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College Voice Vol. 32 No. 9

Connecticut College

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Connecticut College, "College Voice Vol. 32 No. 9" (2007). *2007-2008*. 11.
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THE COLLEGE VOICE

First Class
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Permit #35
New London, CT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE STUDENTS OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

VOLUME XXXII • ISSUE 9

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT



Connecticut College has been awarded a \$7,000 Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation to study the college's notable steel house (Van Slyck)

Progressive Student's Alliance Gets Off the Ground

BY DASHA LAVRENNIKOV '08

news editor

Wednesday night, November 7th, the Progressive Student's Alliance had their first meeting in the LGBTQI center, located in Burdick, over a home cooked meal of chili and corn bread. They discussed the purpose of the alliance and shared their expectations for the club's future. Students came with a variety of ideas and opinions on what direction the PSA could take in the future.

Representatives from a variety of clubs attended, including CCASA, the Fair Trade Initiative, Spectrum, CCLEFT, STAND, SOAR, Amnesty International, the Renewable Energy Club, Feminist Majority, New London Outreach Dance Initiative the Women's Center, Spokes People, and CQ2. Everyone was welcome to attend, both representatives of clubs, group members, and any student that had interest in furthering progressive action on campus.

The goal of this union is to build a diverse body of participants in order to represent a wide range of opinions and interests.

Sarah Trapido, the founder of the club, explained that her interest in initiating the Progressive Students' Alliance grew out of her concern for the sustainability of campus groups. The inspiration for the PSA came from the variety of students and club initiatives currently existing on campus. According to Sarah, "These groups and people work very hard to organize and make positive, thoughtful change to our campus and the larger community."

The goal of the PSA is to create a networking tool for clubs to share resources, funding and collaborative ideas for events and activities. Trapido believes "Collaboration between the progressive groups on campus allows

SEE PROGRESSIVE STUDENT ALLIANCE

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Students' Input Helps Professor Write Manuscript

BY LAUREN MORROW '09

staff writer

Visiting Professor of English Lori Harrison-Kahan came to Connecticut College last year to teach courses in a range of areas, from American Literature and Culture to Critical Race Studies. She discovered that her students at Conn were just as capable of teaching her as she was them. This in turn has helped her in writing her manuscript.

Professor Harrison-Kahan comes to Conn after doing post-doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania and lecturing at Harvard. She commutes from Boston to teach English courses at Conn, while simultaneously finishing her manuscript, "Imitations of White: Fashioning Femininity in the Black-Jewish Imagination."

Her interest in this subject first began when she, as a Princeton student, took a course in American Women Writers. "I was always passionate about literature," Harrison-Kahan explains, "but this was something that was not part of the traditional canon." Through this course, she became more attuned to politics, history and cultural moments within literature. She became interested in different aspects of literary theory, which led her into studies of culture and race.

For the past six years, Harrison-Kahan has been completing research and analysis for her manuscript, in addition to having other essays published in journals and anthologies. Her project for "Imitations of White" has revolved around examining African-American and Jewish-American women, the majority of which are writers, in the early 20th century. She has put these women of differing heritages in dialogue with one another.

"I want to put these texts in conversation," she says. "'Imitations of White' considers the acts of passing and assimilating: passing as white and assimilating to a white, American world." Harrison-

Kahan believes these ideas complicate one another, while gender adds another ingredient into the complex mixture.

Although her manuscript is undoubtedly a very demanding project, she has been able to teach courses here at Conn that she hopes have been very valuable to her students.

She enjoyed teaching Survey of American Literature, stating that it allowed her "to work through the historical scope of American Literature with students, and examine how the American literary canon has changed." Her favorite course thus far has been American Women Writers, a seminar. This 3-hour time bloc allowed for the entire class to participate, which she believes can be more difficult to achieve in an hour and fifteen minute course.

This form of class participation has assisted Harrison-Kahan in the writing of her manuscript. "I've gotten to teach courses related to my research," she says, excitedly. "Hearing student responses completely changes the way I think about a text."

As a Visiting Professor, Harrison-Kahan will be leaving Conn after this semester, but she hopes the courses she is teaching and has taught can assist students in their development of critical thinking. Perhaps her classes will inspire students to pursue research just as the Princeton course succeeded in doing for her.



News

Check out page 3 for Pressing Issues Around the World and page 5 for Grad & Professional School Advice.

BOB DYLAN HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED



A&E

Turn to pages 6&7 for a piece about Coffee Grounds and two theater reviews. On pages 13&14, read two differing opinions on Bob Dylan.



Sports

Check out 8&9 for more coverage of men's basketball, a recap of volleyball's tremendous season, and the player of the week.

EDITORIAL

Cold Turkey and Cranberry Sauce

In many ways, Thanksgiving is a twisted version of history, celebrating a most likely fictionalized event of Pilgrim/Native American unity. America has a long history of commercializing holidays and removing any sort of significance (religious or historical) from them.

But that doesn't mean we should hate Thanksgiving! If people are still happy that they get Columbus Day off, then they should be overwhelmingly happy that we get an entire long weekend devoted to Thanksgiving festivities and all the pastimes that go along with it: parades, football, and insane sales at our local shopping malls.

On top of those tantalizing activities, it is yet another excuse for Americans to overindulge in their favorite foods. I am sure turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and cranberry sauce do not hold any *true* historical significance, but long ago, someone decided that all those foods taste real good together. And I have to agree.

My family is really big on food, but that is not why Thanksgiving is the most important family holiday this side of Easter. It is a chance for all the cousins, aunts, and uncles to get together under one roof and catch up. With most of us in different parts of the country, Thanksgiving becomes very special for us because we'll actually have things to talk about!

So although Thanksgiving steeped in sketchy history, we have the chance to truly embrace its conventional message: to be grateful for what we have, including family, food, and good conversation.

- Claire

Though my family has been in this country for 33 years, celebrating Thanksgiving is a tradition in our Greek-American family. I love the idea of Thanksgiving, but the more I think about that first Thanksgiving and where we are today as a society, I get a little nervous.

I don't know how much of the first Thanksgiving is a myth, but I think it did happen and it was an occasion that was received warmly by both parties. However, mainstream US history does a good job glossing over the deaths and destruction since then.

Where would we be, as a nation, without the help the Native Americans gave John Doe and his cronies at Plymouth Rock? Would they have learned how to work the soil, to hunt and fish, and to stay warm through the bitter New England winter?

I doubt our Mayflower ancestors travelled here with the intentions of wiping out significant portions of a population with European-bred diseases. But the deals that went down, the swindling and misunderstandings leave a bad taste in my mouth.

When I sit at the table on Thursday, I will ask for more restorative justice in this country. My family provided me with the best life, and I sincerely would like to see those that were here first remembered. Tribes continuously face unyielding local, state and federal obstructions. It's a complicated issue, but can it get some media coverage? Can we remember what our country was built from? How about remembering everyone that contributed?

-Areti

Letters To The Editor

After reading John Swig's now-infamous column, "How do you pick up bitches at Conn?" I was upset not only with the original article but also by the discussions that have followed. I feel compelled to express what it is about the treatment of "bitches" that now makes me, as a woman at Conn, feel intimidated and unwelcome.

"Scruff of the neck," stayed with me. "My bitch on her leash." "/My bitch/." These lines stayed with me. These words are still there: offensive, violent, and frightening. To negate this as the effect of a "deliberately obtuse" reading, my "misunderstanding" of satirical humor, or my "own ignorance" is belittling.

A joke about "bitches" and female dogs is not difficult to comprehend. Whether we "believe" that "bitches" refers to human or canine females is *completely irrelevant*: this is not about the merit of satire.

This is about language that perpetuates an environment of violence and disrespect.

It cannot be denied that the word

"bitch" has power. Unless you happen to own a kennel and breed dogs, the likelihood is that "bitch" will simply fall into the background noise of our society where women are called "bitches" and treated as such every day. This is not a sudden discovery—do not act surprised.

Using the word "bitch" is not a revolutionary act. It does not break down the social constructs that make women feel degraded, objectified and in danger. In fact, it reinforces them.

To honestly reject the slur of "bitches" for women we must also reject the social mindset that treats women as inferior and as sexual objects. To make violent jokes about owning bitches, "picking up" bitches without their consent, the body size of bitches, or pretending that we were talking about dogs all this time (hahaha! Funny, huh?) is not the way to make profound social statements.

To create change, where women *really* are not called "bitches," requires more than lip-service.

—Angelica Sgouros '09

An Old Feminist's Response

I am a parent in my 50's and puzzled by the Opinion pieces over the last several issues in your paper; and curious what all the fury is really about. Before my opinion, let me compliment W.K.M. and his response, which seemed more appropriate to the real problem. I also respect John Swig's right and nerve to step forward no matter what his opinion. Reminds me of the Ward Churchill drama at CU Boulder a few years ago that became a national issue, also a misunderstanding.

That said as a college student of the 60s (U of Michigan) and early feminist, I have no trouble with John's language but am more struck by his misguidance in this the 21st Century. The article that appears to have folks a flutter, sounds to me like he IS actually talking about a dog (not a real female), but then again I am not on campus and don't know what lead up to this poor attempt at irony. Sorry John, please go back and reread Jonathan Swift again...or at least Maureen Dodd's Op Ed pieces in the NYT.

The other two articles only highlight John's learning curve about dealing with the opposite sex. Remember I am from the Era of the Sexual Revolution – what you call a "Hook Up" we called "casual sex"...there was probably a lot more of that going on in the 60s because we were not worried about AIDS. And from an old lady "casual sex," or whatever you call it, only leads to a brief moment of fun in exchange for embarrassment, awkwardness, and lack of friends of both sexes. And how does one tell your child that they were conceived during a "hook up" (condoms DO break!)

And ladies, be careful not to get sidetracked by phrases. You will hear a lot of them in your lifetime. Rather look at what the person is actually trying to say and respond with your opinion about the message (which I think is worse than the word bitch).

—P.A.H.

POLICIES

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are due strictly by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding publication. *The College Voice* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. No unsigned or anonymous letters will be published. However, names may be withheld upon the author's request. *The College Voice* will not publish letters deemed to be a personal attack on an individual. *The College Voice* cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. Letters should be single-spaced, no longer than 300 words, and must include a phone number for verification. Please send all letters as a Microsoft Word attachment to: ccvoice@conncoll.edu

See more Letters to the Editor

Continued on page 10

NEWS

Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

COMPILED BY DASHA LAVRENNIKOV & GOZDE ERDENIZ '08

news editors

National

N. Y. Governor Drops Drivers' License Plan for Illegal Immigrants

Governor Eliot Spitzer of New York formally announced Wednesday that he would abandon his plan to give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants, conceding that his best efforts to sell New Yorkers on the merits of his proposal had clearly failed.

The decision ends a bitter seven-week battle over the proposed policy that battered Spitzer and his fellow Democrats and drew national attention from critics of illegal immigration. "It does not take a stethoscope to hear the pulse of New Yorkers on this topic," Spitzer said. In acknowledging one of his first major reversals as governor, Spitzer hit a few familiarly pugilistic notes, lashing into critics who, Spitzer said, "equated minimum-wage, undocumented dishwashers with Osama bin Laden."

He also said he still believed his proposal would have benefited New Yorkers, citizens and immigrants alike, and lit into federal officials for failing to fix America's immigration system at the national level.

But Spitzer, who once dismissed a critic of his proposal as "factually wrong, legally wrong, morally wrong, ethically wrong," was more conciliatory Wednesday, saying that leadership was "not solely about doing what one thinks is right."

"I am here today to respond to the vast majority of New Yorkers of good will who have heard my best case and yet still disagree with my proposal," Spitzer said.

