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Connecticut College

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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2009

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 6



Families and students browse club wares beneath the tent at Harvestfest on October 24.

KELSEY COHEN/PHOTO EDITOR.

## Tackling Sexual Assault

ROCIO GARCIA  
KATHERINE SARTIANO  
STAFF WRITERS

Sexual assault is a reality of which many on campus may not be aware.

According to the American Association of University Women, 65 percent of sexual attacks on a college campus go unreported, making sexual assault a "silent epidemic." Sexual assault remains the most drastically underreported crime.

Connecticut College is no exception to this epidemic. Although students are aware that sexual assaults are a threat on campus, few know specifically how to respond to an incident, or what resources are available.

When eight students, seven women and one man, were asked whether they believed the college educates students about available resources, only one student responded yes. The respondent stated that she would not have been knowledgeable about sexual assault response but for her training as a Student Advisor.

The recent incident of voyeurism by a college-contracted worker in a women's restroom, which occurred in the College Center at Crozier-Williams, sparked heated conversations within the community. Many now see it as imperative that the greater student body be better informed and educated about the available resources at the College in the event that a student ever finds him- or herself in a similar situation.

Some students feel that although the college provides resources in case of sexual assault, the students would not know where to receive help after being victimized. Most students surveyed responded that they would go to the Health Center if it was open, or to Campus Safety, while one said that she knew that students were supposed to contact the Dean of Student Life, and such a case would go directly to the Dean's Grievance Hearing Board, bypassing the Judicial Board.

A lack of education or clarity is not reason for sexual assault to go unnoticed.

Where should students go if they find themselves in a sexual assault situation? Housefellows and floor governors undergo training in how to respond to sexual assault and are available 24 hours a day.

SEE ASSAULT, PAGE 4

## Working Hard, or Hardly Working?

### The Federal Work-Study Program

ELLIE BENNER  
STAFF WRITER

The current state of economic affairs in the United States, as well as around the world, has made it harder for most people to get enjoyable jobs that pay well—and Connecticut College has been no exception.

As financial aid budgets are cut and families start talking more and more to their college-enrolled children about budgeting and spending less, many have agreed that one way that students could assist their families is by getting a job at school. This is often easier said than done, especially for students who do not qualify for work-study.

For a student to become eligible for work-study, he or she must file a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and qualify for need-based aid, meaning that their potential

SEE WORK-STUDY PAGE 3

## Conference Addresses (Im)Migration

JAMISON HERMANN  
STAFF WRITER

Over 300 scholars, social workers, students and members of the community attended the conference on undocumented Hispanic migration October 16 to 18.

Attendees of the conference discussed topics ranging from Coast Guard migrant interdiction to studying the narratives of Hispanic migrants. The conference was said to be an informative, commendable success.

"I was incredibly impressed with the number of attendees and the variety of fields they represented," said Amy Martin from the Office of College Relations. "Professor Graziano should be commended for his hard work and determina-

tion in putting this conference together."

There were 46 panels and lectures, featuring more than 100 presenters, from prestigious professors to city officials.

Several classes being offered here at Connecticut College this semester tied in to the themes of the conference. Claire Dufek '10 is taking the Hispanic Studies course entitled Undocumented Hispanic Migration.

"I think that the immigration conference was the crux of the entire class to this point. The participants in the conference were clearly experts who had spent years researching and working in undocumented migration public policy, but thanks to the background Professor Graziano provided us

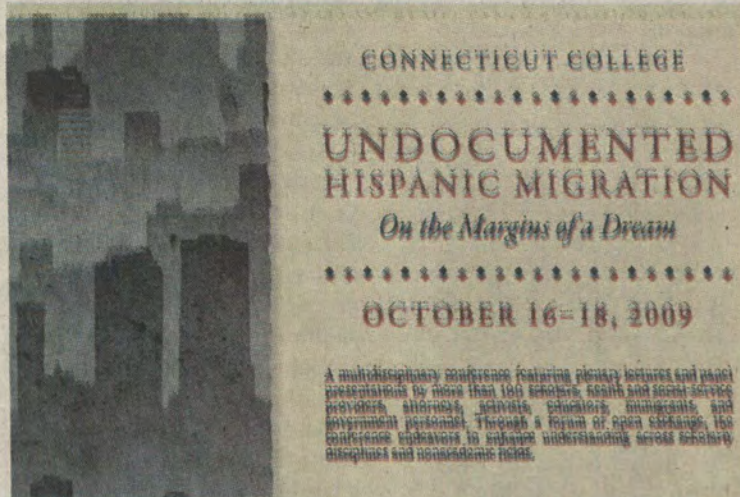
with I was able to understand what was being discussed," said Dufek.

Katie Sugg '10, was struck by the positive tone of the conference. "I attended a variety of panels on immigrant youth. I was amazed by the way that the speakers discussed active solutions to the obstacles that undocumented children face, instead of just presenting us with problems and leaving us frustrated."

The conference drew coverage from several online news sources. Martin also made regular updates to the College's Twitter account, using the #ccimmigration tag.

The conference represented a new push at the college toward continuing debate over intellectual and current events related topics out of class time. "You cannot find a better primary source than some of these presentations," continued Dufek. "More than just sitting and hearing people talk, this conference allowed us to connect and have intimate conversations with people who have lived through and experienced firsthand the hardships of immigrating to the U.S. and surviving as undocumented residents.

"Their stories are incredible, and it really gave me a whole new appreciation for my birth rights as an American citizen."



### NEWS

Hear about the DNA Epi-Center closing?

What was the EpiCenter, why did it close, and what does the now-vacant space mean for Conn?

Page 3

### ARTS

Student radio streamed online and over airwaves

WCNI provides listeners with diverse range of musical genres.

Page 6

### SPORTS

Women's Volleyball team on winning streak

Team wins past five matches to contribute to an overall record of 18-4 this season.

Page 8

### OPINIONS

The campus and sex

Read about everything from morals to slutty pumpkins to sexual diversity.

Page 9

### EDITORIALS

Complain, complain, complain

A look at "challenging the process" and how we can affect change.

Page 12

## Week in Review



KELSEY COHEN/ PHOTO EDITOR

The annual all-group a capella concert filled Harkness Chapel to the brim.



TANANA SIMON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

### Bandwidth Scarcity

JAMISON HERMANN  
STAFF WRITER

There has been a slowdown in Internet access over the last few weeks. This semester has seen diminished download rates and stuttering online videos.

The overall bandwidth usage has gone up this year with greater use of streaming video services like Skype and the increasing availability of video content on the Web.

Some students are concerned that slow Internet access could be an obstacle to academic success. "It could be a problem if you're trying to transfer course files across the network and the transfer rates are impossibly slow," said John Prokos, class of 2011.

The current Internet service plan at Connecticut College is limited to 70 megabytes per second. This capacity has been maxed out from 10AM to 2AM, seven days a week, since the

beginning of the school year.

The Information Services department is looking into expanding the plan to 100 megabytes per second, but this measure would cost around \$15,000 per year. "If we have more bandwidth, the demand will rise, and we'll still end up maxing out," according to Vice President for Information Services Lee Hisle.

In order to provide faster Internet access, the Information Services committee is looking to save money elsewhere. Two subjects under consideration are the faculty email management system and the extent of cable TV availability in the dorms.

"Nothing's decided yet," said Hisle in a meeting on Friday. The committee hopes to take action by next semester.

In the meantime, users may experience slower download speeds, especially during peak usage hours.



KARAM SETHI/PHOTO EDITOR

Peter Singer, author of *The Life You Can Save*, visited the College during Fall Weekend, discussing his work with professors, students, and visitors.



KELSEY COHEN/ PHOTO EDITOR

Harvestfest was a grand success, with the tent filled with parents, students, and a bike or two.

### Fall Concert No More

MEGAN REBACK  
STAFF WRITER

There are certain things students expect from Connecticut College during the fall: Tent Dance (not always in a tent), Harvestfest, parents and alumni and a Fall Concert. This year, however, the Student Activities Council (SAC) did not host Fall Concert.

For the past three years, Conn students have enjoyed fall activities, including Fall Concert. Last year, Ben Lee graced the stages of Palmer Auditorium, and the year prior, students enjoyed RJD2. SAC Chair John Meade believed that it was "a chance for the students of this campus to enjoy a large-scale concert event in the fall."

These events, he said, were "very well received."

Why did these events, then, fail to transpire this year, with something like Ben Lee's clever lyric change from "I was backstage at Pomona" to "I was backstage at Connecticut?"

The Simmons Fund, which also funded the *New York Times* Readership Program on campus and senior week formal, was not renewed this year.

However Meade said that students' reaction to not hav-

ing a Fall Concert was "a bit subdued . . . because the issue that arose was the loss of newspaper."

Most students reacted strongly to the loss of the *New York Times*. Meade agreed that "the loss of the newspapers on campus is much more tragic than the loss of Fall Concert."

SAC is trying to have events to replace the Fall Concert. The Fall Block Party, for instance consisted of MOBROC bands, New London restaurants coming to campus to sell food, moon bounces, and at night, the battle of student DJ's.

Although The Fall Block Party was not well attended because of the weather, at least during the day, there are many SAC events to look forward to, including the weekly Friday Night Live (FNL) concerts in Cro's Nest, outings to restaurants, bowling and laser tag.

