinous agenda that propagates hatred.

COREY OGILBY
CONTRIBUTOR

Many thoughts rushed through my mind as I walked into “The Laramie Project, Ten Years Later - An Epilogue”; I knew it would not be a pleasant experience. With the threat of the Baptist protesters looming, the feeling I could not shake was shame. Ashamed of our country that there have to be presentations such as this, retelling appalling stories such as Matthew Shepard's, and that there are people with so much hate in them that they feel it appropriate to protest a boy's memory, all because of his sexual orientation. Shame.

The narratives in the production were often encouraging, with members of the Laramie community moving forward and seeing the inhumanity in such homophobia, but I could not



Spicy Black Bean Soup starring Boof in “WBC are Wimps”

JUSTIN LEVY

MATTHEW GENTILE
CONTRIBUTOR

Paying no mind to ignorance is one way of looking at some of the most evil faces in the world. But how can you ignore them? They are so compelling to think about.

The Westboro Baptist Church, as you all know, threatened to come to Connecticut College to protest not only the Matthew Shepard Vigil, but also the production of “The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later” that premiered in the Palmer Auditorium that same Monday night.

For those of you who don't know what the Westboro Baptist Church is (and believe me, it is no big deal if you don't), they are a radical church group in Kansas led by lawyer-turned-pastor Fred Phelps, a figure who is known for preaching philosophies of homophobia, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Irish, anti-Italian and the list goes on.

Being a compulsive reader, I have always had an interest in what I would classify the villains of this world. Fred Phelps to me is a major one, as are his 72 followers (60 of which are family members) who with him, engage in pickets and protests

around the country to protest ceremonies and any types of events that endure the acceptance of homosexuality.

Keep in mind that when the late actor Heath Ledger died, as tragic as it was to his family and mainly the people in the country of Australia, Phelps had the nerve to get on a show and talk about how Ledger deserved to die because he portrayed a homosexual in *Brokeback Mountain*, the same performance that he was nominated for.

I've known about this marvelous group of people for awhile, and when I heard that they were coming to Connecticut College, I was shocked. I figured I would see Fred Phelps standing on my campus with a bunch of his ignorant, knuckle-headed protestors looking out onto the green holding up signs that read in black capital letters “GOD HATES F---” and other things of that nature.

What would be my initial reaction if I saw these people? I don't know – I couldn't even tell you. I might get enraged and attack them. I might scream, curse, or try to argue intellectually with them.

Or maybe I'd just watch, observe and see how blinded

these people are by hatred, ignorance, and how distorted their view of the world and religion is, and go on living my life, and be thankful that I am me and not them.

These protestors go out in groups of three to five and generally have a lawyer present with them. They defend what they do as their first amendment right, freedom of speech.

This is the same thing as when ten years ago, poor Mat-

Pay the Westboro Baptist Church no mind, they are nothing, you are better.

thew Sheperd was murdered by two homophobic students and hung up like a scarecrow. The Westboro Baptist Church thought it would be very important to express their views of the world and picket outside the kid's very own funeral, so that his grieving parents could see them as they endure the tragic difficulty of putting their son into the ground. A typical hotheaded reaction to these people would be to lose control, and maybe assault them, and

this is why they make all of their money, because they win their lawsuits.

The sad part about all this is that these people are unstoppable. They are a small generation, consisting of younger people to elder people and together, they create an existence. Phelps has started an evil legacy that will continue to exist throughout time.

They hate everyone. They hate you if you are anything but White Anglo Saxon Protestant.

They hate me since I am Jewish, but that doesn't matter. By writing this article right now, I am giving into them, because they are occupying my head.

By reading this article right now and the other responses to them, you too are letting them win because you are letting these low forms of life occupy your mind.

Don't.

You have better things to do with your day. Pay the Westboro Baptist Church no mind, they are nothing, you are better. Look at them, see who they are, acknowledge what they stand for, but then get out, because there are much better things in life to think about.

ANDREW SOWLE
CONTRIBUTOR

Although he was murdered eleven years ago, Shepard's memory still has the power to inspire people to change the world. With the prospect of protesters from the Westboro Baptist Church carrying hateful signs with messages such as “God Hates F---,” the members of Spectrum turned the vigil into a strong demonstration of love, tolerance and diversity. People throughout the crowd held signs reading “Yes Love” and “No Hate” as they lit candles.

The sight of 200 people, gay, straight, from campus and from the community, walking together across the unlit green

carrying candles singing “Amazing Grace” was powerful.

The day before our vigil, I was in Washington, D.C. for the National Equality March, where Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard, spoke. She called on people to share their stories with their communities; this is exactly what happened on Monday. Students showed amazing courage in speaking about their personal stories, including painful accounts of horrifying crimes they endured solely because of their sexual orientation. Knowing that people at our college have been the victims of heinous hate crimes, and hearing the pain in their voices, made this even more significant than any professionally organized rally or vigil I have attended.

help myself from thinking of my own little town in Maine. In my high school I witnessed forms of homophobia almost every day, and heard stories of it all over the state.

Members of the Laramie community stated that this kind of occurrence could have happened in any American town; without a doubt it could. This could have happened in Wyoming, or Maine or Connecticut because all over the country people are unable to move past their ignorance of the LGBTQ community.

I believe that one of the reasons why the production is so moving is that it is not produced by professional actors, but people who are familiar. This reminds us that this event is not exclusive to one part of the country, or one group of people. There is still so much work to be done when it comes to the rights of the LGBTQ community.