Europe

Strike Halts Trains in France

A national transport strike crippled parts of France on Wednesday (Nov 14th) as labor unions and President Nicolas Sarkozy faced off in a bitter confrontation over his plans to curb the early retirement benefits of about 500,000 public sector workers.

Some of the country's biggest train stations were deserted during rush hour after employees of the state-owned railway operator SNCF walked out Tuesday night. Paris transit workers joined the walkout on Wednesday morning, shutting down key commuter lines around the capital and paralyzing parts of the Métro and bus network. Traffic in the city center and on the beltway ringing the capital slowed to a crawl.

Gas and electricity workers also went on strike, threatening targeted blackouts to air their grievances over the retirement reform. Employees of the national opera cancelled Wednesday's performance, while university students in some cities joined the protests by occupying campuses and blockading classes.

In 1995, the last time a government tried to reform public sector pensions, unions shut down the country for three weeks and forced the authorities to abandon the measure. Opinion polls suggest Sarkozy has the public on his side. Six in ten voters agree that the retirement age of a small group of public sector employees should not be below the national average.

Middle East

Israel to Hinder a Divided Jerusalem

The Israeli Parliament on Wednesday approved the preliminary reading of a bill intended to hinder any division of Jerusalem in a future deal with the Palestinians. The vote came as Israel's rightist and religious parties started positioning themselves ahead of an American-sponsored peace gathering expected to take place in Annapolis, Maryland, later this month.

Israel conquered the eastern part of Jerusalem in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war and greatly extended the city limits to the north, south and east, taking in several Palestinian villages of the West Bank in the process, and building large new Jewish neighborhoods over the pre-



1967 lines. The Palestinians claim all of East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state, and most of world does not recognize Israeli sovereignty there.

In 1980, the Israeli Parliament passed a Basic Law stating that "Jerusalem, complete and united, is the capital of Israel." The bill Wednesday proposes an amendment to that Basic Law, stipulating that any change in the city's status would require 80 votes in the 120-seat legislature, instead of the majority of 61 required today.

Africa

Somalia Insurgents target AU Force

Somalia insurgents have been targeting government and Ethiopian troops. Sheikh Aden Hashi Ayrow, Somali insurgent leader, has ordered fighters to attack African Union troops based in the capital, Mogadishu. Al-Shabab is the militant wing of the Union of Islamic Courts. The militant group claims to have links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

Al-Shabab's Sheikh Ayrow said it was an obligation of all Muslims in Somalia to wage war against Ethiopian and Ugandan forces. "To us the Ugandans, Ethiopians and Americans are all the same, they have invaded us and I am telling the Mujahidin [fighters], Ugandans must be one of our priorities," said Sheikh Ayrow in the audio on Daynile website.

Uganda has some 1,700 soldiers in Somalia as part of the planned 8,000-strong AU peacekeeping mission. The United Nations says that close to 170,000 people have fled the violence this week and hundreds others have been injured in the crossfire. About 80 people have died this week. However according to Major Felix Kulaigye, peacekeepers will not withdraw and will defend themselves if necessary.

Latin America

Anti - Chavez Student Movement Grows

The growing student movement in Venezuela, which has supplanted traditional political parties in recent weeks, has emerged as the most cohesive and respected challenger to Chávez's government. It has been evolving since June, when protesters painted their palms white and inserted flowers in the rifles of members of the security forces. They have effectively coordinated protests around the country with a tone of increasing defiance. Goicoechea said that, "We want social transformation, not a coup. The real coup d'état is coming from Chávez, who wants to perpetuate himself in power."

The students first entered the scene over the summer with protests against Mr. Chávez's move to push RCTV, a critical television network, off of public airwaves. Following this the president's proposed charter, which would abolish his term limits, has led to much larger protests throughout Venezuela.

About 80,000 students rallied on Wednesday in a march to the Supreme Court to ask it to suspend the referendum. Students were attacked by gunmen at the campus of the Central University of Venezuela; nine were injured.

Chavez calls the student movement a "fascist attack" and "children of privilege resisting social change." Chavez has accused opponents of conspiring of carrying out a "soft coup" supported by the United States.

Asia

Hopes for a Peace Treaty

President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea called on Tuesday for a meeting of the leaders of the United States, China and the two Koreas to speed up North Korea's denuclearization and achieve a peace treaty on the divided Korean Peninsula. The conflict between North and South Korea ended in 1953 in a cease-fire rather than a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula technically in a state of war.

Up until this point, no leader had publicly called for such a summit meeting, which would bring the leaders of all four major parties of the Korean War together for the first time. The United States and North Korean leaders have never met. Yet Bush has been skeptical, saying he would not meet with Mr. Kim until North Korea dismantled its nuclear weapons programs. North Korea says it has built nuclear weapons as a "self-defense measure" and insists that it will not give them up until Washington guarantees its security by lifting sanctions and signing a peace treaty.

SEE PRESSING ISSUES

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NEWS

CISLA Senior Takes the Unbeaten Path

BY FRANNIE NOBLE '08

contributing writer

Every day I look around me and wonder where the last year of my life went. I am back at school, working, studying and still in almost complete disbelief that I spent six of the last nine months in Mali, a land locked, West African country most famous for the legendary city of Timbuktu. Using that ancient city as a point of reference is actually how I tell people where I studied abroad: "You know Timbuktu?" I ask. I realize images of camels and sand dunes then run through their minds as their heads nod, but I don't challenge that cliché. Outside of Bamako, the capital of Mali, the blazing heat and sand covered earth make that mental picture fairly accurate.

Sadly, I didn't make it to Timbuktu myself and I did not ride camels as my primary source of transportation. While I did see a sand storm, that Aladdin-ish image you have in your mind probably isn't the best comparison. I can say however, that I lived with a 15 member, Brazilian soap-opera addicted, polygamist, Bambara speaking Malian family. The house was located across from the neighborhood morgue. Daily marriage proposals, malaria pills, 110 degree days, haggling for goods and a constant search for water were part of my everyday life. Every action required planning: where I would get water if the pump was shut off, how I was going to get to work if the busses were full, what food to eat, what not to eat, how to navigate a new neighborhood. Yet I loved these everyday challenges because they made me interact with people on a level that I feel is taken for granted in the United States. I greeted every corner salesman and chatted with my bus driver, I answered to the calls of 'white woman!' from passerby, and when I finally arrived at my destination I was all the more willing to take on a day of work; not tired, but

inspired and awakened by the hurdles I had already overcome.

Learning the local language of Bambara will remain in my mind one of the greatest challenges I faced. Bambara is still the first language for most people near Bamako. Because the language only has a few hundred words, creative and often poetic phrases are used; bees are honey's children, the clothing shop is the tailor's home. The language also allowed for and demanded conversation with nearly everyone on the street. The more volume or enthusiasm you put in, the better. Hello, how are you? Did you pass the night in peace? How are your children? How is your health? And when leaving someone, "ke tile here chya", "may you pass the day in peace" and "k'an bu fo", "send my greeting on to those you meet". This results in a minimum of two or three minute conversations with the fruit vendor, members of your home stay family, your bus driver, coworkers etc. I had a hard time giving the habit up. After my return flight to the US I asked someone in JFK airport about the health of his children and I did not get a warm reception.

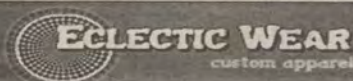
Initially I had to learn not only the language, but also incorporate interaction with dozens of strangers into my daily routine. No community will allow you instant acceptance, you have to work for it. Ultimately communicating in Bambara became a key to understanding Malian life and finding a place for myself in Bamako.

For quite a while I didn't understand people studying abroad in Australia or England; where was the challenge in that, I wondered? Yet now I realize that for many people, London or Melbourne is a challenge. Mali was right for me. I know it is not right for most people. So here is my challenge to you: choose a program, experience, internship or itinerary that will push you to discover more of yourself and more of the world. Make a



Frannie Noble in local clothing in Mali

choice that will challenge you every day. Frequent responses to my plan to study abroad in Mali included, "you're nuts" "you'll get so sick" or my personal favorite, "you know you're gonna die right?" Well I'm here, so I made it back. I got sick, but I also recovered. And my sanity? That's up for debate, but I have no regrets.



BY KARL JENNINGS

staff member

Eclectic is a brand new, contemporary, enthusiastic company with innovative ideas. We produce a range of products from jewelry and posters to t-shirts, hoodies, and even custom designed apparel. The mission of Eclectic is to fuse music, culture, education and art into a socially conscious product. We are committed to taking traditional items and redefining them with new, innovative, and exciting methods of expression. We are dedicated to meeting challenges with practical solutions. Stop by Eclectic's table in CRO on the following Tuesdays: 11/20, 11/27, and 12/4 - to see what Eclectic is about. Elevate your social consciousness.

Eclectic is located in downtown New London at: 19 Union Street, in the heart of the art circle.

Eclectic is celebrating its Grand Opening on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007 at its downtown location from 7:30 PM - 12:30 PM. This event is being put on in conjunction with The Celebration of Lights put on by New London Main St.

There will be live performances by: Great Skaught, The Swingers, DJ May Day, The Tramps, and Dinosaur world among others.

There will be break dancers, artist, painters, drum circles and an open mic hour.

The Grand Opening will be recorded live by I-Ching Productions.

The event is from 7:30 PM to 12:30 PM.

All Conn College Students are invited!

Progressive Student Alliance

continued from page one

groups to help themselves by helping one another. It can ease time constraints of individuals and schedules, maximizes participation, utilizes skills better, and helps identify a community of progressive thinkers and doers on campus."

Meetings will be held once every three weeks in order to provide a forum for dialogue between different clubs and to learn about different initiatives. Club representatives will come with proposals for events in order to encourage co-sponsorship and partnership between the different clubs on campus. "I would love to see unexpected partnerships as a way of demonstrating that while we do come from different places and ideologies, our goals can be mutually beneficial, interconnected and interdependent." Trapido explains.

The group hopes to find a faculty or staff advisor. The advisor role, which a lot of other schools utilize, can be a powerful liaison between the students, administrators and other school person-

nel, as well as act as the group historian. Sarah is currently discussing the group's structure with Sarah Barr of the Holleran Center. The Holleran Center has been vital in getting this initiative off the ground. Support has also come from Professor Jen Manion and the Queer Resource Center, where the first meeting was held.

The PSA does not yet have a permanent home, but will hopefully find one in the near future. According to Trapido, "The PSA may be semi-nomadic, holding meetings in a variety of locations as a reminder that there are many wonderful communities on campus to plug in to and unite."

The alliance is open to any group that is interested in participating, and PSA anticipates that the number of groups involved will grow. If you are interested in participating, the next meeting will be held Wednesday November 28th at 5:30 in Freeman dining hall.

NEWS

No Need to Panic: Plenty of Grad School Advice Available for Students

BY JENNI MILTON '11

staff writer

After completing four years of undergraduate college, it may seem that the very last thing on one's mind would be to start the application process all over again. However, at Connecticut College, there are several resources available to students to make this process go much more smoothly.

All it takes is a quick walk across the street to Vinal Cottage, otherwise known as the Office of Career Enhancing Life Skills (CELS). At the CELS office, there are graduate school and pre-professional advisors who help plan out the four years at Conn so that students are more than well-prepared for graduate school. Students can find out which courses are required for their fields of study, attend workshops arranged by their respective advisors, utilize the online service provided by CELS that helps manage recommendations students receive from faculty, and take advantage of the funded internship programs through CELS to gain experience in their fields. The College also provides the e-Portfolio service, which students use to actively build impressive résumés that will enable them to compete successfully for admission to graduate schools.

Students also work with Deb Dreher, the graduate school advisor at CELS, who aids them in preparing their applications. Dreher plays a large role in helping students "articulate their intellectual and career objectives" so that they can ultimately decide to which programs they will apply.