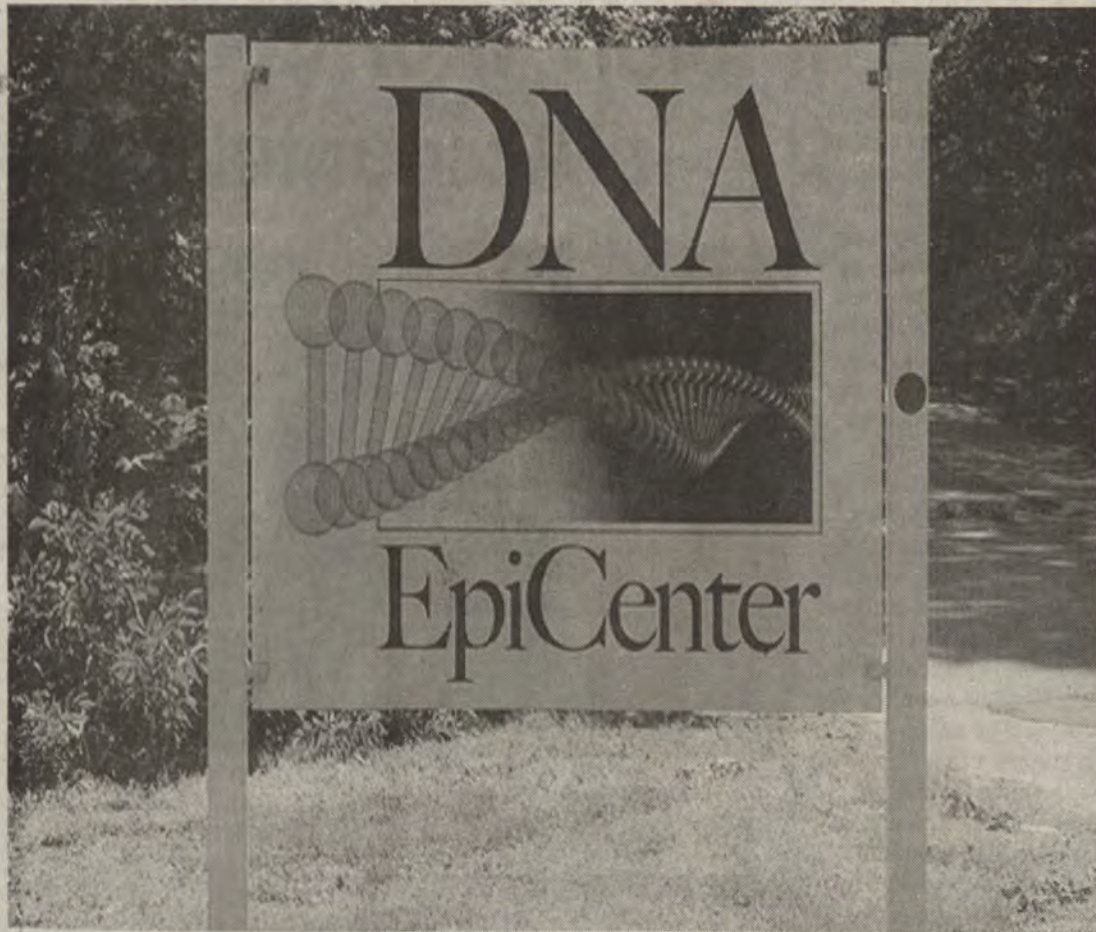
On November 12, musician Dan Deacon is coming to Conn!

Additionally, Winter Formal is fast approaching, when SAC takes over Cro and every room will have a different theme. Finally, the infamous Floralia will end our school year. SAC will soon begin planning Floralia and getting student input on the bands chosen to perform.



KARAM SETHI/PHOTO EDITOR

Coffee Grounds is experiencing a surge of activity this year, hosting Brumalia, Jazz, and Acoustic Music nights.



## DNA EpiCenter Closes

LAUREN SHENFELD  
CONTRIBUTOR

Due to a shortage of funding, the DNA EpiCenter, located by the Connecticut College Arboretum, will be closing.

When Connecticut College students received an e-mail on October 19 announcing the Center's closing, many were taken aback. Generally, this emotion was felt not because of the closing of the Center, but rather because few knew that the Center even existed on campus.

The DNA EpiCenter was founded in the 1970s with the mission to "promote the understanding of the science of life to all ages." The center worked specifically to educate students from kindergarten through twelfth grade about biology and life sciences.

Through summer camps, family tour groups and school tour groups, the scientists, researchers and volunteers on staff at the DNA EpiCenter were trained to provide hands-on, age-appropriate learning opportunities that were age appropriate for their visitors. Instructors hoped to motivate students to understand the type of research that professional biologists and geneticists do every day by guiding students to perform experiments of their own that mimicked real-life experiments, studies and research methods.

The DNA EpiCenter also provided continued education of teachers. Through seminars and other events, scientists at

the DNA EpiCenter welcomed New England teachers to the Center to be educated on the most recent DNA and biology related discoveries and issues.

The DNA EpiCenter also adopted the Connecticut Core Science Curriculum Framework, which outlines Connecticut's Department of Education's curricular goals for grades pre-kindergarten through high school. The EpiCenter's programs thus correlated with the "content areas" of the Framework.

Additionally, the Center's curricular standards were designed to meet those of the National Science Education Standards for "content and teaching."

A youth internship program was also made available for high school students at the DNA EpiCenter by means of the Center's generous DeWitt-Wallace Reader's Digest Fund. The program, called "Youth ALIVE!" (Youth Achievement through Learning, Involvement, Volunteering and Employment) allowed students to explore future employment possibilities in scientific arenas as well as business and technology.

The program was designed specifically for centers and museums like the DNA EpiCenter to enhance the way they programmed for and educated adolescents, as well as to inspire them to be involved in fields of science.

None of these opportunities provided by the DNA EpiCenter will longer be available because of the Center's closing.

Despite continued private donor and foundation financial commitments to the Center, it was the termination of highly-important state funding that moved the leaders of the Center to decide to close down the facility.

As addressed in the e-mail to the Connecticut College student body from Ulysses Hammond, Vice President for Administration, when the DNA EpiCenter was incepted, the decision was made that should the Center close, the College would gain ownership of the building.

It is expected that the facility will be fully turned over to the College within the next few months.

"[The College] has had a very close and collaborative relationship with the Center over the years," Hammond said. "We have always had a faculty member or administrator on the Board of the Center."

Although Connecticut College students have not had much interaction with the EpiCenter, its closing will affect science department members and college administrators.

They also know the value of the space, which was described by Hammond as "in good shape."

Although the College has not been officially decided for what the space will be used, it will most likely be transformed into program and office space for the College, or possibly even teaching space.

As Hammond expressed, "[The Center] has the ability to be used in a flexible manner."

## Work Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

family contribution is less than the cost of education.

During the academic year 2008-2009, 444 students at the college worked under the work-study program.

According to Mildred Lopez of Financial Aid, "there were many more students who were eligible to work under this program but chose not to for a variety of reasons."

There are also several other kinds of work-study, including work-study through federal community service tutors and the State of Connecticut.

These programs are financed by either the federal or state government to foster volunteer and community service work in our area.

Our Office of Volunteers for Community Service Program (OVCS) is an excellent resource for students who can receive funding from the government.

While this helps a fair number of students, other students on campus could argue that it is unfair to be doing volunteer work for free while someone else may be being paid for doing the exact same thing.

While Financial Aid seems to be an easy target on which to place the blame for the lack of jobs on campus, it is actually individual departments that decide how many jobs they need to fill, and which will be funded by work-study. Without the work-study program, departments must fund their student employees completely out-of-pocket, and their budgets are tight in the current economic climate.

It is especially difficult for families who never anticipated that their child's college savings account would deplete so quickly (even quicker than \$50,000 a year), but still have no chance of qualifying for federal financial aid.

The number of jobs on campus for non-work study students is extremely limited, and many wonder why the college cannot provide more jobs for students as the economic situation worsens.

One of the most public work-study jobs on campus is that of the circulation desk assistant—the two students who are a constant presence at the front of library, checking books out and finding your books on reserve.

Many interviewed library student employees applied for the job even before their first day of classes freshman year, demonstrating that it is one of the most sought after jobs on campus. Shain media assistants are not exclusively work-study students, but their salaries are in the range of most work-study jobs on campus—not much higher than the State of Connecticut's minimum wage of \$8.00 per hour.

Dennis Barrett '10, a front

desk worker, said that while library employees receive a raise every year, his pay still hovers around minimum wage mark despite the fact that he is in his fourth year at the circulation desk.

While the students who work at the library are limited to six hours a week, Alicia Rea '12 shared that someone "can make more money if [they] really want to by covering people's shifts." Non-work study off campus jobs present different scheduling challenges. Skye Ross '10 found that working in a retail position at the Crystal Mall allowed her to pick up extra hours, but this came with the caveat of frequently missing out on Thursday nights at Conn.

One of the most visible non-work study jobs on campus is being a tour guide. Ask any tour guide if they like their job, they will reply with an enthusiastic 'yes!'

However, asking if they like their small paycheck every two weeks is a completely different story.

Tour guide Nita Contreras '11 said "it's really difficult to get a job on campus if you're not on work-study, but actually earning money on campus is even more difficult." Paid for each tour they give, tour guides may give several tours some weeks and others, none. Contreras said, "In a good week, I can make \$16."

There are, of course, some benefits to working off-campus. Emma Bruggeman '11 has been teaching at ABC Gymnastics in Niantic for almost a year and a half. Her biggest complaint about having a job off campus is the long walk to south lot, but she does enjoy feeling "more connected to the greater New London community."

Many students tutor off campus through OVCS programs like Kids, Books and Athletics or work in New London Public Schools, which gives them a sense of community, but no paycheck.

At a school as small as Conn, it is unlikely that every student who desires a job will be employed and will be doing something he or she enjoys. Many students are just looking for an opportunity to make some extra money on campus.

Maisie Sargent '11 has looked for a variety of jobs, on and off campus, but to no avail. Luckily, she was able to find a paid internship this summer, which has allowed her to feel a little more comfortable whenever she pulls out her wallet.