What saddened me most is that it took Matthew's murder to open the eyes of many in the country to the fact that sexual orientation should never be cause for such an atrocious event.

But what about those who were not changed, those who believed that Matthew got what he deserved? What will it take to make these people see the injustice and blind hatred in homophobia? Will there have to be events similar to Matthew's to make people finally understand?

“The Laramie Project” is an important step forward, by telling Matthew's story hopefully it will prevent it from ever happening again, and hopefully it will change the minds of those who still need changing. Someday, by telling Matthew's story the shame can be replaced by hope.



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EDITORIALS

October 20, 2009

E-mail: contact@thecollegevoice.org

Editor's Voice

Intellectual Climate at Conn and the Status of Newspapers

Over the summer, the eight-member Faculty Working Group on Academic Challenge examined the perceptions of Connecticut College's academic program by analyzing recent studies and survey data, and offered recommendations for improving the college's intellectual climate both inside and outside the classroom.

Their recommendations encompass the curriculum and academic programs, academic advising, faculty engagement, student engagement and the public presentation of the college.

The Faculty Working Group acknowledged that in terms of student engagement, the Residential Education and Living and Student Life offices have initiated fantastic programs the past few years including restructuring the house leadership positions and creating the Residential Education Fellows program. Both programs have increased the venues for intellectual debate and conversation within the houses.

However, they did still offer several bullet points of suggestions to continue to enhance intellectual engagement outside of the classroom, including maintaining the Readership Program which offers free newspapers to students.

I found this point especially intriguing because I attended the Student-Trustee Liaison Committee meeting this past Friday as a member of the

Student Government Association's executive board and felt considerable pushback from several trustees on reinstating the Readership Program (at least to get the *New York Times* on campus five days a week). Although they did not say it was a low priority item for the college, they reminded us that Conn, like other peer institutions around the county, have limited funds and need to prioritize where those resources should be spent.

We were also reminded that the *New York Times* is available online and that the front page articles are only one click away from the main page.

These facts are true - and with environmental concerns, combined with the fact that professors who require the paper copy of the *New York Times* could simply adapt and only require a printout of the online edition (or no printout at all since the campus is pushing towards being "paperless"), I can see why the Readership Program would be relatively low on the college's list of priorities.

So why was it still listed as a suggestion by the Faculty Working Group on Academic Challenge?

Because having the news in your face - be it a newspaper lying on the table in Harris or as the home page of an Internet browser - offers a quick glimpse into the world outside Conn and sparks breakfast and

lunchtime conversations.

As college students, we're overwhelmed with homework, meetings, extracurricular activities, social life and the occasional lecture or two, and many of us don't have time to watch the 6 o'clock news or keep up with the incessant *New York Times* Twitter feeds.

As someone who prides myself in keeping up-to-date on the vast majority of major news, even I admit to a few "dark days." I found out about the typhoon in India and Southeast Asia via an email from a friend (quite an embarrassing moment for me).

Sometimes just a browse through the paper in the morning or during a food dash in the afternoon before class is enough to keep us connected to the outside world, and engage us in conversations about current events from around the globe.

However, I'm likely biased (I am the editor-in-chief of a newspaper as well as SGA Chair of Academic Affairs, after all...). I'd love to hear from you - those who read the print edition of the paper, those who don't and those who just glance at the headlines.

If we want the Readership Program to last, we need to show our collective enthusiasm to the administration and trustees, otherwise, the program will likely fall by the wayside for the million other initiatives the college has



planned for our strategic goals. And if the campus feels that receiving print editions of the newspaper isn't necessary, let's find an alternative that still makes the news easily assess-

able to all - the obsessive daily reader and the casual caption reader alike.

- Claire

Were you excited to see the *New York Times* back on campus this week? Were you ambivalent? Or did you not even notice it was gone?

We'd like to know!

Write a Letter to the Editor, vote in our Twitter poll or email us!

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

While reading Jazmine Hughes's article "Seeing Salmon: A Crusade Against the Nantucket Reds", I found myself becoming increasingly frustrated. I know her article was written in fun, but I found that it raised some really interesting and challenging gender issues. I don't disagree with Jazmine - I find those pants both over popular and socially conformist. And she does correctly classify Nantucket Red pants as pink.

But, to echo Adam Miller, why can't men wear pink? Why should a color they choose to wear make them girly? And further, why should it matter if they're "girly"?

In an age of increasing individual freedoms, I think that gender issues are some of

the heaviest influences on our lives. Many of us fail to attain a true sense of identity because we feel the need to properly identify with our manly or womanly parts and the roles those parts have traditionally played in the structure of life.

Though men and women often find themselves to be equal on both physical and intellectual playing fields we continue to maintain gender norms, especially concerning color and clothing.

Men wear navy blue, black, grey and red. Women wear powder blue, purple, and pink.

But there seems to be no logic behind these associations.

Why is pink associated with women? I cannot think of a single reason other than "it just is." That was the form of life.

Everyone knew that women

wore pink and men did not.

Yet our culture places immense emphasis on individuality and creativity. We are kicking form out of everyday life. Why not toss out hard and fast gender taboos as well?

Associations like this only perpetuate prejudice across the board - they continue our history of associative thinking which has led to thoroughly repugnant discrimination.

So go ahead, wear your pink pants. Maybe even go the extra mile and wear a pastel pink t-shirt with Valentine's hearts on it.

I won't think you're girly. I'll think you're wearing what you like, which is a beautiful thing.

Sincerely,
Courtney Townsend '11

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 500 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.