A major part of her job is to help students with their essays, and she notes that this is a part of the process that, "should not be put off until the last minute," and in fact should probably be one of the first steps students take. She notes that the essays are much different from those that students became so accustomed to writing for undergraduate schools. While a typical liberal arts college wants a student's essay to reflect what kind of person he or she is, a graduate school is looking mainly for the scholarly, intellectual side of the individual; students must demonstrate a deep enthusiasm for their chosen course of study, and they must also explain what about each institution's program has encouraged them to apply. Dreher assists students with their drafts, and students pass these drafts along to

their faculty advisors to begin the lengthy process of revision. "These essays are a make-or-break factor" in the application, says Dreher, and often it is not feasible to use one essay for multiple schools. In this process, students can also seek help in the Writing Center to ensure that "as many people as possible look at their essays," Dreher adds.

Additional preparation includes taking the necessary standardized tests and pursuing any "intellectual challenges such as independent research," says Dreher. Conn offers on-campus prep-courses for all standardized tests such as the GRE. While these courses are expensive, students who are applying to highly selective universities or who are not as comfortable with their test-taking skills may benefit from these courses. Often, however, students can prepare themselves by taking practice tests and looking over test-prep books and software. To challenge themselves intellectually, students have the option, provided that they maintain a certain GPA, of completing an Honors Thesis in their senior year, and Dreher says that this is advantageous in several ways. Honors students have faculty thesis advisors who oversee their work as independent scholars for the two semesters. The nature of this program "mirrors graduate school work," says Dreher, and it is helpful both in preparing students for the type of work load they can expect at graduate school, and in showing their commitment and dedication to their area of study.

Dreher notes that "the CELS office sees about 85% of each class" during the course of their education at Connecticut College, and that 75% of students take advantage of the funded internship program. But she also points out that while students can and should use the resources at CELS, they should not forget about the unique opportunity at Conn to interact personally with faculty.

Dreher stresses the importance of students building close relationships with their professors, as the faculty often play a crucial role in advising students in selecting a graduate school program and can be called upon to write recommendations. Dreher noticed that because the faculty often serve as mentors to students, the number of CELS appointments made by seniors is much lower than what might be expected. "[The students] are not panicked," she says, because there are so many different support systems available; it is simply a matter of seeking

them.

One can also see this plan in action when looking at the individual pre-professional programs at Conn, such as pre-law, pre-health, and pre-business. Jack Tinker, Director of Recruiting and Pre-Law Advisor at CELS, notes the numerous opportunities available to students in the pre-law program. "Last month, I invited Attorney Tom Riley...and University of Connecticut law student William Sweeney to speak with pre-law students on campus," says Tinker. Tinker sends out a "Pre-Law Happenings" newsletter to his advisees, which keeps them updated on law school admissions and other law-related news. He also meets individually with his advisees to aid them in preparing for and applying to law school. In September, Tinker's advisees can meet admissions representatives at Yale's Law School Fair. Students can also contact Connecticut College Alumni who are currently judges or lawyers to get an additional perspective on law school and law practice. By contacting local attorneys, pre-law students can easily volunteer or intern at New London law firms during the academic year.

How successful are these types of programs at Conn? Tinker notes, "Typically 80% of our pre-law applicants gain admission to one or more U.S. law schools (the national average is 66%)." Many students are accepted into top programs at Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, Duke, Georgetown, University of Michigan, Northwestern, University of Chicago, UCLA, University of Virginia, and New York University. "Connecticut College is looked at very seriously [by graduate schools]," says Dreher, "but it's all about student preparation."

Students must take the initiative in order to benefit from these types of programs at Conn, and they will soon begin to realize that the process of applying to graduate school differs greatly from the process of applying to an undergraduate college. Senior Gozde Erdeniz says that, "Ph.D. program applications differ significantly from college applications. They are not looking for the well-rounded kid that has the potential to succeed in a wide range of subjects; they are looking for individuals who have given a lot of thought to what their specific academic passions are and are ready to devote a significant amount of time and effort to studying a specialized subject."

A key part of the process is deciding where to apply. Gozde, who is looking into political science Ph.D. programs, notes that it is important to consider the faculty members' research interests at each institution; if the faculty is researching topics that are of interest to the student, the student will be more likely to find a place at that university. On the other hand, "If there is nobody in the department who could potentially serve as your dissertation advisor, your chances of admission are low," says Gozde.

As a general rule, the earlier students begin work on their essays, take the required tests (such as the MCAT, the LSAT and the GRE), and start seeking letters of recommendation, the greater their chances of being accepted to competitive universities. Letters of recommendation, says Tinker, are particularly important because they allow the universities to gain a clearer understanding of the student through "a combination of academic letters, letters from summer jobs or internship supervisors...coaches," or music teachers. Most law schools use a rolling admissions process, so students who have their application materials ready the fastest will have a greater advantage. "GPA is important," says Dreher, "but you don't need a 4.0 to get into a good program; you just need to be a strong student." Tinker also points out that it is best to apply to a wide range of schools: some reaches, some safeties, and some in between—something that will sound familiar to us undergrads.

The process is a difficult one. "We live at a time where even a Harvard Ph.D. won't guarantee you a tenure-track job," says Gozde. "If I can't get in a really good program this year, I will probably work for a year or two, strengthen my application, and try again." There is plenty of support at Connecticut College for those who are interested in continuing on a path of higher education. These resources serve as a solid foundation for students to maximize their chances of being accepted to a top-tier program and begin a rewarding career.

For more information, contact the CELS office at 860-439-2004.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Students studying and volunteering at Coffee Grounds (Shipper)

Keeping Grounded: Aborting a Faux Starbucks or Maybe Even a Cro II

BY JACQUES SWARTZ '07

staff writer

Last Friday I got the chance to see Conn alum Mark Warren and his compatriot Josh Corrigan perform at Coffee Grounds, the volunteer student-run café in the annex of KB House. While space here doesn't permit a full review, I'll say that it was essentially like seeing Animal Collective, if Animal Collective were midway through some kind of civilizing deprogramming, slowly being weaned off tribal beats but holding resistance against conventions of style and form. The show was both dreamily transfixing and totally weird, and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

The important part, though, is the epiphany that occurred to me somewhere between my second and third white chocolate brownies: as I sank into an orange-and-brown Salvation Army couch, it dawned on me that this show, with its genre-defying alums, big apparatus and weird Old English-sounding pseudonyms, could not have gone on any place else. Sure, it could've been an FNL, and for all I know that was the initial plan before Kidz in the House took the date. But it wouldn't have been the right venue. If you've not been to Coffee Grounds, picture Smith or JA Dining Hall cleared of food troughs, lit with standing shaded lamps, furnished with hi-quality autumn-colored fourth-hand furniture, and stocked with homemade baked goods, coffees, and board games. Not to mention the mosaic, and the where-the-hell-did-they-get-this 50's era salon chair. It is the platonic ideal of cozy, just missing a fireplace. Add to this the volunteer student-run aspect, the pro-green ethos, and the tendency to embrace our school's precious reserve of Weird. This is Coffee Grounds as I see it. I mention all this because there's an opportuni-

ty for change in the works, and with that opportunity there follows potential for amplification - and also for ruin.

If you hadn't heard, there's an SGA proposal looking to put money towards making a series of (alleged) improvements to Coffee Grounds. I'm guessing that this is a part of Conn's newest anti-drinking initiative, the rationale of which is that binge drinking will be curbed by, among other things, a greater plurality of options on Thursday and Saturday nights. If money is put out to pay Coffee Grounds staff to work the shop on those nights, kids'll have a place to go and will keep clear of ambulance-warranting trouble. And so senators went around slipping surveys under doors eliciting responses: do we in fact want more hours of operation, do we want to see a greater drink variety offered, and do we want a plasma screen TV, etc. I suppose the rationale is that our responses will be compiled by tireless workers in the administration, a report will be prepared, and our will be done. Coffee Grounds will get better and we'll quit going kamikaze with the Dubra.

Here, then, as you might've seen coming, are my objections to this notion. Objection number one is to the idea that kids will not drink if offered other options. I agree that, generally speaking, the more there is to do on campus the better, simply because a nice variety of events and activities is in keeping with the spirit of community and creativity that our school's all about. But has the administration offered anything in the way of replicable data linking that to reduced drinking? If the participants of these new activities are required to do them sober, then they might be effective in reducing the number of students drinking. Everyone else, however, who was planning on drinking that night and want

to participate in/attend this event will simply drink before, during and/or after, and so participate or attend drunk. It's that simple. As proof I submit this past Friday, when just at the end of the music performance you saw kids from the hockey game, still colorfully painted and whiffably drunk, trickling into Coffee Grounds and punctuating the show with, well, drunkenness. It wasn't offensive—anyone looking to get painted and cheer for Conn, drunk or not, I say more power to you—rather it's the mixing of the two contexts that made these folks seem starkly out of place. And herein lies my point.

It's important to realize that environments like club hockey games are distinctly different from that of Coffee Grounds, and for good reason. The value of Coffee Grounds (as it stands now) is that it serves as a quiet haven for those looking for respite from chaotic stimuli of the campus. What concerns me, and what should concern you as well, are the prospective options that were offered by SGA as possible "improvements". A legitimate cappuccino machine, a better stereo system and perhaps a new couch or two could be solid. But picture Coffee Grounds with a plasma screen TV, greasy snacks and a staff of dispassionate, tired and occasionally abused-looking paid workers drawn from within and without the community, mechanically turning out pizza and wraps. Now also picture stern-faced Officer Fratoni acting as bouncer at the door, trying to sort benign drunks from problematic drunks. What the survey offered a glimpse of was Coffee Grounds re-imagined into a kind of Cro II: The Apocalypse. The distinction being that adding better coffee-making equipment or installing a legitimate bar to save trips to and from the kitchen, or the installation of a legit stereo system are all

amplifications of the current space, whereas the replacement of furniture, the addition of a television and of snacks for the merry revelers all constitute drastic alterations that negatively affect that vital feel the café is known for.

Before you accuse me of being alarmist, realize that it's not that I know this to be the definitive plans for the future of CG. What's legitimately alarming here is more that it *could be*. Apparently the decision about what happens to this essentially student-run, student-owned and student-loved space isn't expressly to be decided by the students, survey or no, SGA or no. Money will be given, but with what stipulations?

I'm not faulting SGA here and I'll stop short of faulting the Administration for their flawed rationale about our drinking situation—it's a recurring theme and we've all learned to sing the tune—but recognize that the power to make changes is readily corruptible here, and has got to be placed in the right hands. Whatever money the school wishes to give should be given as a grant to Coffee Grounds' current proprietors, without specific stipulations or demands. If they want to make stipulations or demands, they should be basic: Equally accessible to everybody, fiscally sound. That's it. The people who know best what's needed there are the people that work there, that commit considerable weekly time to its operation and upkeep. No screens, no grinders. If they want to extend the hours, then let them do it on their own terms and in keeping with the spirit and character it currently emanates. Through this approach, the school can provide for the students without imposing its preconceptions about what we want, and CG can continue to be a venue for music acts like Mark Warren and a haven for everybody else.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Giving Thanks for Broadway Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll*

BY BEN FISHER '08

staff writer

I try to get down to New York a couple of times every year to see a play or two. I never go to musicals; instead I try to find the plays that have come across the Atlantic from England or Ireland to run for limited engagements on Broadway. With student rush tickets at only 25 bucks, they are well worth the trip. Tom Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll* and Conor McPherson's *The Sea Farer* are two of the latest imports on Broadway. If you're going to be in New York at any time during your Thanksgiving break, I think you would be an idiot not to go and see them. The plays are very different from one another stylistically and structurally, but both showcase innovative and engaging writing, acting, and directing. These are the types of plays that give me hope when I am confronted with the avalanche of crap that is most commercial theater. In the interest of space, I'm confining myself to *Rock 'n' Roll* this week. The review of *The Sea Farer* will follow in the next issue.