However, Maisie echoed the opinion of most of the student body when she acknowledged that "regardless of everyone's socioeconomic background and whether you're on financial aid or not, we could all use a little extra spending money right now."

## Fall Weekend

MEREDITH BOYLE  
CONTRIBUTOR

This weekend an estimated 1,000 alumni and parents convened on the Conn campus for Fall Weekend.

Fall Weekend was created ten years ago when two previously separate events, parent's weekend and alumni weekend, were combined. Instead of hosting two events, the college organized one that would involve everyone – parents, alumni, students, faculty and friends.

Each year, a theme for Fall Weekend is chosen in relation to what is happening at the College. This year's theme was "Staying Connected," with an emphasis on the ways in which technology is changing the way we live and communicate. Previous themes have included President Higdon's inauguration in 2006 and the launch of the College's Capital Campaign

last year.

President Higdon emphasized the significance of this year's theme of "Staying Connected."

"It's a very relevant theme for us because what we want to do is to bring the alums back and send a message to them that they are a part of our continuing life at the college and they are critical to our success. We are trying to make sure that our current students have various interactions with the alumni, as they think about their life after Connecticut College," said Higdon.

The weekend offered a wide range of programs and activities for alumni, parents and students alike including the Academic Fair, Harvestfest, Camel sports, half-year reunion, panel discussions, performances and art exhibits.

Harvestfest was by far the most crowded event, and generally the most attended

by students. Hosted by the Student Activities Council, approximately eighty clubs and organizations sold paraphernalia under the tent on Tempel Green.

Sophomore Christina Finch said she didn't have much time to attend panel discussions, but that Harvestfest was her favorite event, "I think it's really cool to see what all the different clubs are doing, and seeing that everyone is so involved."

Michael Fopiano, father of Melissa Fopiano '13, said, "I enjoyed Fall Weekend overall; I'm not an alumnus of the school, but I have this affinity towards [it]. This gives me an opportunity to understand the school better. I get a good sense that there's a preparation for solving world problems at the undergraduate level, which I think is really important in why we chose this school."

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## Sexual Assault

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**  
Student Counseling Services and Student Health Services are available to students during the day throughout the week.

After hours, students can contact Campus Safety or the Health Center Administrator On-Call, who provides support for students and arranges for transportation to Lawrence and Memorial Hospital.

Additionally, Campus Safety can contact the New London Police, medical personnel, a Rape Crisis Counselor and/or a college administrator. Off campus, the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT is available 24 hours a day.

Cristina Moreno '10, a Women's Center volunteer, said, "I think that if I wasn't so involved in the Women's Center I wouldn't know what to do [if I were faced with a sexual assault crisis]."

She added that despite working at the Women's Center, she still doesn't know the answer to some questions, like whether or not a student would have to pay for a rape kit at the hospital if assaulted. Students, in fact, do not, because the United States' Violence Against Women Act rules that states must pay to receive funding so that students can be provided with rape kits.

Moreno said that the Women's Center is a valuable resource for students, with trained staffers and informational pamphlets about how to respond to sexual assault, but if students do not know where the Women's Center is located (basement of Smith-Burdick), or choose not to go there, none of that information can help.

Moreno also feels that men

who have never been to the Women's Center believe that they are not welcome, but this, she says, is not true. In addition to providing programming around the causes of sexual abuse, the Center provides informational resources for all sexual assault victims—men, of course, included.

Some feel that even though the college provides cards with information during freshman orientation, they do not hear anything else after that unless they seek out the information on their own.

Sexual assault, as described in the "Sexual Assault On-Campus: What Every Student Should Know..." pamphlet published by the Office of Student Life, the Connecticut College student handbook defines sexual misconduct as "any sexual contact or activity that occurs without the informed consent of any individual involved".

With this definition in mind, more specifically, it is essential that students are aware of the context of the word 'consent' in order to better assess whether a situation is considered sexual misconduct or not. As described in the pamphlet, "consent implies words and/or actions that demonstrate a voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity". Not saying 'no' does not equal consent.

Even if a student is unsure as to the gravity of his or her situation, the student should know that the policies the College has in place regarding sexual misconduct on campus all urge them to seek support.

From an administrative perspective, Dean Sarah Cardwell, Associate Dean of Student Life, believes "we all have a

role in making the campus safe." However, she further acknowledged that although each student may define the word 'safe' differently, Campus Safety reinforces the different perspectives that students have of safety by maintaining communication with the student body through avenues like the Campus Safety committee that meets periodically throughout the semester.

Cardwell also said, "the necessary [safety] measures are all in place, but students need to take action in the face of these [sexual assault] situations." As a community, we should be aware of the environment that surrounds the so-called 'bubble' in which we live, and realize that even in the "bubble" sexual assault happens.

Additionally, under the Clery Act, "all colleges and universities are required to disclose certain timely and annual information about campus crime and security policies".

All crime and sexual assault statistics are available at [http://www.conncoll.edu/CampusLife/CS-Book\\_09-10.pdf](http://www.conncoll.edu/CampusLife/CS-Book_09-10.pdf).

In order to create a safe and supportive campus environment for all who come here, the issue of sexual assault cannot be taken lightly. As individuals in a community that promotes shared governance, it is everyone's responsibility to raise awareness and educate about this issue in hopes that we can prevent sexual assault situations from occurring on campus, and in the wider community.

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Northeastern University

## This Weird Week

Goings on. Things to Know.

COMPILED BY SAMANTHA HERNDON, NEWS EDITOR

**\*British singer Morrissey**, frontman of iconic, sardonic '80s band The Smiths, was hospitalized in London after collapsing on stage during a concert. British music magazine NME has named The Smiths "the most influential artist ever"—ahead of the Beatles.

**\*The college's own Castle Court** saw environmental activists participate in a global day of demonstrations on Saturday October 24, calling for urgent action on climate change. The events were coordinated by the group 350.org, whose name refers to the parts per million of carbon dioxide it considers the safe upper limit for our atmosphere.

The group said it wants to "inspire the world to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis" ahead of the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December. "I believe climate change is the 21st century's greatest human rights and security challenge," said President of the Maldives Mohammed Nasheed. His country, an archipelago of 1,200 islands, is threatened with disappearing under water if sea levels continue to rise.

"If we cannot save 350,000 Maldivians from rising seas today, we cannot save the millions in New York, London, or Mumbai tomorrow," he said in a recorded statement released by 350.org. "Climate change is happening, and it is happening faster and with greater severity than previously thought."

**\*The Reverend Ed Hinds** was stabbed to death 32 times by church janitor Jose Feliciano according to prosecutors in Morris County, New Jersey.

**\*President Obama** has declared a national emergency to deal with the "rapid increase in illness" from the H1N1 influenza virus.

Since the H1N1 flu pandemic began in April, millions of people in the United States have been infected, at least 20,000 have been hospitalized and more than 1,000 have died, said Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Frieden said that having 46 states reporting widespread flu transmission is traditionally the hallmark of the peak of flu season. To have the flu season peak at this time of the year is "extremely unusual."

The CDC said 16.1 million doses of H1N1, or swine flu, vaccine had been made by Friday -- 2 million more than two days earlier. About 11.3 million of those had been distributed throughout the United States.

**\*Fires in Puerto Rico** have been mostly extinguished, but have forced hundreds from their homes.

President Obama declared an emergency in Puerto Rico, which frees up federal aid. Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States. The blaze has cost the island at least \$6.4 million.

**\*A Saudi court** sentenced a female journalist Saturday to 60 lashes for her work on a controversial Arabic-language TV show that aired an episode in which a man bragged about his sex life, two sources told CNN.

The court in Jeddah also imposed a two-year travel ban on Rosanna Al-Yami, according to a Saudi Information Ministry official, who could not be named because he is not authorized to speak to the media. The ban prevents Al-Yami from traveling outside Saudi Arabia.

**\*Twin car bombs** exploded near three Iraqi government buildings Sunday in central Baghdad, killing at least 132 people. It was the deadliest attack in the country in more than two years.

More than 500 people were wounded. The blasts had ripple effects throughout the country, triggering questions about the state of Iraqi security and about national elections planned for January.

From CNN.com

**Friday Nights in the District**  
**Oct. 30th-Dec. 18th, 6-9 pm**  
Come to downtown New London for a night of food, fun, crafts, music and more.  
Discounts w/ CC ID at Northern India (10%), Chaplin's (10%),  
Passion Coffee House (20%), Left Bank Bistro (10%)

**Many stores will be open 'til 8pm. Highlights include:**

- Fortune Telling at Arciolinda (52 State St.)
  - Caramel apple making at Fiddleheads (13 Broad St.)
  - Get Your Henna On at Flavours of Life (86 Bank St.)
  - Ghost stories by the New London Historical Society (11 Blinman St.)
  - Music at Muse (102 Golden St.): Theodore Geisel's Flying Laboratory
  - Strolling Acapella Group
  - Free admission at the Custom House Maritime Museum (150 Bank St.)
  - Pumpkin carving at Golden Street Gallery (94 Golden St.)
  - Free hot chocolate at Daniel's Dairy Downtown (60 Bank St.)
  - Pastel drawing demonstration at Studio 33 from 6-7 p.m. (140 Bank St.)
  - An Artist Talk with Kevin Gallagher at Aticc Boutique (140 Green St.)
- Check out [newlondonmainstreet.org](http://newlondonmainstreet.org) for an interactive map of New London

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**Saturday, October 31, 2009**  
**8:00 pm - Harkness Chapel**

Tickets \$10, students & seniors \$5.00  
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## College Football

### First Half Story-Lines

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Michigan finished with their worst season in school history last year, chalking up a dismal 3-9 record. However, this year Head Coach Rich Rodriguez's complicated spread option offense has taken control and led the Wolverines to a 5-2 record despite having a freshman at quarterback in Tate Forcier.

#### Bust Teams of the Year

As expected, there will be teams that exceed expectations as well as teams that will fall way short. I am giving Oklahoma a pass in this category because they have been plagued by devastating and unforeseen injuries and already ripped enough in this article.

Florida State is widely known for its football legacy and winning traditions but has limped to a horrific 2-4 record and is currently last in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Originally ranked #22, Florida State is now miles away from even sniffing the polls.

The Ohio State University also continues to fall short of expectations year after year. They failed to win a big non-conference game against Southern California (a now yearly tradition at the school), recently lost to 1-5 Purdue University and struggled to beat the Naval Academy in the team's first game. Originally ranked #8, Ohio State sits at #18 and continues to choke against big time competition.

Lastly, Mississippi was ranked at a lofty #6 to start the season but has been completely shutdown in their two losses against South Carolina and Alabama. Previous Heisman candidate quarterback Jevan Snead has been absolutely stunned by the defenses of these two teams and the Ole Miss Rebels have fallen out of the polls completely.

#### The Tragic Death of Jasper Howard

On the morning of October 18, starting cornerback for the UConn Huskies, Jasper Howard, was stabbed to death during a fight after a university sanctioned school dance. Howard, coming off the best game of his career only hours earlier against the Louisville Cardi-

nals, had left his hometown of Miami to come to UConn in order to escape the violence in his neighborhood. Howard was also expecting his first child and was the first person in his family to go to college. One of his goals was to play well enough and make it to the NFL so he would have the money to move his family out of the rough Miami streets.

I felt it was important to mention this because it made me recognize that win or lose, sports become quite minimal in a situation like this. It's a cruel reminder that there are more important things in life than football games and we can only hope Howard's family, friends and UConn teammates find the strength to overcome this sudden tragedy. Things certainly get put into perspective when a young man who was on the right track in life and had so much going for him loses his life in such a senseless way.

#### Outlook for Rest of 2009

With just over half the season done, it's time to look ahead to what the rest of the college football season has to offer. I think the national title game, barring a severe choke job by any of these schools, will come down to the Texas Longhorns against the winner of the SEC Championship game, likely a matchup between the Alabama Crimson Tide and Florida Gators.

Come January, I expect the Longhorns and Crimson Tide to meet in Pasadena for the title game with the Crimson Tide winning in a defense-dominated game. Major BCS bowl berths will also go to the Cincinnati Bearcats, Iowa Hawkeyes, Southern California Trojans, Boise State Broncos, Penn State Nittany Lions, Virginia Tech Hokies, Florida Gators, Miami Hurricanes, Oregon Ducks and Texas Christian Horned Frogs.

Lastly for the Heisman trophy, Notre Dame's Jimmy Clausen, Texas' Colt McCoy, Florida's Tim Tebow and Alabama's Mark Ingram making it to the final presentation in New York City in early December. In a close vote, I think Colt McCoy takes home the trophy.

## Rugby Finishes Strong

### Win Final Game Despite Many Injuries



Grant Ridgeway '10 throws his opponent to the ground.

NICK EDWARDS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

#### JUSTIN LEVY STAFF WRITER

Injuries abounded in an unsatisfying 2-3 season for Camel Rugby this fall. Despite the efforts of a strong defensive pack and an army of rookies, the Camels could not stop their opponents in their last three games and suffered hard fought defeats at home.

After last season, the Camels lost a few key players to graduation leaving many open spots in the 15-man line up. Things looked bright at first when the team roster peaked at around 40, but rugby is a brutal game and between fear of injury, H1N1 and the economy, commitment dwindled.

Over the course of four A-side matches the backline consisted of different players each match. This inconsistency blocked the Camels from working together as a cohesive unit.

The Camels' first victory came from a forfeit by Framingham and their first victory from a proper match came one week later at Rhode Island College. A brilliant first-half try (touchdown) by flanker Roger Kim '09 kept the Camels within five points of RIC setting up

two tries by rookie wings Chris King '13 and Nate Wallace '13 in the second half to secure a 15-10 real win.

Always a tight match, the Camels looked promising in the first half against Eastern Connecticut State University, holding Eastern Conn to only five points from a try scored close to the end of the half. Camel forwards rucked (secured) the ball so well they were able to force turnovers, but the Camels were unable to establish effective backline play and spent much of the half near their own touch-zone. Unfortunately the Camels were not a second-half team and collapsed, allowing 27 more points. Prop James Jackson '11 scored the only try for Conn.

According to captain and flyhalf Grand Ridgeway '10 the lack of fitness is the biggest problem for the team and it led to some injuries. Injuries are simply the nature of the sport and by end of the season five starters were hurt, practice attendance dwindled to around sixteen, and the Camels were unable to field a final B-side game against Nichols, as only five extra players were healthy enough to play.

Instead of laboring over another agonizing home loss, when the Camels' A-side was defeated by Worcester Polytechnic Institute, it is time to highlight the brightest moment of the Camels' season.

After the A-side played a scoreless full eighty-minute match, the B-side pulled off a miracle win in a fifty-minute match, with a "ragtag" team of mostly rookies. The Camels maintained a 14-12 lead thanks to two tries by fullback Kenny Rivera '11 and two conversions by Chris King '13 until WPI scored with two minutes to play.

In rugby, unlike football, when a team scores they receive the kickoff, which center Chris King '13 placed in the end-zone. The Camels attacked with strong support, and flankers Sean L. Smith Jr. '11 and Justin Levy '10 along with Kenny Rivera '11 cleared the way for prop Cristobal Perez '12 to dive on the ball and score with forty seconds remaining ensuring an emphatically decisive camel victory 19-17. Teamwork and pluck scored that try marking a good sign for the future as players gain experience and join the A-side.

## Wright '12 Named NESCAC Performer of the Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

motivation?

**WRIGHT:** I often think of my high school and college coaches and my current teammates, who have always believed in me, and how they have always inspired me and pushed me to be best runner I can be.

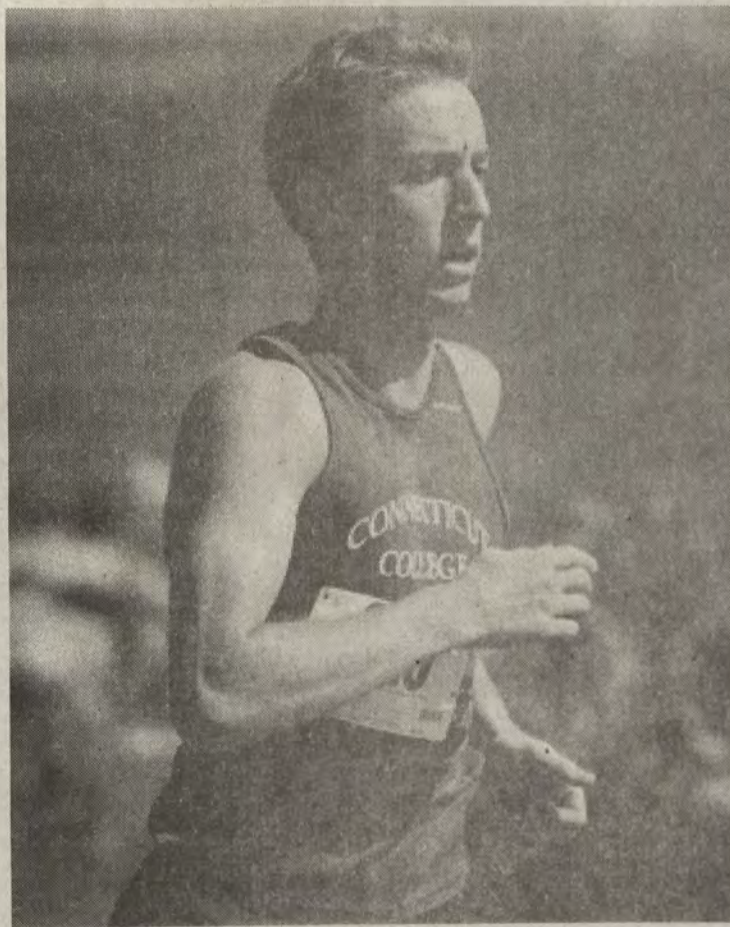
**VOICE:** How do you prepare yourself mentally for races? Do you have any pre-race rituals?

**WRIGHT:** Usually before a race I typically relax and talk to my coach and teammates about different strategies and the best way to approach this individual race. I always make sure to eat well and to get plenty of sleep in the days leading up to the race.

**VOICE:** What goes through your head when you are on the starting line?

**WRIGHT:** At the starting line I usually quickly rethink my race strategy and realize the importance of not running the first several miles too fast. I also tell myself the inevitable pain that begins to occur mid-way through the race is only temporary and that through my training I can handle it.

**VOICE:** Runners often have different dietary needs than other athletes, how do you ensure that your body stays fueled while expending so much



Doug Wright '12

energy during workouts and races?

**WRIGHT:** I ensure my body stays fueled by eating three large meals a day and I usually eat an energy bar before practice and after dinner. Even

though it is important to eat healthy before races, the nights before I have ran my two best races of the year have been burger night in Harris, which I would never turn down. It is more important that you eat

healthy the actual day of the race in order to make sure your body is properly fueled.

**VOICE:** I live in Harkness and one early Saturday morning a couple weeks ago I saw your team running around the green in the pouring rain. How do you stay focused and motivated during hard workouts?