I was especially eager to see Stoppard's *Rock 'n' Roll* since the primary focus of the play is the Velvet Revolution of Czechoslovakia – a subject that has dominated many aspects of my senior year. The play spans the years

1968 to 1990, using Czech politics and rock music as touchstone to chronicle the lives of several characters who are each profoundly changed by the social maelstrom that was the collapse of communism. The play begins when Jan (Rufus Sewell), a Czech exchange student with an extensive record collection, decides to leave England and return to his homeland during Prague Spring. He leaves behind his mentor Max Morrow (Brian Cox), a hard-line communist, his wife (Sinead Cusack), and their daughter (also played by Cusack in the second half of the play). As the political situation in Prague becomes increasingly oppressive, both Jan and Max suffer a crisis of faith: Max remains a stalwart supporter of communism despite the party evaporating around him, while Jan, inspired by the imprisonment of the experimental Czech band Plastic People of the Universe, becomes involved in the resistance movement, Charter 77. Stoppard also weaves in Syd Barrett, Breast Cancer, and Sappho for good measure.

The story is told in a series of short scenes, in Prague and in Cambridge, each a few years apart. Rather than having a continual narrative, we are shown snapshots of the characters at each stage. As in other Stoppard plays, the rapid intellectual discourse is striking and

informed. The dialogue written for Max is especially good; Stoppard creates a worthy sparring partner capable of compelling arguments at each stage. Even though we know how the story ends (communism does not work), the audience never feels that Max is an idiot – despite his infuriating stubbornness. Cox's nuanced performance juggles these subtleties well. He is simultaneously fierce and gentle, informed and oblivious. As the communist dream collapses around him, Cox elegantly mutes Max's brazen support for the party to quiet disbelief. Sewell's timid, sincere Jan is likewise masterfully developed. Within moments of each new scene, we can see how the absent years have worn on him, and how his love for rock evolves into a desire to live in a free society.

The verbal pyrotechnics and political discourse are certainly entertaining, but *Rock 'n' Roll* succeeds the most in the moments where ideology invades the domestic life, where the character's passions overpower their intellects. There are beautiful, furious scenes between Max and his wife, who does not share his political beliefs, and Max and Jan, where the ideological banter becomes nasty, vindictive, and far too personal. Trevor Nunn's direction is particularly telling in these moments. We see the characters seethe as they attempt to reign in their frustration, until they finally break and lash out at one another. In some respects, the level of passion in this play is new

territory for Stoppard, whose works are more noted for the aforementioned intellectual discourse. It gives a comforting impression that Stoppard, a friend of Havel and Czech-born himself, is writing something close to his heart, a subject worth getting upset about.

The play has already received very positive reviews here and in London, where it premiered, so perhaps my take seems redundant. I will say something that the other reviews won't, however, and that is one should do their homework before seeing this play. Otherwise it will be completely inaccessible. The play is so closely rooted in its context that it would be impossible to appreciate it without a thorough understanding of the history. I enjoyed it because I've spent the better part of sixth months reading about Havel, the Plastics, the Revolution, and all things Czech. The people sitting next to me, however, could not juggle all the references and left confused and irritated. I firmly believe that critics are intimidated by Stoppard. They are reluctant to give his plays bad reviews because it would imply that they are just uninformed, inattentive, and lowbrow. I suppose the level of preparation required to enjoy *Rock 'n' Roll* can be viewed as a weakness of the piece, but I think it is comforting that the bar is set a little higher. If nothing else, the Velvet Revolution is something worth learning about. The real drama, never mind Stoppard's creation, is political theater at its best.

Twenty-Four Hours of Theatrical Mayhem

BY RACINE OXTOBY '11

staff writer

It's one AM on Saturday morning, and I have been sitting in front of my laptop for five hours writing a play. Right now, I find myself facing three choices: 1) throw my laptop out the window in frustration, 2) give up, stop writing, go to bed, and in the morning hope that Group Art Attack will forgive me, or 3) continue working on the play I'm currently writing, hope that I finish it in a decent amount of time, and pray for the best. Naturally, I choose number three – laptops are expensive, and I volunteered for the task so I should have known what was coming.

24-hour theater is a frantic student-run tradition for Group Art Attack where all aspects of a production – writing, directing, and acting – are all put together in one day. The process started with four writers. "24-hour theater started Friday night, when I gave the writers the list of limitations they needed to include in their play," says junior Stephanie Winter, co-president of Group Art Attack. The writers had to choose at least five of the limitations, which included one character confronting their worst fear, the play taking place on public transportation, and a love triangle where at least one corner of the triangle is an inanimate object, among other crazy

choices. "At nine Saturday morning, the directors received their scripts, and at ten the actors came," continues Stephanie. "They spent all day staging their plays and memorizing their lines until all four plays performed at eight PM Saturday: thus, the whole process in twenty-four hours."

Besides organizing the production, Stephanie also directed and starred in Andrew Proctor's play *The Train Ride*, which also starred Adam Berard. The play told the story of a woman's encounter on a train with a bum who repeated the popular line, "You're stepping on my cat."

Another play, *Art in a Colorless World* by Freshman writer Tamara Glass, incorporated the limitations of public transportation and of the entire play being someone's illusion. The play was directed by Carra Cheslin and starred Laura Wolfgang and Group Art Attack co-president Monica Raymunt as two women who may or may not be the same person.

"The process was an incredible experience," says freshman Jeff Church, who not only acted in but also directed Ben Fisher's play *A Lucky Day in Hell*, a play about a group of ordinary people who unwittingly sell their souls and are sent to Purgatory, which looks suspiciously like the New York Port Authority. "Once you find that you're surrounded by people who are really intent on achieving the same goal you are, most of the stress is lifted." Jeff's role as a drunken old man in a wheelchair drew many laughs, and he starred alongside Celia Whitehead, Graeme Butler, and Sarah Robertson.

Freshman Kiefer Roberts starred in the play I wrote, *Getting Over Flight Fear*. "The process wasn't stressful for me," he says, "because the lines in the play I was in were shared equally, so as long as I had the lines down, I felt pretty comfortable." My play was about two coworkers who don't get along – one is irritable and an alcoholic, while the other suffers from a chronic fear of flying – and the flight they have to share with each other.

It's three AM on Saturday morning, and I can finally relax. My play is done, emailed off to Stephanie, and a go to sleep. Eight o'clock that night comes along, and as I'm sitting in the second row of Palmer 202, it occurs to me that I don't even know who's acting in my play, let alone if they liked it or not. As it turns out, I don't have to wait long, for my play is first on the list. Kiefer, Allison Richmond, and Hilary Goodnow are soon on stage, pulling off a killer performance, although it's sort of hard for me to see them as I'm watching my play being performed through the spaces between my fingers.

"24-hour theater will definitely happen again, maybe next semester, and certainly next year," promises Stephanie. She doesn't have to worry about future participants. "Would I do it again?" Kiefer asks himself. "Absolutely! But I might consider taking on a different role – perhaps writer – and I would definitely get more sleep the night before."

CAMEL SPORTS

Volleyball Dominates this Season



Women's Volleyball Team (Shipper)

ANDREW CARLIN '09

staff writer

Over the past four seasons, the women's volleyball team has improved dramatically—culminating in a semi-final match in the NESCAC tournament this season. With an overall record of 20-9, the Camels earned the 4th seed in the tournament behind conference powerhouses Amherst, Williams, and Tufts.

The Camels started the season red hot, winning their first 10 games en route to a 7-3 record in the NESCAC. Co-captain Caitlin Tomaska '09 credits much of the team's success to being one of the most physically fit teams in the conference. Maddie Baldwin '10 echoes the sentiment because "[o]ther teams will tire out and lose their enthusiasm, but our team never seems to get tired during matches. We get the job done, no matter how long it'll take."

It didn't take that long at all for the Camels to defeat in the quarter-finals. The team trounced Wesleyan

3-0 but suffered a tough loss against Amherst in the semifinals. This was the furthest the team had ever advanced in the postseason in recent years which solidified an already outstanding season as one of the best in Conn history.

The Camels were an exceptionally young team this year, and they managed to excel despite suffering a few major set backs. Setter Marissa DeMais '11 was injured for a short period of time, but the team did not miss a beat for Emma Matthieson '09 switched positions to fill in for her. The Camels performed at a high level throughout the season, but they did struggle a bit during the second half. This, however, was nothing a team viewing of the film "300" couldn't fix, and the Camels continued their winning ways.

The 20-9 record is one of the best in Camel Volleyball history, and the fact that they were only the 4th seed in the NESCAC tournament reflects the competitive nature of the conference. Each year there is more parity in NESCAC, but the Camels have found a way to stay

competitive over the past several seasons. While many factors have contributed to this consistency, most people on the team attribute it to team chemistry. Caitlin Tomaska explains that "[i]t's an amazing feeling when you can be on a team where not only are you a formidable opponent during a match, but both on and off the court you can depend on each other."

The woman's volleyball team had a tremendous season and gained a significant amount of support from their fans. Generating student interest in Conn sports is always a challenge, but for the Camels' final home night game of the season, the gym was packed with rowdy fans—one memorable fan even wore *Braveheart*-style face paint while cheering the team to victory over NESCAC rival Middlebury.

Although the competition in NESCAC gets tougher each year, there is no doubt that the Camels will rise to the occasion next season.



Tomaska (Wilkes)

Player Of The Week: Volleyball's Caitlin Tomaska '09

BY STEVE BLOOM '10

staff writer

Caitlin Tomaska '09 from Solana Beach, CA, is this week's player of the week. Caitlin is a co-captain of the women's volleyball team and was recently named to both the NESCAC and NEWCA all-star teams. The following is a Q&A with Tomaska:

Steve Bloom: Tell us about your background in volleyball.

Caitlin Tomaska: I started participating in clinics at our local volleyball club when I was 8 yrs. old, but only because my Dad made me play a sport. My sister played volleyball, so I just decided to follow in her footsteps to sort of get it over with and I didn't really enjoy the sport until 8th grade. Starting then was when I really began working with a personal trainer. Since I was shorter even in 8th grade, and California volleyball is extremely competitive, I knew the only way to win my position over the taller girls was to earn what I hadn't been given in height. I would have to be that much stronger, faster, smarter, etc. The high school I went to had been well known for volleyball, and even though I didn't play varsity until my Junior year, both my club and high school experience helped me tremendously

SEE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

continued on page 9

CAMEL SPORTS

Coach Satran Poised for Breakout Season

BY MATT FAVA '09

staff writer

As the Connecticut College Men's Basketball program looks ahead to their '07-'08 season, Head Coach Tom Satran has expressed that this may be the year for the Camels to go deep into the NESCAC Championship Tournament. Satran, a Class of 1994 Connecticut College graduate himself, is in his sixth season as Head Coach of the Camels. After a bright athletic career, Satran stayed at his Alma Mata and became an assistant coach, under the current UPenn head coach Glenn Miller. As assistant coach, Satran helped develop the '97-'98 NCAA Sweet Sixteen squad as well as the '98-'99 NCAA Final Four team.

The next step in Satran's career led him to follow Coach Miller to Brown, and he served as an assistant coach in a fast growing Division I program. Next, Satran returned to DIII as he earned the assistant position at NYU. Although these jobs are extremely respectable, it is the next move in his career that sets Satran apart from the rest. Still quite young for a coach, Satran returned

to Conn for the '02-'03 season, but it was not for an assistant position. At 30 years young, this aspiring basketball guru had landed a head coaching job in the most competitive conference in DIII basketball.