**WRIGHT:** Longs runs and workouts, such as sprinting up hills, doing mile repeats on the track and fifteen mile runs every Sunday, are really what develop you into a better runner. These workouts are conditioning you to be a good racer and even if the weather is bad it is very important that you push yourself and remember it will pay off come race day. It is sometimes difficult to motivate yourself but you always have to keep your long-term goals in mind.

**VOICE:** How has your coach influenced you throughout your career at Conn? Has he given you any memorable advice?

**WRIGHT:** Both my coach and I are avid runners and this can be both very good and very bad. He always stresses the importance of taking care of your body to avoid injury and fatigue by doing plenty of stretching and getting plenty

of rest. He also stresses the importance of balancing out your day and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

**VOICE:** Did you prepare yourself differently for this season than prior seasons?

**WRIGHT:** After my freshman year I understood the type of training I needed to do in order to advance to the next level in running. This summer I ran 900 miles to condition myself for the fall season. Running high mileage is crucial to building up your endurance and strength if you want to be a competitive cross-country runner.

**VOICE:** What has been your greatest accomplishment in running thus far?

**WRIGHT:** My greatest accomplishments are winning my class state championship in the 3200 meter run my senior year in high school and in college finishing 3rd in the NESCAC 5K to earn All-Conference honors my freshman year.

**VOICE:** Do you have any goals you would still like to achieve?

**WRIGHT:** This season I would like to earn All-NESCAC and All-New England honors and hopefully advance to the national championship in Ohio.

# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

October 27, 2009 | Editors: Racine Oxtoby and Kris Fleming | arts@thecollegevoice.org

## The Film Society

Long-Lost Club Brought Back to Celebrate the Art of Film

SARAH WEISS  
STAFF WRITER

Are you a fan of classic movies? Interested in validating your claim as a movie buff? Or perhaps you just want to see a free film on a screen bigger than your laptop for a change?

If so, join the Film Society, a newly reinstated club that regularly screens movies Thursday evenings at 8 PM in Olin 014.

The club was revived by senior Jack Lichten with tremendous support from Professor James McFarland.

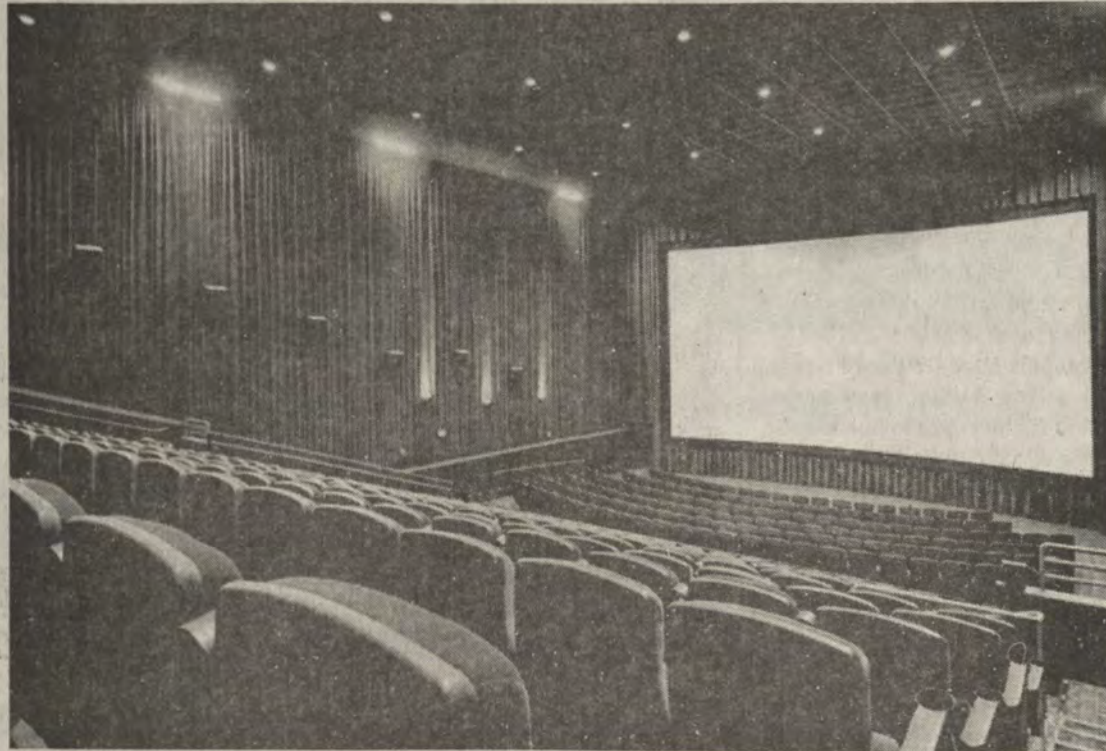
"The goal of the society is to promote film culture on campus," said McFarland.

The original club, created over two decades ago, screened mainly independent films. Its purpose was to show less-likely-to-be-seen movies, as opposed to mainstream blockbusters.

"In the 90s there was a shifting of focus," said Scott McEver, Director of Student Activities. The club then began to show a mix of both older and newer films, including recently released hits.

The newly restored Film Society is going back to its roots, showing older, classic movies.

Professor McFarland described the new club's intention: "Movies serve a lot of different purposes: entertainment, instruction, propaganda and many others. Some of these purposes sort of take



WEB.

care of themselves: big budget popular films don't really need to be promoted, because they already have advertising budgets and great word-of-mouth. But, there are also a lot of older movies, many of them 'classics' that most of us have heard of but many of us have never gotten around to seeing."

McFarland hopes the club will bring students together to enjoy a movie they may never have heard of before and increase their cultural perspectives on films.

The Film Society has struggled as a club over the years since it has always been run by

small groups of students. Once students studied abroad or graduated, the group membership dwindled and Film Society struggled to survive.

"I think another aspect that might have hurt [the club] is that events happen every weekend and students don't take advantage of it and it dies out," said McEver.

However, the addition of faculty presence in the club has now given Film Society some stability.

"The faculty would like to increase the level of academic challenge Conn College provides its students, and that

means not just making classes harder and more rewarding, but promoting a vital intellectual culture outside of the classroom," explained McFarland.

That is why he and several other faculty members are supporting the newly restored Film Society.

Another reason for faculty presence in the club is the issue of copyright. Obtaining a copyright license is necessary, according to the Federal Copyright Act, if an audience is publicly viewing a film, whether admission is charged or not. An exception to this law

is if the film is screened for educational purposes.

The Film Society is only screening films with Professor McFarland present, in order to bypass the copyright issues and expenses. He leads a brief and informal discussion about the film after it is screened.

Lichten does make it clear though that the club is run by students. "Although we have great faculty participation, the focal point of the club has always been the student," he said.

That means the success of the club depends on student participation. A regular crowd is already attending the weekly films and Lichten hopes it will continue.

He added, "This crowd, I hope, will come not because they like the specific film of whatever week, but because they like film in general and want to expand their horizons. If I can have that kind of participation, then I know that the club has succeeded in its goals."

As McFarland said, "Berets are optional, and you don't even have to stay for the discussion! But hey, if you can't be a pretentious intellectual as a college student, then when the heck can you be?"

## This Is Radio Conn

Student- and Community-Run Radio Provides Diverse Genres

LAUREN SHENFELD  
CONTRIBUTOR

If "video killed the radio star," then the fear of many radio connoisseurs may be that the iPod and the availability of online music may have killed radio all together.

Many students on Connecticut College's campus claim that, although they are aware of the on-campus radio station, WCNI, they have followed society's lead and do not own a radio and therefore it is impossible for them to listen to the station.

It is time that this sentiment (as well as the myth that you needed to have brought your parents' radio to school with you in order to listen to WCNI) is put to rest. Not only is the eclectic and creative FM station streamed online and available to anyone desiring to listen on the College's campus, but it is also a station that can be reached by anyone in the New London area.

The station, broadcasted on 90.9 FM, has a rich history with Connecticut College and involves an impressive staff of community members and student DJs committed to producing quality shows "for the love of music."



JULIE MCMAHON/CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

The station has been known to play classical music one hour, reggae the next, and close out the day with alternative pop.

Early broadcasts of WCNI were of rather poor quality. The station's AM frequency often crossed with New York City's WNBC-AM station and to comfort their ears, students could be found turning off the radio transmitters that were located in each dormitory

building on campus.

In 1972, with the establishment and support of the Connecticut College Broadcast Association, Inc., WCNI became an FM station - its broadcast became more reliable, and the station overall became more accessible to Connecticut College students.

By 1974, a radio transmission tower was constructed on top of Bill Hall by members of the College maintenance staff,

utilizing a World War II air raid siren tower and a steel pipe as the antenna. A professional radio tower now accompanies the station's present location in the College Center at Crozier-Williams.

Past accomplishments of WCNI include an on-air fund raising marathon to raise money for government-mandated emergency broadcast equipment, and the newly appointed WCNI managerial staff

has high hopes for the success of the station this year.

The station's General Manager, John Tyler, said, "Nothing says more about [the station] than the music," suggesting that the riveting and dynamic show schedule this fall is an achievement in of itself.

"We've got no iPhone app," Tyler shared, "but we do stream live through our website and, of course, [through] good old terrestrial radio at 90.9 FM."

Those involved with the production of the radio station are committed to their goal this year of greater out-reach to the Connecticut College student body.

"We want to build the WCNI community," Tyler expressed. "We are working to expand through Facebook and the College's new system, Collegiate Link."

Staff members are certainly making a strong effort to get students involved earlier during their four years at Connecticut College. The hope is these outreach efforts, as well as the plans for a renovated production studio, will attract a younger generation of DJs and spark greater interest in involvement with the station.

Want to tune in? Go to 90.9 FM or online at [www.wcniradio.org](http://www.wcniradio.org) and listen to a live broadcast of the station. Stop by the studio located in Crozier-Williams next to the Cro Pit if you're interested in joining the team.



# Stage Review: The Tempest

**MATT GENTILE**  
STAFF WRITER

This past Thursday, a new production of one of Shakespeare's later works, *The Tempest* premiered in Tansill Theater. Helmed by esteemed director Bryan Jennings, students performed this classic play throughout the weekend with sold-out seats at every performance.

The production, with fantastic art direction and set decoration from Tim Goblewski, was lavish, featuring large-scale set pieces with a mast, trees and a realistic representation of a jungle island.

The costume design, from Sabrina Notarfrancisco, is first rate. The African costume designs had a similar beauty and pleasure to the costumes seen in Julie Taymor's exquisite design in the Broadway phenomenon *The Lion King*.

The lighting design is also remarkable, as it brings all the beauties of this show together.

The cast too, brings an array of energy and talent to their performances. Jennings does fine work mining the large amounts of talent of cast members.

Eric DelGizzo, as the ambiguous Prospero, speaks Shakespeare very naturally, almost in the fashion of Laurence Olivier. Madeleine Baldwin plays a very comical, energetic performance as Stephano, and Pete Konowski turns in a unique, creative performance in another "language" (English or Spanish or Swahili or Spanglish) as the slave Caliban.

The choice of the play is

what I happen to disagree with, although I think that this production team was spectacular and did a phenomenal job with what they had.

As one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, *The Tempest* is also one of his most ambiguous in genre and comprehension. Is it a comedy, a tragedy, a late romance, a tragicomedy, or what?

Now don't get me wrong, I love a good tragicomedy (*August: Osage County* is the best show I've seen in years), but for some reason, the way this show was presented just did not really work. Everyone definitely gave it their all, and succeeded, but the choice of material could have been better.

Bryan Jennings is a phenomenal director, and the cast is universally excellent. But like last year's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, I think the show might have trouble resonating with a college audience. At times, I found myself confused with the plot and did not really understand what was going on, and I've read almost every Shakespeare play out there.

In a nutshell: I love the production, I hate the play. I would recommend it, however. It should definitely satisfy the theater-going population here at Conn, and is certainly worth a watch.

On a Connecticut College Camel Rating Scale, out of a possible four, I'm going to give *The Tempest* 3 Camels.



RIGHT,  
NICK EDWARDS/  
STAFF PHOTOGRAPER

LEFT AND BELOW,  
KELSEY COHEN/  
PHOTO EDITOR



## Conn Theater Foundation Brings Guest Performers from Wesleyan

**BIANCA BLOOMFIELD**  
CONTRIBUTOR

about more than just the writer.

If you want to get noticed in the tough theater business, the only way to do it is by putting yourself out there.

Dylan Marron and Jo Fires-tone from Wesleyan University seem to be having a good start. After writing and performing together as a part of their school's sketch comedy group, Lunchbox, they decided to take their creativity to the next level and write a play.

"This was a particular challenge because it's one thing to work with a group but another to work with only one other person. There's a lot at stake and you have to be vulnerable," Dylan said.

Dylan and Jo had a basic sense of what they wanted for their end result; the question was how to get there.

"Most of the show is big structured improv," continued Dylan, "so most of the writing was focused on brainstorming all the different characters. We wanted to write a two-person, multi-character play and realized that a middle school talent show would be a great setting."

And so they ended up with "Ridgefield Middle School Talent Nite," a sort of tribute to those awkward years we all want to forget.

But writing a play is only the first step. The real satisfaction comes from turning the flat page into three-dimensional life; that's when it becomes

In this case, the writers are the actors as well. Dylan and Jo play all the roles. Their first performance was in a Wesleyan basement "usually reserved for the weekly meetings of the skateboard club" this past April 16.

"It was great because...we believed in these characters, and then all of a sudden, here was a whole bunch of people who also believed in them."

Conn isn't the only place Dylan and Jo will be performing. Their tour consists of Princeton University, Washington University, Bard College and a few theaters including two in New York City. They are promoting their college tour through the Financial Play'd Project: all the profit they make will go to the financial aid department of the school where they perform.

When thinking about where to take their show, Dylan and Jo considered who would appreciate their script the most.

"Our target audience is college students - people who, like us, remember their middle school years just enough to want to forget them as soon as possible. We figured we'd find college students by going to college campuses so...hello there, Connecticut College!"

"Ridgefield Middle School Talent Nite" will be performed by Dylan Marron and Jo Fires-tone on October 30 at 8 PM in Palmer 202.



## SPORTS

October 27, 2009 | Editors: Sarah Haughey and Mike Flint | sports@thecollegevoice.org

# Volleyball Burns Through NESCAC

Camels Second in Conference With 18-4 Record



**EMILY WEBB**  
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut College Women's Volleyball team is on fire - it is as simple as that.

They have won their past five matches to contribute to an overall record of 18-4 this season, and are set to play in the NESCAC Championship Tournament for the fifth straight season (host to be determined). Earlier this week, the Camels played at Salve Regina where they shut out the hosts.

Despite the graduating of a few key seniors in the class of 2009 and the addition of several talented freshmen, the volleyball program has not undergone any significant



changes to contribute to their success this fall.

Coach Joshua Edmed, who is in his eighth season with the Camels, believes that this, in addition to "the fact that our returning players are more seasoned with our program's philosophy and not only understand it more but are exuding characteristics that promote our philosophy in all facets of their program affiliation" have been key factors to their success.

In preparation for post-season play, Coach Edmed stated that "we have always focused on the process of things and on what we can control. Our focus will remain in these areas as we prepare for how our team will physically and mentally

execute during post season. We have shown that when we play together... [We] have an intense and relentless focus..."

If play continues to be as successful for the Camels in the post season as it has this season, they can be expected to go far.

Before the post-season play, though, the Camels have a final league game to focus on.

The team is now pushing forward towards their upcoming match against Wesleyan and to the tournament play. Earlier this season, the Camels faced Wesleyan at the MIT Invitational.

In this match, Connecticut College came away with a shut out 25-20, 25-9, 25-11 victory over the Cardinals.



Looking forward to Friday, Coach Edmed said, "over the next several days we will continue to put pieces into place that will provide our team with the processes that will have them feeling well educated about Wesleyan and confident and strong about stepping onto the court against them."

The team will also receive an extra boost of energy from the stands, as it is their Blue Game of the Week. As the Blue Game, fans should expect games with prizes, food, and lots of Camel supporters.

The game will take place on Friday, October 30, at 8 PM in the Luce Fieldhouse.

## Player of the Week: Doug Wright '12

**SARAH HAUGHEY**  
SPORTS EDITOR

After finishing fourth with a time of 26:29 in the Men's 8K race at the Plansky Invitational hosted by Williams College on Saturday, October 17, sophomore Doug Wright was named the NESCAC Men's Cross Country Performer of the Week.

At the conclusion of his rookie season last year, Wright was the third best runner for the Camels.

His intense summer training schedule is proving effective as he has been the top finisher for the Connecticut College men's cross country team in his first four races this season.

**VOICE:** How long have you been running competitively?

**WRIGHT:** I have been running competitively since freshmen year in high school. In eighth grade, the high school track coach heard about my mile time, 5:28, in the annual fitness test and he suggested I come out for cross country.

**VOICE:** What first inspired you to run cross-country?

**WRIGHT:** I was inspired to run cross-country because to be quite honest, I had never excelled in any other sport up until then. My stints in lacrosse, tennis and soccer were all unsuccessful and I never received much playing time or achieved anything.

**VOICE:** Do you have a role model that you look to for

**SEE WRIGHT PAGE 5**

# Half A Season To Remember

College Football Highlights from the First Half of the Season

**SAM PERLEY**  
STAFF WRITER

With more than half the college football season already over, it's time to look back at the first few weeks of the season and focus on the major issues that have taken place and what fans have to look forward to for the remainder of the season.

### Sam Bradford's Shoulder

The reigning Heisman Trophy winner put off millions of dollars in the NFL draft to return to school in the hopes of guiding the Oklahoma Sooners to a national title. Unfortunately, the Oklahoma quarterback's goal quickly evaporated, along with probably the rest of his season, after he suffered a sprained AC joint in his shoulder in the first game of the season against Brigham Young University and then re-injured it against the Texas Longhorns in the Red River Shootout. Bradford is contemplating surgery, which would sideline him probably for the rest of the season and leave the Sooners, currently 3-3, looking at a very disappointing season.

### LeGarrette Blount punch vs. Boise State

Losing to the Boise State Broncos 13-9 in the Oregon Duck's opening game turned out to be something Oregon running back LeGarrette Blount did not handle very



**Sideline Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford.**

well. Following the game, Blount got into an altercation with Boise State player Byron Hout who he then preceded to punch in the face. Blount was then escorted off the field by Oregon school officials but feeling rather unsatisfied with his behavior, Blount got into a tussle with some of the home fans and had to be restrained and dragged off the field by security in order to prevent him from going into the stands.

Blount has been suspended for the rest of the season and

as a senior, will no longer play for the Oregon Ducks. In one of the most appalling examples of unsportsmanlike conduct, Blount should be ashamed for taking such a great opportunity, like playing Division I college football, for granted.

### No clear Heisman Trophy candidates

Despite the return of the top three Heisman finalists from last year, it seems no player in the nation wants to step up and claim this award, which is

given to the nation's best college football player. Bradford's injury has all but eliminated him. Florida quarterback Tim Tebow has also been injured and has looked shaky at times as has Texas quarterback, Colt McCoy.