The Camels' young head coach struggled in his first three years, but he has made significant progress in the last two— recording records of 13-11 and 11-13 respectively and a trip to the first round of the NESCAC Championship Tournament. Looking to break through the ranks of the NESCAC, Satran thinks that all of the pieces of the puzzle are in place for the '07-'08 season.

Chris Oroszko will be assisting Satran, and this year will be his second on the team. After attending and playing at Clark University, Oroszko was an assistant there for two years before moving on to coach high school basketball at St. John's High School and Westborough High School in Massachusetts. An absolutely crucial member of the Camel coaching staff, he is mainly in charge of recruiting, scouting, academic advising, and practice preparation. Oroszko specializes in defense,

while Satran works to perfect the Camels' intricate and efficient Princeton Offense.

There seems to be an optimistic outlook among the two coaches this year, and an attitude that stresses the importance of each game and also views each as a winnable contest. The Camels truly feel that they can compete with all of their opponents this year, and they plan to do just that.

With a glimpse at this weekend's season opening tournament at Babson, the coaches have taken a matter of fact approach with Satran saying, "We will play two talented teams no matter what. It is totally up to us to lose both games or win the tournament, depending on how we come ready to play."

One thing been made clear for both the players and the coaches: nothing and nobody controls the future of the Camels' season except for the Camels themselves. With this "no excuses" mentality, it is sure to be an exciting '07-'08 season, and they appear to be a team that everyone should check out.



Shooting hoops (Schuerhoff)

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

continued from page eight

with the awesome coaches and intense competition.

SB: You are an outside hitter. Can you tell us what playing this position involves?

CT: The outside is one of the primary attackers and if we aren't hitting we're digging or blocking the other team's attack. A coach once told me that it's the outside's job to make a kill out of any ball that is given us, which I think is true. Or if not make a kill, than make sure the other team has a hard time producing a play out of your hit. Usually, although it could depend somewhat on the coach, the outside hitter will have the most opportunities to hit.

SB: How do you feel your individual volleyball season went? Were you happy with the way the team played?

CT: I think I played much better this season than last season, but I had trained a lot harder this past summer than the previous. I was much more driven to play my best and that drive carried throughout the season. I'm very happy with how we

played this season! Even though we didn't win NESCAC like we wanted, all of us went to practice every day with the mind-set of defeating all of the teams in our conference, because we know we can. We're a very athletic and talented team, with everyone contributing something individually both in skill and character. This has been our best season yet by far, and I can't wait until next year!

SB: With two straight twenty-win seasons, what do you think it will take to do it again next year?

CT: We just have to keep that same focus and drive, and keep working out all the kinks. Again we're a very talented and athletic team, and we haven't reached our full potential at all. We have amazing team chemistry, so we can just focus on the physical aspect of the game without having to worry about drama. All of us want to see each other improve and play their best, and having the support of the whole team with no one excluded makes it a lot easier to just focus on the game. This has been our 3rd year going to the NESCAC play-offs, and each year we've gone has confirmed more and more that we belong there, and we know it. So what it comes down to is just using

the drive and motivation so that we can become the best team possible, which can definitely happen because we always have the support of each other, even through the tough losses or practices??

SB: You were honored with a first team selection to the NESCAC team and as a second selection for the NEWCA, how does that feel? Were you surprised to receive the awards?

CT: Well, the NEWCA was definitely a surprise, especially since there are so many good players in New England, so it's definitely an honor. I really wanted someone else from our team to be selected to a NESCAC team this year instead of just myself. It was our 3rd year appearing in the NESCAC championships, 2nd time for the semi-finals, and I believe our team couldn't get as far as it had or played as well as we have if no one else didn't deserve the title as well. But that's just my opinion...

SB: Is there anyone in particular who has influenced you throughout your playing career?

CT: I've had so many really awesome coaches that I can't just name one without giving credit to the others. However, I will say that whenever think

of who had really helped start of my career it would be that first coach I had when I was 8 until I joined a club team, Dede Bodnar. Even though during that time I tried to find excuses to go to the once a week practices, in retrospect I think it was solely because I didn't want to socialize with any one I didn't know. But Dede held so much enthusiasm for the game, and really laid down the basic skills with precision, that my experience under her coaching really set the foundation for what had occurred in later years. She really kicked my butt, too, even at the age of 8! She never let any of us slack off, and demanded from me everything I had- she began instilling the quality of hard work in me at a young age. Coach Edmed has done an awesome job putting together a team of talented players where all of us really get a long, so after so many years of playing volleyball I finally fully understand what it is to be part of team, and to put the team first ahead of oneself. To be able to have that kind support in a team is something that I hadn't experienced previously, and I'm extremely happy that I can spend my college career playing with them and under a coach who values that team chemistry.

Letters to the Editor, continued

However, in a paper in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, Lockwood and Frohlich take much of the same data that Moberg uses and reanalyze the data and end up with the graph Mr. Krogh-Grabbe references in his article and is displayed on the link he gave to the Max Planck Institute. This graph shows no recent correlation between solar and temperature. Now, in yet another data set, this time by Scafetta and West shown in Figure 3, we see that the solar contribution past about 1970, does not correlate as well as the Moberg data does with temperature. However, Scafetta and West do attribute at least 50% of the current warming to solar influence.

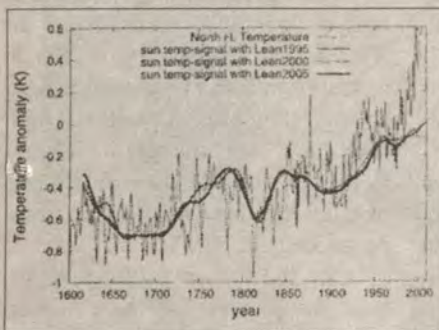


Figure 3

And finally, we have the data of Svensmark and Friis-Christiansen which is in response to the Lockwood analysis. What is interesting about the Svensmark paper which shows a near perfect correlation of temperature with solar is that they have removed from the temperature data of the last 4 decades the influences of the El Niño, the North Atlantic Oscillation, and various volcanic events; all notorious acute disruptors of the climate.

Let's tally the "consensus": one for human induced warming, one for 50% human influence, and two against. As a professional scientist I find this situation fascinating in that there really is no overwhelming avalanche of data and analysis for either case. That means to me, that we have a lot more to learn about what is happening with the whole climate change business. Also, both Lockwood and Scafetta readily admit that the evidence for the solar influence being the prime mover of climate in the past is very strong. What is interesting about this position is that it requires that the sun suddenly is no longer the prime mover of climate starting around 1970. Given the historical data shown I find that a difficult assumption to make.

One final piece of data that seems timely: the paper by Soon (Figure 4) shows a strong correlation again between the sun and the Arctic temperature. Given this data it is not too surprising that the Arctic passage opened up this past summer.

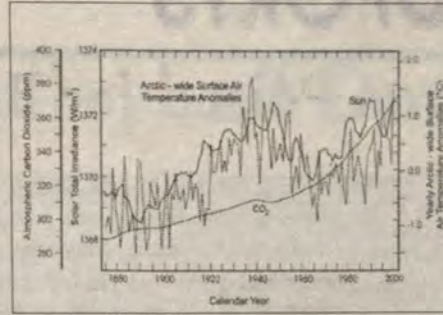


Figure 4

I've already discussed Mr. Krogh-Grabbe's reference to the Max Planck Institute, but I also need to respond to his other reference at the World Radiation Center. At first glance their graphical data does seem to show a flat trend in solar variation. However, he seems to have missed a critical sentence in their data description: "It is important to note that the model is an independent source of information for comparisons and as long as it is not used for over solar cycle time scales it provides a reliable time series for time scales of less than a year." (emphasis mine). The model data shown is for comparison on a daily-monthly basis to the well-known 11 year solar cycle; it is not valid for decadal solar series.

Finally, Mr. Krogh-Grabbe praises, in a back-handed way, my pointing out that even hybrids come with environmental cost. I left as an exercise for the student (I am a faculty member) the energy cost of the nickel production in a hybrid. Since he didn't bother to do the "homework" let me give the answer: the 33 lbs. of nickel in a typical hybrid, according to what I've calculated, invokes about a 100 gallons of gasoline energy penalty. This is obviously easily made up in about 5 tank fills with the hybrid given its relatively high mileage over the SUV. It doesn't take into account the chemical runoff in the mining, refining, etc. of the nickel. Mr. Krogh-Grabbe might be surprised to learn that I actually think hybrids should become more widespread (SUV hybrids?) and hopefully cheaper so more people could buy them. I wonder if the Prius is a bit overpriced? Nah, that would mean Toyota might be interested in making a large profit. In fact, I would like to see the entire U.S. ground transportation system be totally petroleum-free. The problem is that that there doesn't seem to be viable alternative (i.e. new energy source) that can handle the job. My reason for wanting this has nothing whatsoever to do with climate change, but I think it's interesting that we both would like to see the same end result.

-Michael Monce, Professor of Physics

The debate being played out between Professor Monce and Alex Krogh-Grabbe regarding global warming is quite unsettling. We have had an especially hard time digesting the assertions made by Professor Monce, not because his viewpoint is in the minority, or that it completely contradicts the cause we fight for, or even the chance that he might be right. Professor Monce's letters scare us because they are void of any alternative solution to global warming. How can we as a human race even attempt to stop solar variation?

What the last couple articles between Professor Monce and Alex have shown is that no scientist is ever 100% certain on anything. But from a political standpoint, we cannot simply ignore a ticking time bomb, especially when only one explanation provides a solution.

But let's take a step back and assume for a moment that Professor Monce's assertions are right, and increased CO2 levels are not the main cause of the earth's warming. If this is the case, would our efforts at lowering CO2 emissions be in vain? The answer is no. At the very least, we as a community will have worked towards countering environmental and economic injustices. Our efforts will have gone towards helping low-income families living near power plants, redistributing the wealth influx generated by oil and motor companies, and producing a cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing world. The reduction of CO2 emissions will still benefit the

country, regardless of whether CO2 is warming the planet.

If we as a college community take Professor Monce's opinion as truth and stop our 'greening' efforts, we are left vulnerable. What if he is wrong? Of course, the exact repercussions of global warming are not known completely, but can anyone really ignore the images where most of Florida, Boston, the World Trade Center Memorial, and coastal regions of New England are all under water? This is a future we will not accept. We fear that Professor Monce's do-nothing attitude may have led some people to believe that there is no humanitarian need in shutting off their lights or boycotting the sales of SUVs.

It's pointless to argue over the root cause of global warming. Instead, we should be focused on doing whatever we can to prevent the irreversible changes to our economy, food supply, population distribution, and standard of living. So until Professor Monce provides some human solution to solar variation, we think we should be acting on the best solution provided to us: reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The best way for us to do this is through efficiency and a strong investment in clean energy. We hope that Professor Monce recognizes the importance of combating CO2 emissions, even if he disagrees with the overwhelming majority of the scientific community about the cause global warming.

- The Renewable Energy Club (REC)

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CAMEL SPORTS

What Shula Should Have Said

BY JASON STARR '09

sports editor



Last week, Hall of Fame coach Don Shula expressed his discontent over the Patriots' current undefeated season. He led his Dolphins to an undefeated season in 1972, and no team has had a perfect season since. Shula stated that if the Pats go undefeated, something should indicate that they were caught cheating in the first week of the season to distinguish them from the '72 Dolphins.

"The Spygate thing has diminished what they've accomplished," remarked Shula in an interview with the *New York Daily News*. "I guess you got the same thing as putting an asterisk by Barry Bonds' home run record," he added.

It is not a secret that virtually no one outside of New England is pulling for the Pats anymore. Up until the "Spygate" incident, many coaches, players, analysts, and fans still couldn't figure out how the Patriots emerged as a superpower in the NFL seven years ago. Tom Brady, a sixth round draft pick, only needed two seasons to win a Super bowl, but it took Peyton Manning, the first overall pick of the '98 draft, nine seasons to become a champion.

The Pats shocked the sports world by upsetting of the St. Louis Rams—aka "the greatest show on turf"—in the Super Bowl in 2001. The additions of Roosevelt Covlin and Rodney Harrison enabled them to win the Super Bowl again in '03 and '04. This year, they acquired Adaluis Thomas and Randy Moss, and now they appear to be unstoppable.

But now all of their critics finally have a way to rationalize their success: the Patriots are just a bunch of cheaters, and none of their accomplishments should count. While "Spygate" has been used to diminish or nullify their achievements, this reasoning overlooks the high level of talent the Pats have had over the years and their ability to execute big plays. Videotaping their opponent signals

certainly does not affect their ability to pass or catch the football, and it is impossible to determine what kind of advantage the Pats actually gained from this illegal act.

I am flattered that Shula thinks the Patriots will go undefeated this season, but I think it is way too early to really talk about them finishing 16-0 or even 19-0. The Pats are currently 9-0, but an upset could certainly occur over the next seven weeks. They also have two very difficult match ups remaining on their schedule: a Monday night game at Baltimore on December 3rd and a home game against Pittsburgh on December 9th.

Shula completely changed his opinions about the Pats during a segment of ESPN's "Mike and Mike in the Morning." If they run the table... then they're doing it within the rules of the [NFL]... And there shouldn't be any asterisk to it."

Instead of focusing on the Patriots, Shula should pay more attention to the dismal state of his Dolphins—currently the only winless team in the '07 season. Nothing is going right for the Fins: former head coach Nick Saban abandoned them during the off-season, quarterback Trent Green suffered a potentially career-ending concussion in October, and running back Ronnie Brown, the only bright spot of the season, had season-ending knee surgery three weeks ago.

The Dolphins appear to be throwing in the towel for the rest the season. They decided to start rookie quarterback John Beck against the Eagles this Sunday. They also traded veteran wide receiver Chris Chambers to the San Diego Chargers for just a second round draft pick last month which suggests that the franchise has already begun to think about next season. While it is unlikely, the Dolphins could finish the season 0-16.

Shula was in a position to motivate his former team and potentially salvaged their season. The coach, however, used his air time to discredit the Pats' success. Shula should have offered a message of encouragement to the Dolphins and tried give them something to play for other than the first pick in the 2008 draft, but his remarks may just provide the Patriots with more incentive to stay undefeated.

The Thin, Vague Line Between Sports and Politics

BY BEN EAGLE '09

staff writer



Having a conversation with a non-sports fan can be an extremely frustrating. To these non-believers, sports are just athletes displaying their physical prowess in front of an audience; a goal or a point is a meaningless tally in a meaningless game. They ask: what larger impact do these games (they always say game, to emphasize its pettiness) have on the world around us?

Sports, on the surface level, are just two sides competing under a set of commonly agreed upon rules. Its earliest roots trace back to Ancient Greece, the birthplace of the Olympics. Athletes from various Greek cities competed not only for gold medals but also for pride. These participants represented the collective hope of their neighbors and countrymen.

Sports have evolved greatly over time. Athletes are now portrayed as silly mascots with the largest checkbooks. This transition turned many away from sports, but to many fans like myself, this form of sports found a place in our hearts and also made the times when athletes did compete for their countries that much more special.

And the Olympics are certainly special. Conceived as a method to bring nations together, it has largely been successful. Territories that are legally part of another nation, like Hong Kong and Puerto Rico, are able to field their own teams and are imbued with a sense of national pride that not even the United Nations will grant them. But when a country's honor takes center stage, politics cannot be far behind.

While the Olympics have claimed to be an apolitical forum for athletics, politics have often overshadowed the games. The earliest evidence of this would be the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin, when the Nazis used the games as propaganda for their fascist ideology.

These politics did not fade out over-time either. In 2004, the Republic of Iran demonstrated its long standing policy that none of their athletes would engage in any competitions with any Israelis. Iran judo champion, Arash Miresmaeili, deliberately didn't make weight in his match against an Israeli athlete, and an outraged Olympic Committee could do nothing to prevent it.

While the Olympics provide the most visible stage for the fusion of sports and politics, it is not necessarily the best barometer of it. Similar to the United Nations, every country is represented (well, almost every country), but they are represented by rich diplomats who aren't necessarily attuned to the daily lives of their fellow citizens. To truly find a sport that represents a country's current political scene, we must look to Israel.

The current state of affairs in Israel is troublesome to say the least. Constant fear of attacks from Palestine and a month-long education strike are just some of their concerns. In the past, sports in Israel were disconnected from this relatively tumultuous society. But a recent event has brought that violence to the court.

Last Sunday evening at Mahla Arena in Jerusalem, Hapoel Jerusalem was playing Holon Jerusalem in a basketball premier league match. With a minute and a half remaining in the contest, a brown paper bag was thrown onto the court. A valiant security guard quickly scooped up the lunch bag and walked towards the exit. The brown paper bag exploded in his hand, and he lost three of his fingers. Panic ensued, and the arena was evacuated.

The next day, the guard's fingers were successfully re-attached, three suspects were caught, and the Israeli basketball league remained visibly shaken. Holon owner and coach Miki Dorsman told the *Jerusalem Post*, "I feel like somebody stabbed me in the heart. The security guard tried to save our lives and I thank god that he only injured his hand. This must be stopped or somebody will die." Does violence have to spill over to the sporting world for us to realize that it needs to end?

By no means am I offering sports as a solution. We can see through the Olympics that countries playing against one another do not even necessarily guarantee peace. But sports can serve as a medium through which we can view social conditions. And, in the case of Israel, it might be the only way we can identify just how bad the situation is. While sports may be only two teams playing each other under a set agreed upon rules, we also must realize that the teams follow both league and societal rules.

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Stephen Colbert for President

By Adrian Stover '08



On the evening of November 5th, I watched in horror as Stephen Colbert withdrew his candidacy for the President of the United States. On November 1st, the South Carolina Democratic Party executive council voted to deny Colbert's application to be on the ballot under the Democratic name.

"The general sense of the council was that he wasn't a serious candidate and that was why he wasn't selected to be on the ballot," stated John Werner, the party's director. Several days later, Colbert announced that he would not continue his campaign. As a member of the Facebook group *1,000,000 strong for Stephen T Colbert*, which claims 1,474,487 members as of 3:40 PM on November 12, this is very distressing news. To think that the South Carolina Democrats or "lame-o-crats," could reject someone with such ideals, projects, and gusto, for being "not a serious candidate" is upsetting to say the least. It fills me with a righteous anger that can only be expressed in the opinion section of a college newspaper. How could anyone even imagine someone with anti-Georgia and pro-Vladimir Putin platforms as a candidate not worthy of even being on the ballot? Obviously the Democratic Party in South Carolina is out of touch with the voters, for they have little to no comprehension as to how important the issue with Georgia is to John Q. "American" Public. As many of my fellow Americans already know, it has to do with peaches.

Yes, those succulent, round pieces of fruit that long ago fell from the trees and into our hearts are at the root of this problem. Whether you peel them, bake them into a pie, or eat them out of a can, eating peaches is a delectable American pastime. But why are they so expensive? It is because fat-cat Georgian farmers have quietly built up over the years a monopoly on Georgian peaches. With this in place, those profiteers have pushed the price of the peach so high that the average American family can barely bake one peach pie per month. These prices have been too high for too long, and it is about time someone had the power to "crush the state of Georgia." With Colbert and Putin in office, I could sleep soundly at night knowing that America had a supply of inexpensive, delicious peaches. However, this will not be the case and therefore I suffer from insomnia. Stephen Colbert joins a long list of presidential candidates who would have had very successful terms in office if there had not been an obvious, huge conspiracy against them. These would include Henry Clay, Joe Smith Jr., William Jennings Bryan, Pat Paulsen, Frank Zappa, and Ross Perot.

If given the chance to address Mr. Colbert on this issue I would say, "What ho, good sir! There's no reason to give up hope now. Perhaps someone in the Republican Party might be willing to give you a loan to finance your campaign. Why, their tradition of sharing, respect and goodwill towards others who are different from them predates the civil rights movement. Surely, someone will help you." For America's sake, I would hope that he would find strength in these words.

Equal Opportunity Terrorism

By Ian Barnes '09



I deeply object to what has become of the word "terrorism" just because a handful of y a h o o s slammed a couple planes into some buildings. Terrorism didn't always depict a Muslim fundamentalist with a death wish, yet this is the image we can't help but conjure up upon hearing or reading the word.

What happened to the kind of terrorism you could look at and say, "They're not crazy, they've just been misguided." Like any good Bond villain or the thirteen colonies during the Revolutionary War, it used to be the concept of going to extreme and unconventional means to achieve a desired end. Terrorism doesn't necessitate suicide bombings or IEDs.

What we have now is an unnecessary redefining of terrorism. We already had a word for suicide bombings—it's called crazy and it worked just fine.

I find the fact that terrorism and Islam have become inseparable to be grossly unethical. We instantly think Muslims when we think terrorism, but if we could stop being so ignorant for a minute, we'd realize not all terrorists are Muslims. What about all the other non-Muslim terrorists in the world that we're ignoring? How are they supposed to control my life through fear when I don't even know they exist?

All I'm vouching for is a little equal opportunity terrorism. This isn't private bureaucracy; we don't get to go under the table and pick the best candidate. We have to spread the fear-mongering around a little bit. I guarantee there's at least one other organization out there capable of completely hijacking our common sense; let's put them up to bat and see if they hit a home run.

It's rather unwise and unfair of us to put all our fears into one basket. Al Qaeda is pretty impressive, but in a world of 6 billion people, there's always someone better. Would it be so hard to pay attention to another band of militant extremists who undoubtedly deserve our

contempt?

We use the word jihad like it's taboo and somehow indicative of the lunacy of Muslim fundamentalists, but is our war on terror really any different? Or better? It consumes us, throws itself across our headlines and worms its way into the nightly news and political speeches. We can't go a day without talking about terrorism.

The American war on terror has one impelling action: the destruction of the World Trade Center. In the six years since then, we haven't been touched; it's time to shut up, stop making the dead into martyrs and worry about more pressing issues. It was a tragedy, but most Americans haven't met a single one of those 3000 people.

How many Americans die unnecessarily every year from murder, disease, and outright poverty? How many Americans don't have health care or a decent living wage? It's much more than 3000, but where is their public uproar? Where is their media firestorm? Where is their fucking war?

True Confessions of an 8th Grade Teacher

By Rachel Gaines '07

To whoever finds this:

Please help me. I am being held hostage by a group of 13-year-olds. I am not sure what they intend to do to me, but I'm sure they do not have my best interests in mind.

So far they have made no attempt to harm me, but judging by the way they treat one another, I do not think I am safe from being stuffed in a locker or punched in the thigh. A girl was just sent away after being hit in the eye by a flying pen. A boy is unconscious on the floor. He was performing a stunt in which he leans his chair and rocks back and forth. The chair slipped, causing him to slam his head against a table. It was a terrible scene, and his ape-like peers merely laughed at their fallen friend. Though I know little about these people and their ways, I would not be surprised if they cannibalize the small concussed one. His accident was days ago and he has not returned. I assume the other children have eaten him.