Some new faces such as running backs Mark Ingram and Jahvid Best from Alabama and California, respectively, have emerged only to lose attention after poor games. Notre Dame's quarterback Jimmy Clausen and wide receiver

Golden Tate have drawn attention as well as Nebraska defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh and Houston quarterback Case Keenum. With nobody emerging as a consistently dominant threat every week, the Heisman race will probably go down to the wire in such a wide-open field.

### Surprise Teams of the Year

Every year preseason rankings come out for the top 25 college football teams. The rankings are mostly rough estimations compiled by sports writers and media personnel of which teams they see as the best. These rankings are based on a multitude of factors including results from the previous season and returning players. Three teams have been severely underrated after they have gone above and beyond expectations this year are Iowa, Washington and Michigan.

Iowa, originally #21, is off to a 7-0 start and is currently ranked #7 in the nation while sitting in first place in the Big Ten standings. The Washington Huskies did not win a single game last year and although they sit at an average 3-4 record (despite a difficult schedule), they defeated the #3 Southern California Trojans and were briefly ranked at one point this season. Lastly,

**SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 5**

## OPINIONS

October 27, 2009 | Editor: Alfred DeGemmis | opinions@thecollegevoice.org

## The Moral Tortures of Hooking Up

RIORDAN FROST  
COLUMNIST

Connecticut College's policy on rape and sexual harassment is a very progressive one, and it is one that has a very strict definition of sexual misconduct, making it much more inclusive than common perceptions. Our own student handbook reads:

*Connecticut College defines "sexual misconduct" as any sexual contact or activity that occurs without the informed consent of any individual involved. According to Connecticut College policy, "consent" implies words and/or actions that demonstrate a voluntary agreement to engage in mutually agreed-upon sexual activity. For consent:*

1. Both partners must clearly communicate their willingness and permission. Consent is not the absence of the word "no." Failure to resist sexual advances, silence, and/or prior relationship does not constitute consent.

2. Both partners need to be fully conscious and aware of their actions. A person is unable to give consent if they are asleep, drugged, intoxicated, unconscious, a minor, mentally impaired or incapacitated. Signs that a person is intoxicated, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to give consent include but are not limited to: slurred speech, loss of coordination, passing out for any period of time, vomiting, and a verbalized feeling of being nauseous.

3. Both partners must be equally free to act. The decision to be sexually intimate must be made without coercion and both partners have the right to revoke their consent at any time during sexual activity by actively (verbally or non-verbally) communicating their desire to stop the activity. A verbal "no" (no matter how indecisive) or resistance (no matter how passive) constitutes a lack of consent.

Note that this policy concludes that if you are intoxicated in any way, you cannot give consent. Also, sex with a girlfriend after a night of drinking may be considered

'misconduct.' Sound extreme? Well, parts of it start to, but the policy has a great deal of validity to it.

Let's use a thought experiment, inspired and very loosely based on one created by philosopher Lois Pineau. John and Jane are enjoying themselves at a party. Both have been drinking, and both are flirting with each other. John asks Jane to have sex with him, and Jane, embarrassed and apologetic, turns him down. John presses the issue, and Jane becomes annoyed, but feels flustered and socially pressured. She doesn't want to ruin their friendship, nor does she want him to speak ill of her, so she eventually gives in, and they have sex. John is happily satisfied with his night and his 'smooth moves,' but Jane feels unhappy and regrets the whole experience. Was it sexual misconduct? According to Conn policy, yes.

If being intoxicated takes away consent, then some of us have been toeing (or just jumping over) the line on our Thursday and Saturday nights. This is made all the more prevalent by the fact that being intoxicated also takes away judgment (hence the lack of consent), and 'the morning after' can be filled with anything from regret to satisfaction to joy to outright embarrassment.

I'm not saying that all hook-ups are bad. But here at Conn, students place an implicit trust in one another. That trust is what forms the honor code, and it plays a crucial role in our party scene.

The deep philosophical issue here is the extreme difficulty of knowing what someone else really wants to do. This seems to be near impossible at times, especially if you don't know the person in question.

Some men have been known to claim that 'she wanted it' when referring to a hook-up, especially if the hook-up is called into question. This is quite similar to men saying that they know when women fake their orgasms. Doubtful.

Yet in the case of being in a prior relationship, you do know the person and it thus

more likely that you know what your significant other wants. But this does not give a free pass or absolute knowledge, for there is still such a thing as marital rape.

Just as you cannot easily know level of consent, you cannot easily know level of intoxication - which even applies to your own degree of intoxication. Does feeling tipsy off of a glass of wine nullify consent? I don't believe so, but being too drunk to walk or speak clearly? I think that one does.

But if there is consent present, what's the problem? Well, here's the moral principle: we should treat people how they want to be treated, and not do anything to them that they don't really want.

Was the thought experiment above a form of rape, or date rape? It might be if you use this definition: rape is having sex with someone who doesn't really want to have sex with you. If you accept that definition, then the situation given is morally problematic at least.

I still vividly remember a conversation that I had with one of my former classmates from Professor Feldman's course Feminist Philosophy. We expressed our mutual feelings about how much the class pushed social comforts, and how much we gained from it, especially in retrospect.

When the subject of rape and date rape came up, my classmate expressed his feelings about it: to him, it was crazy that rape has such a wide definition. He recalled how he was tortured briefly by the thought that he had - without direct intent - pressured a girl into having sex. He expressed the fact that he couldn't hook up with anyone for months after that. But then he laughed and said that he got over it, and was out on the hook-up scene once more. My fellow peers and I laughed about it, but I was deeply intrigued and more than a little bit disturbed. Could it really be that easy for some to ignore the moral implications?

*My thanks to Professor Feldman for his assistance in the development of this article.*

## Let's Talk About Sex, Baby...

...in a way that celebrates sexual diversity

DVORA WALKER  
CONTRIBUTOR

I'll always remember the day I discovered that I'm a slut. It was December of 2007. I was sitting in the wicker chair in my family room, sipping a hot chocolate and relaxing when a friend texted me, "Check out ConnCollConfessional." I eagerly logged on to the website to hear the latest gossip and was surprised to see a thread labeled "Dvora" with thirteen posts below.

Thirteen!? I didn't even know that thirteen people knew who I was. I thought that I was just another undistinguishable freshman. I clicked on the thread and began reading the comments listed below my name. "D-whora...D-virus...Slut."

Me! They were using these names to describe me. "Nice legs, no ass." Who was writing these things, thinking these things? "She fucked the entire basketball team." In my mind, that day Conn transitioned from a safe zone to a hostile territory.

Returning to school after winter break was the worst. I felt like everyone's eyes were constantly fixed on me. Every time I met someone new I thought to myself, "What have they heard? Who do they think I am?" I stopped talking in class because I was reluctant to draw more attention to myself.

Luckily, with the help of fantastic friends I was able to regain my confidence and sense of self-worth. But I'll always carry with me some lingering insecurity, a nagging fear that maybe I am a slut, maybe I am a person others should not value.

My experience is reflective of the larger discourse surrounding sexual activity at Connecticut College. Many of us are cautious about who we have sexual encounters with and who we divulge those encounters to because we don't want to gain a "bad" reputation.

In her article, *Public Silence, Private Terror* Dorothy Allison asks, "What kind of woman might we be if we did not have to worry about being too sexual, or not sexual enough, or the wrong kind of sexual for the company we kept?" I want to throw the same question out to the college community.

What kind of person would you be and how would you act if you didn't have to worry about the judgment of your peers?

The student body is sexually diverse and all students, no matter what their sexual interests or practices are, deserve to be treated with equality. Some people like to have lots of sex, while some would rather not have any. Some like to have sex with people of the same gender and some like to have sex that has traditionally been defined as "kinky."

We need to stop ranking sex and categorizing these different types of sexual activity as acceptable versus unacceptable. Everyone should feel empowered to make their own sexual decisions without the pressure of societal expectations.

Not all students are responsible for stigmatizing those who oppose the school's sexual norms, but we can all work together to create an environment in which everyone has the freedom to pursue safe sexual activity in whatever way they choose. Once all members of the student body enjoy sexual freedom, nobody will be forced into the same position that I was forced into my freshman year. Nobody will be afraid to speak up in class or run for student council or sign a public petition because they engaged in the "wrong" kind of sexual activity.

I want to be at a school where everybody has the freedom to reach their full potential without the fear that perhaps their sex life will get in the way of their academic ambitions.

Sex is fabulous and I know many students at Conn are big fans of it. So let's allow each other to engage in sex freely and openly without worrying about stigmas or being ostracized. If we do away with the social consequences of sex, then I predict that everyone will be a lot happier and will get a lot more action.

## The Slutty Pumpkin

RACINE OXTOBY  
ARTS EDITOR

While perusing the latest issue of *Entertainment Weekly*, I came across an advertisement somewhere between the pages of the movie reviews dedicated to the promotion of Halloween costumes.

*Star Trek* is hot this season, what with the popular reboot only weeks away from home distribution. There will certainly be a number of Michael Jackson impersonators roaming around campus this Saturday night, attempting to moonwalk wearing a reproduction red leather jacket with silver shoulder bands (too soon?). I can't wait to see if anyone tries to emulate the backwards mullet of Kate Gosselin, perhaps accessorized with eight exhausted little tykes tied to the hip.

However, with every Halloween season comes the sexifying of popular costume motifs. As it is quoted in *Mean Girls*, "Halloween is the one night a

year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it."

Angels and devils. Ladybugs and bumblebees. Vampires and witches. Cats. Just slap on a miniskirt, some knee-high boots, and add some basic accessories so people know what you're trying to be, and suddenly you're wearing a Halloween costume.

I'm not saying that these costumes are necessarily lazy or cheap (on the contrary, many of these store-bought full costumes can be pretty expensive). I'm just saying that it leaves little to the mind. What's wrong with dressing up like an actual spawn of Satan? Or an actual undead creature of the night? Or an actual cat? Cat ears and a tail over a mini dress do not count, in my book.