This cruel display is merely the tip of the iceberg. Everyday these barbarians amaze me with their callousness. As is true with many primitive tribes, they believe that kindness shows weakness. Even worse, it might hint that you have a crush on someone, leading to the most brutal forms of abuse at the hands of the peer group. The females, though subtle, are the most hostile. They seem to speak in codes, provoking fluttering laughter and tearful trips to the girls' room.

They do show flashes of sensitivity, however, when it comes to their courting patterns. During the earliest stages of courtship, a pair must not talk at school. They are only permitted to correspond via text message, IM, and mspace. Once the rest of the group becomes aware of the courtship, it becomes "official," but the meaning of this term is still a mystery.

Watching this enigmatic and brutish behavior makes me yearn for the comforts of Conn. I miss the proximity to my own peer group, with its own, less cruel forms of humor, its mature knowledge of common sense, courtesy and less round-about versions of courtship. I miss being part of the collective instead of an unusual captive in a world of mini-people.

Yet, I am fascinated by these tiny tyrants. Despite their malice and indecipherable slang, they have an innocent sweetness. They show me genuine respect as long as their comrades are not within earshot. They see me, as do the other captives on Middle School Island, as an adult, and that makes it both nerve-wracking and comforting to their fragile egos. In return, the triviality and earnestness of their drama makes me feel secure in, and sometimes uncomfortably aware of the fact that I am the only grown-up in the room.

Five short months ago, I was still a student, looking up to my professors and completely dependent on the dining services staff. Now, at 23, I am scared and at a loss for how to survive in this desolate land most days. But technically, I am in charge.

Rachel Gaines graduated last June with a double major in English and Education. She is currently teaching 8th grade English/Language Arts at Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School in Melrose, MA.

OPINION

Response to the Climate Debate

By Alex Krogh-Grabbe '08 & Pat Wallace '10



In his most recent letter, Professor Monce further argues against the conventional wisdom of climate science. He points out that scientific truth is determined by repeated empirical testing, not by consensus. He accuses the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of not sufficiently examining contrary evi-

dence, and further pushes the opinion that solar variation (not human-produced greenhouse gas) is the primary driving force of global warming. According to Prof. Monce, there are reputable studies supporting this claim.

It seems like a lot of what Prof. Monce is concerned about is that climate scientists have rushed to a conclusion about the causes of climate change. However, the leading authority on climate science, the 2007 IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, was very meticulous in its analysis of information. It includes the input of "more than 1200 authors, [and] 2500 scientific expert reviewers from more than 130 countries" (according to the Union of Concerned Scientists). Furthermore, the full report references more than 19,000 scientific studies. Of course, the consideration of dissenting experimental results is very important for the integrity of the scientific process, but when the conclusive, repeated majority of data support a hypothesis, it must be accepted as the most likely reality. In this situation, the reality is that CO₂ emissions play the primary role in causing global climate change.

Prof. Monce successfully shows in the four studies he presents that no conclusions can be drawn by looking at such a small sample size, because he admits that three different conclusions are reached in these studies. However, the 2007 IPCC report is a large enough sam-

ple size to reach a consensus. The full report spends a number of dense pages painstakingly going over the evidence about solar variation's role in climate change. More than 750 individual studies are cited in the section that considers solar irradiance. In fact, three of the eight scientists Prof. Monce cites are directly referenced in this section. The most recent IPCC report actually changed its conclusions regarding solar irradiance due to new experimental evidence. Because of this new evidence, the effect of solar variation on global warming was modified in the new report to be less than half of the previously published value. When looked at without bias, it is impossible to criticize the IPCC of not taking a wide enough sample of climatological studies. For more information, adventurous readers are encouraged to take a look at "Section 2: Changes in Atmospheric Constituents and in Radiative Forcing" of the full IPCC report.

In conclusion, while Prof. Monce makes a good point about the centrality of repeated experimental results in science, his small survey of studies presents a false image of the state of current climate science. The IPCC considers almost 20,000 studies, and it concludes that "most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is *very likely* [greater than 90% certainty in official IPCC language] due to the observed increase in anthropogenic [human-caused] greenhouse gas emissions". This supports the statistic from *An Inconvenient Truth*, which states that of the over 9000 peer-reviewed journal articles about climate science, none of those surveyed found results disagreeing with the anthropogenic nature of climate change. Prof. Monce tallies up the stances of his four sources, coming to the conclusion that there is no strong consensus about the cause of climate change. In comparison to the high volume of data collected by the IPCC and that presented in *An Inconvenient Truth*, this negli-

gibly small sample size presents a ridiculous portrayal of an overall scientific agreement.

As a side note, we would also like to briefly object to the patronizing tone Prof. Monce takes in his letters. True, he is a tenured professor, with multiple advanced degrees. However, this is a forum where students and faculty are equals; we all have access to the same tools of rationality and research. It is inappropriate to treat fellow intellectuals as if we were students in his class, leaving us "exercises" and saying things such as "I am a faculty member" and "Since he didn't bother to do the homework..." This is condescending and offensive. If the facts are being debated, they should be presented objectively. We look forward to a continued, mature debate.



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Spin On Your Spork

By Areti A. Sakellaris '08



"There are no free lunches where you're going," said Dede Bartlett. "You are not here to eat," she continued, but all the plates at my table were nearly cleared of any scraps of food, with

the exception of my own. The "Dining Etiquette" portion of the *Seminar on Success*, hosted by Alumni Relations on November 3rd, was a lot more complicated than I had expected.

I am always on the brink of horror when it is time to order my meal because of the anticipation factor. But, the guest of honor, or client, will order first and then ladies ought to be ready to order. As young employees, we will not pay for the meal; however, do not order the lobster

and you ought to ask how long some meals will take to prepare. Bartlett recommends the specials of the day because they will be the freshest and ready to serve. Avoid copious quantities of sauce—unless you work for Tide.

Remember when your soccer coach yelled "Pace yourself" during practice? The same applies to business meals. Do not be the first person to finish eating and do not be the person everyone else is waiting for. A senior told me afterwards that such small details were very informative because he eats too fast and does not want to garner unwanted attention as a result.

"You will not order a drink at lunch," deadpanned Bartlett. On the dinner circuit, when the bottles of wine are ordered, drinks are permissible. And it's not like a keg; you don't need to "keep up" with the others. Plus, who knows

what you will negotiate away?

Cocktail parties do not equal free drinks. Instead, they pose as perilous situations "loaded with potential catastrophes." Finger foods, drinks, business cards—how on earth can you possibly hold everything at once? "Learn to eat on the sly," she cautions. She advises both ladies and gentlemen to wear coats with pockets to keep business cards received in one side and your own in the other. In the fashion industry, I may not always have a blazer, but a clutch tucked under the arm is a fitting alternative.

Overall, Bartlett stressed to go with the flow; her advice is common sense, but sometimes you will have questions or not know where to sit. Don't be afraid to ask your boss or host.

Students that I spoke with beforehand told me to start from the outside, and work my way in—it's that simple! But

there's more to proper table manners than forks, knives and spoons. I wish I went to such a workshop before my CELS internship. Though nothing egregious transpired while I was working, I would have been more at ease and thus, more social when I was getting to know my colleagues. As a senior, I encourage all students to attend at least one such seminar while at Conn. I may not have a roadmap to what happens after graduation, but a formal place setting diagram may be more valuable anyway.

Bartlett lectures college students and recent graduates drawing on her experience as a senior officer for two Fortune 25 companies. Bartlett received honors from Lifetime Television, the National Center for Victims of Crime, and the International Women's Forum 2005 "Women Who Make a Difference Award."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Concert in Review

RX Bandits at Harper's Ferry 11/11/07

BY RICH ABATE '10

staff writer

I'll admit, I didn't know too much about the RX Bandits before seeing them perform in Allston Massachusetts about a week ago. I knew a select few songs off of their latest album *...And The Battle Begun*, but I certainly didn't know what to expect out of a live performance. It turns out I was in for quite a surprise.

The RX Bandits are a 5-piece band from Long Beach, California. Although the band has ska roots, their Myspace page refers to their music as a mixture of rock, alternative and progressive. Consisting of Matt Embree on vocals/guitar, Steve Choi on guitar, Chris Tsagakis on drums, Joe Troy on bass, and Chris Sheets on trombone, the RX Bandits' unique mixture of genres has driven them to create a number of successful albums and gain a tremendous fan base.

They took the stage Sunday night amid a unified chant of "R-X-B!" that emanated from the crowd. After a short melodic jam session to begin the set, Embree segued into the opening notes of "One Million Miles an Hour, Fast Asleep." Let the moshing begin! The band kept the energy level at a high until the end of the third song when Embree declared to his audience "Hey we're the RX Bandits, but judging by the way you guys are singing, you already know that".

As for Matt Embree himself, he seems to be the musical genius behind the group. Sophomore Ben Gitkind, who also attended the show and is an avid fan remarked that Embree is "progressive both lyrically and instrumentally. As a front man he engages the audience without seeming full of himself like most lead singers". Judging from the live performance and the diversity of their albums, there is no shortage of musical talent either from Embree or from the other members of the band.

They continued their set by charging into "Only For the Night" a song driven by Embree's melodies that truly capture the extent of his vocal range. The song included an extended percussion piece led by Tsagakis and included Sheets and David Sullivan-Kaplan, drummer for the opening act *Men Women and Children*, which not only got the crowd dancing but was quite the spectacle to witness. The band ended their performance with a short encore set which included "Overcome" a reggae driven song with lyrics that incited yet another chant from the crowd, this time almost drowning out Embree vocals.

Other Conn students were in attendance; Justin Koufopoulos '10 commented, "you could tell that they were experienced musicians...they were tight. They knew how to get the crowd pumped." And Sarah Nugent '10 said that even with "a limited taste of their music beforehand, I could still enjoy the concert because of the energy of the band."

I can honestly say that the RX Bandits put on one of the best five shows that I have seen in quite some time. Between the incredible intensity of their performance and the amount of musical talent that the band displays, they are a must-see for the next time they venture into the New England area.

The Classics Revisited Out of Gas on Dylan's Highway 61

BY JACOB MEADE

staff writer

Let's just get this out of the way: "Like a Rolling Stone," the opening cut off Bob Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited*, is a fantastic song. Upon first release, in late summer of 1965, it blew the options wide open for what could be achieved in popular music. Guitarist Mike Bloomfield's rumbling electric, Al Kooper's shrieking organ, and what sounds like 12 other instruments spiral around each other on a staggering, hell-bent groove for over six minutes. The tune's lyrics, a condemnation of a rich girl brought to ruin by drugs and arrogance, were groundbreaking in their clarity and ambition. "When you've got nothing, you've got nothing to lose/ You're invisible now, you got no secrets to conceal" Dylan yelled, his voice dripping with contempt. Rock and roll would never be the same.

When Dylan dropped *Highway 61 Revisited*, his sixth album, it was fast becoming clear that the 24 year old was a major player in the profound cultural changes that were developing as the '60s got into full swing. On his earlier records, the singer-songwriter had adhered solely to the folk style but occasionally recorded songs like "The Times They Are A-Changin'" whose lyrics stepped outside genre convention to evoke the spirit of the times. *Highway 61* signaled Dylan's full departure from folk and arrival at a tougher, plugged-in sound, one that would match his expanding lyrical breadth. Folk purists were infuriated by his rejection of all things acoustic, but rock fans were invigorated. *Highway 61* has since been hailed one of Dylan's best albums, a document of transition into late-'60s upheaval, and a timeless example of rock at its best.

Which is all a bit confusing to me in light of the fact that I can't even get through a majority of the songs on this album. Aside from its opener, *Highway 61 Revisited* is one of those classic albums that I've essentially given up on ever liking. It may fit snugly into rock history as "essential," but to my ears it's a tedious and unrewarding listen. Don't get me wrong; I'm not anti-Dylan by principal, as some are (I was a fan of last year's *Modern Times*, for example). But *Highway 61* cuts right to every reservation I've ever had about Bob Dylan.

To start with, his voice on this album is damn near oppressive. On later records, like 1975's *Blood on the Tracks*, Dylan would learn to tone it down and settle more into the groove of his backing band. But here, his infamously tone-deaf vocals are recorded too prominently, and don't interact enough with the rest of the music. Nasal and off-putting, Dylan's voice crosses easily out of the realm of "challenging" and into the realm of "bad." Why, for example, did he have to yell every single syllable of "From a Buick 6," hitting the same non-note every time?

Perhaps the idea of actually singing would have occurred to the guy if he'd been writing

BOB DYLAN HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED



songs with actual melodies. But nearly all the tracks on *Highway 61 Revisited*, amazingly, have none. It's not just that Dylan's vocals weren't carrying one; if you listen to the background arrangements, they sound more bent on establishing a dissonant, tough groove than pulling you in with hooks or dynamic tempo changes. It's almost depressing to hear guitar, harmonica, organ, drums and bass all going full tilt, but going nowhere by way of a tune. Can you sing any song past "Like a Rolling Stone" on this record from memory? I sure can't. It's all the same, and it's all a muddle.

Another issue, and one I take with nearly all of Dylan's output, is that he does so little with song structure. He figures out the verses and chorus, but then just alternates between the two until the song ends. No bridge, no crescendo, nothing. The result is that, even on his best songs, the thrills are limited. Don't like the setup of the first minute or so? Well too bad, because you'll be reliving that same minute over and over, with nothing but a little harmonica solo here and there to break up your displeasure. And on an album like this, in which said verses and choruses are so questionable, the prospect is dreary.

Any hardcore Dylan fan would respond that all these complaints are irrelevant in the face of Dylan's lyrics. For many, the point of these songs isn't that they boast an addictive melody, but that they're a showcase for the literary genius of a true poet. True, there are points on *Highway 61 Revisited* where lyrical brilliance busts through. On "Ballad of a Thin Man" and extended closer "Desolation Row," Dylan's use of language is hallucinatory and expressive. At other points, though, the lyrics get too dense to be enjoyed by the casual rock fan, who has no interest in looking up Jack Kerouac allusions.

And any appreciation for Dylan's lyrical chops gets undermined by how uninviting the rest of the album is. Tuneless, monotonous and terminally challenging, *Highway 61 Revisited* will never be classic in my book.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08

editor-in-chief



For my last semester of college, I finally get to take a class that is right up my alley, simply titled "Bob Dylan." Naturally, I freaked when I found out about it, and so did my envious Dylan-obsessed friends at other colleges. For most rock 'n' roll geeks, Dylan remains one of the most enigmatic and captivating personalities in music history because he has been able to keep his personality and celebrity primarily under his control. Through this he has become a mysterious mythical creature. He keeps his fans chomping at the bit, revealing little bits of personal information at a time, and this keeps him relevant as a musician and lyricist.

Dylan's music holds a universal appeal, being both timeless and specific to historical moments. Yet another huge reason he remains so popular is because his albums are texts that can be interpreted and analyzed to reveal moments of his personal life. With most celebrities, people feel as if they are public domain. Anything revealed about their "real" lives is sensational and precious information (Dylan not excluded), but Dylan has been able to overcome the trappings of celebrity because he never put his life on public display. To state it plainly, he never was "Hollywood."

From the very beginning, Dylan was in control of the image he projected. He changed his name, leaving his childhood identity as Robert Zimmerman behind. He fashioned himself as a folk singer, and then once he became *the* folk singer, the voice of protest, he went electric and continued on this tradition of always bucking convention throughout his

entire career. Dylan is the ultimate performer; his ability to reinvent himself is unrivaled. He had buried his "true" self so deeply (for reasons unknown but much to his advantage), which allows him to be in complete control of how the world sees him.

Because he is such an enigma, all that we're really left with is the music. And that's the most important part: the music is enough to inspire endless discussions. Questions like "Is *Blood on the Tracks* truly a divorce album?" or "Is 'Sad Eyed Lady of the Lowlands' really about Joan Baez?" "Who is he singing to in 'Like a Rolling Stone'?" So on and so forth. Dylan creates characters, true and fictitious, with ferocious imagery and he spins amazing yarns that direct the attention away from him as a private individual and toward an imagined identity that Dylan fans create for themselves. His ambiguity allows him to become a vehicle through which his songs can breathe and live.

Bob Dylan mythology still manages to capture the attention of the American public; in the last five years, his album *Modern Times* topped the Billboard charts, he released the widely acclaimed autobiography *Chronicles: Volume One*, and Martin Scorsese directed a documentary about Dylan's early life called *No Direction Home*. Most recently, the film *I'm Not There* addresses Dylan's ambiguous, chameleon-like personality as six different actors play various stages of Bob Dylan.

Maybe Dylan is so intriguing because he seems to embody the ideal "American" vision of self-creation and self-preservation. The concept that we can be anything we want to be seems so elusive for most people, yet Dylan has been many different people and has written about so many more.

Seven Poised to Offer More for Mankind

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief



With the holiday shopping season nearly upon consumers, many may be surprised to see familiar premium denim purveyor Seven for all Mankind producing a whole range of fashions and accessories. Is it a case of a greedy Grinch or a natural desire to expand?

Bought in August for \$775m by the world's largest clothing conglomerate, VF Corp., Seven is expected to drive growth for VF's contemporary design division. Of Seven's \$300m annual sales, VF's goal is to increase the 10 percent non-denim sales to 50 percent in the next five years.

But Seven's explosion onto the fashion scene was not through a high-profile ad campaign shot by Patrick Demarchelier, like the current one. Seven logged \$70m in sales in its second year because the cool people were sporting the skwiddle and other people wanted it. VF's heavy ad campaign may pose as a threat to the integrity of Seven as a brand.

Marketing professor David J. Reibstein at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School said, "The temptation is 'I'm Seven, I've got this brand, let me extend my target market'—but when you do that, you are sending a message to your existing market." He continues, "When other people start wearing 7 apparel, it changes the image."

Seven prides itself on "exploratory endeavors... [that] merge the worlds of denim and couture to redefine the fashion landscape," according to the company's website. To differentiate itself, Seven teamed up with The Great China Wall, Zac Posen, Azzedine Alaia, Evan Yurman and Pucci for previous designs. But the

premium denim balloon is losing air.

In the last few months, Seven shipped belts, handbags, small leather goods and a line of dresses, coats and blouses along with its denim and trousers. Seven's CEO, Mike Egeck, says, "VF leapfrogs us along the learning curve with regard to the extension of sportswear." He thinks VF can guide Seven's licensing deals, and could avoid isolating existing clients from new ones.

In the upcoming years, VF will unveil 400 free-standing Seven stores, starting with a flagship on Robertson Blvd in LA opening on Friday, Nov. 16th. Seven has the potential for a fragrance deal, but it is also trying to maintain its identity as a progressive fashion company.

Debuting its latest project in New York on November 27th, Seven cooperated with LaROK to create a special pop-up installation. Put together by design concept firm MASS, the boutique strives to evoke an "empowering" experience in the fitting room. The loft space fuses fashion and technology with one fitting room interior changing with a hand wave, and a motion sensor changing the temporal and spatial conditions of another one.

Seven's transition from the denim market to a full range of contemporary clothing follows on the heels of similar transitions from New York based Rag and Bone and LA based Rock and Republic. This year David Neville and Marcus Wainwright of Rag & Bone won the Swarovski Perry Ellis Award for Menswear from the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), and the duo's womenswear is doing exceptionally well. Rock and Republic collaborated with Victoria Beckham and expanded from shoes to handbags. With Seven's design commitment and VF's financial backing, Seven's cross-over is destined to be enticing.

The Artist and His Muse

A new art exhibit at a local New London gallery

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08

editor-in-chief

Muse Art & Shoe Gallery lures passersby with a lime green door on the corner of Golden Street in downtown New London. The gallery opened on June 1st and has neatly immersed itself in the New London art scene. It was founded by Frank Marchany, a local DJ who spins at the Oasis, and is directed by Denny Rivera.

While Denny takes care of the art exhibits, Frank puts a unique spin on the

concept of the "art gallery" by selling shoes. The featured shoes, including classic one-of-a-kind Nike Dunks or Pumas and brands like Seychelles and BC, are chosen because "they're not something you're going to see at TJ Maxx — not going to see at the mall." They are not simply merchandise, but are meant to be seen as their own individual displays of art, which is accentuated by their poised positioning in the gallery.

In addition to the multiple shoe displays, Muse features art exhibits regularly. This coming Saturday will feature Muse's latest art exhibit entitled, "Light

and Shadow," by local artist Jonas Sanchez. The event will be Jonas's "debut" on the New London art scene, although he has worked in the area for several years as a video producer and creative director by trade. In addition to displaying his art at Muse, he currently operates as the advertising representative for the gallery.

"Light and Shadow" will feature 8 portraits done in charcoal against "pure white value" paper. Jonas's art is particularly inspired by his childhood passion for comic books and Japanese animation. "There are a lot of comic artists that I have to tip my hat to as being an influence," explains Jonas.

"Light and Shadow" will help to

shape his goals as an artist, functioning as an official coming out of his artwork. Jonas rarely displays his work because he feels the moment of creation is what is most important. The opening welcomes analysis that he is not accustomed to.

"This is my first show of this magnitude that I've actually done a body of work for. I can't work in a vacuum anymore. It's time for me to just throw it out there and see what people think about it. For this opening, I'm not interested in doing a lot of talking. If I could be a fly on the wall, I'd like that."

"Light and Shadow" opens on November 17th, 2007 at 6:00 pm. Muse Gallery is located on 102 Golden Street in New London.



Last glimpse of Fall (Kaminsky)

DUMP 'N GRIND

Conn Launches Innovative On-Campus Composting Program

Food waste – including fruit, pasta, egg shells, tea bags and napkins – from the J.A. and Freeman dining halls will now be collected daily and turned into compost using two Earth Tubs - fully enclosed and insulated composting units for commercial duty. The compost will be used in the college's organic garden and will be donated to F.R.E.S.H. New London.

This student initiative was originally developed for the Ecomagination Challenge, a contest sponsored by GE and mtvU that challenged college students to develop new, creative ways to green their campuses. Senior Misha Johnson and juniors Tyler Dunham and Leia Crosby came up with the idea for the composting initiative. More than 100 colleges and universities submitted proposals, and Connecticut College finished in the top 10. Last spring, an anonymous Connecticut College alumna, inspired by the students' initiative and motivation, stepped up to fund the \$25,000 project.

President Higdon will speak and all are invited to this celebration.

Monday, November 20th

1:30 pm, behind the tennis courts in South

Free hot apple cider and local cheeses!

ATTENTION SENIORS!

Winter Wonderland Reception Kicks-Off Senior Giving Campaign

The all-senior pledge committee, the Offices of Alumni Relations and of Annual Giving kick-off the Class of 2008's giving campaign, including a speech by President Higdon.

Menu:

Steamed Vegetable Dumplings with Soy Hoisin Dipping Sauce

Brie and Raspberry Beggar's Purses

Filet of Beef on Crostini with Caper Butter and Shaved Asiago

Salmon Tartar

Gorgonzola and Apricot Stuffed Mushrooms

Miniature Beef Wellingtons with Bearnaise

Chicken Quesadillas with Sour Cream and Salsa

Hot and Cold Cider, Assorted Juices, Water, Soda, and Pomegranate Spritzer

Semi-Formal Dress

Friday Evening, November 30th

Palmer Upper and Lower Lobbies

The College Voice

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