What really irked me, in this aforementioned advertisement, was a costume that was titled "Sexy Freddy Krueger Costume." The costume includes the following:



1. Red and black long-sleeved sweater dress, complete with short skirt and strategically-ripped front, exposing the model's sexy midriff.

2. One stiff-looking brown fedora, which doesn't look like it fits all that well on the model's head.

3. One glove with knives attached to the fingers, with one knife resting gently and seductively on the model's lower lip.

4. NO BURN SCARS ON THE FACE.

Come along now. You can't be Freddy Krueger - even a "Sexy Freddy Krueger" - without going all-out on the make-up. It's what makes the character so frightening. And sure, frightening isn't really the key word that's being sold, but it's the word that is (or should be) most associated with the holiday being celebrated.

We can say that vampires and witches and devils are allowed to be cute and sexy because there is a certain kind of seduction to power and ev-

erlasting life. Freddy Krueger was set on fire for being a child molester.

Please, Halloween costume merchandisers: stop making our costumes so ridiculously provocative, especially when it is unnecessary for them to be. You're making it far too easy for us girls to break away from making our own costumes.

Last year I went as Poison Ivy from the *Batman* universe - granted, my costume was really nothing more than a leotard over some green tights, but I spent a week sewing leaves onto the leotard for the desired nature effect, plus I dyed my hair red. I'm not entirely proud of the booty exposed that night, but I will always remain proud of the effort I put forward in its creation.

Halloween is the one time of the year when we get to dress up and eat candy and act like children and no one judges us for it. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to leave the sexy out.

# On Yin and Yang

LELAND STILLMAN  
COLUMNIST

People often talk about yin and yang without having any idea what they are talking about. This is a sad reality, given that this fundamental tenet of Taoist philosophy is one of the most elegant expressions of natural phenomena ever devised.

Yin and yang are often thought of as the dark side and the light side of the hill. People usually consider this to indicate a static duality: light versus darkness, good versus evil, Luke versus Vader, and so on. First of all, these polemics mistake the duality of yin and yang to be a moral one, between good and evil. Yin and yang have no moral value, they are complementary and do not exist except in relation to each other. What these similitudes also fail to represent is

the dynamism of the yin and yang concept. The dark side of the hill eventually becomes the light side of the hill. Each becomes the other. This is accomplished in one of two ways. Either one wanes, till it segues to the other, or it gains to its maximum, and then abruptly transforms into the other. Consider a water balloon. It can be emptied by poking a hole in it, or filling it with water until it bursts. The calm before the storm is another analogy (do not forget the calm afterwards either). Likewise, the outbursts of an otherwise taciturn friend can often be more violent than any other.

Where yin and yang is most frequently misunderstood is in discussions of causality. There is no distinction in Taoist thought between the cause and the effect. They are regarded as inevitable cyclical comple-

ments. The rain falls because it rose. Reaching the zenith, it must necessarily return to the nadir. Likewise, water rises because it fell, and reaching the nadir it inevitably rises to its zenith. Note that I do not im-

pute causative agents to either event. They simply are. Beyond this cyclical conceptualization of all phenomena is the dissolution of the idea causality. Whereas people often think of events as occurring because of

external forces, Taoist thought views events as the complementary culmination of both internal and external factors that are intrinsic rather than dependent upon externalities. I cannot sum this system of thought more eloquently than did Joseph Needham:

Things behave in particular ways not necessarily because of prior actions or impulses of other things, but because their position in the ever-moving cyclical universe was such that they were endowed with intrinsic natures which made that behavior inevitable for them... They were thus parts of existential dependence upon the whole world-organism.

Events occur not as the result of singular causative agents, but as the inevitable culmination of a universal pattern. Things are not accom-

plished so much as they simply happen. At the heart of this duality of internal and external "natures" (as Needham describes them) is yin and yang. They describe the constant flux and change of the universe not as events between distinct entities but as an unending, continuous harmony of the entire universe. It is difficult even to conceptualize, much less to explain in writing. Many wiser men than I have spent ages meditating upon such subjects, only to declare themselves little improved at the ending than in the beginning, not for want of improvement but simply because of the relative magnitude and complexity of the problem.

For more on yin, yang, and all aspects of Taoist thought explained eloquently, consult Ted Kaptchuk's, "The Web That Has No Weaver."

# The Cost of Inaction

STEPHANIE  
BLENNERHASSETT  
CONTRIBUTOR

In the time it took for students, alumni, faculty, and members of the New London community to gather for a two-hour conversation with Peter Singer debating how we rationalize our affluence in a world of poverty, approximately 2,000 people in the developing world died of starvation.

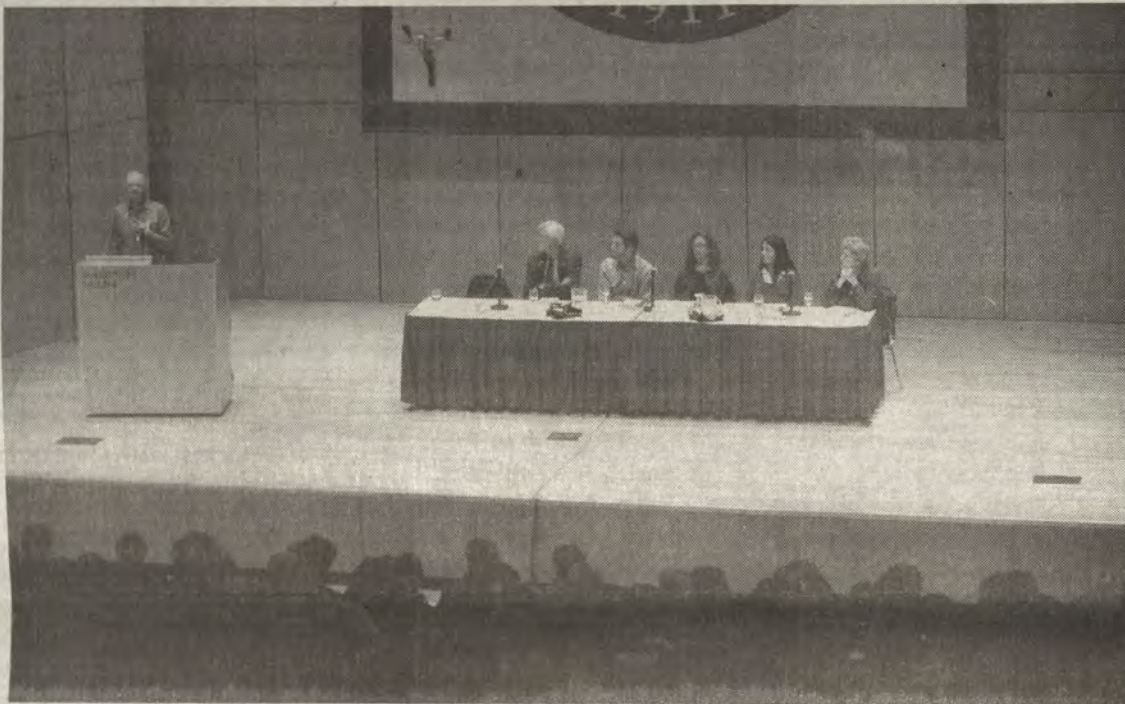
Citing his recent work, *The Life You Can Save*, utilitarian philosopher Peter Singer, suggested such deaths are a preventable, and not an inevitable, reality. Singer advocated for the duty of the West to aid the developing world under the premise that if we can prevent something bad (such as poverty) from happening without sacrificing anything of comparable significance, then we ought to do it.

Singer's suggestion that we are not only able to prevent such deaths, but that we have a moral imperative to do so, sparked controversy.

In response, a panel challenged Singer by criticizing his argument as being oversimplified, unrealistic, and over-assuming as to what is the greater good. The panel was composed of Connecticut College economics professors Maria Cruz-Saco and Purba Mukerji, philosophy professor, Simon Feldman, and Alice Fitzpatrick, the president of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut.

My contention with Singer's argument was not with his idealistic solution to eradicate poverty through sustainable development aid from the West, but it was with his approach in convincing us. Singer's suggestion that every time one purchases a luxury good, such as concert tickets, that the money spent on the tickets could be going towards aiding the developing world is problematic.

Firstly, it instantly creates feelings of guilt and of personal inadequacy. It also diverts the focus from what actions are the most effective and efficient way of decreasing poverty in the developing world. Instead, feeling of guilt and judgment become distractions. It is self-indulgent and ethnocentric to focus on determining if we are morally indebted to improve a situation we have not directly caused or may feel that we have no significant choice or influence in as individuals. Moral abstractions are futile; for it is not about us, it is about



KELSEY COHEN/PHOTO EDITOR

them. Considering that "our" affluence is founded on the natural resources and labor of the South and that 85 percent of the world's income goes to 23 percent of the world's people, we cannot waste our time discussing if we are actions are morally indefensible.

The fact of the matter is, is that in a post-colonial, globalized world, we directly benefit from and perpetuate the world's established inequalities. Thus, as the problem, we are also the solution. We cannot distance ourselves from the poverty of "the other", for we dependent upon it as the status quo. Whether we like it or not, the price of living a quality of life overtly better than the rest of the world has its price.

We should be way beyond asking ourselves if we are responsible for aiding the developing world, for it is fact that our overconsumption of nonrenewable resources is only possible if another consumes less. Furthermore, Singer's impassioned rational of the wrongness of the suffering of the developing world by suggesting the West's dismissal of aid correlates to passing by a drowning child is not only distracting, but it is misleading.

If Singer's scenario truly correlated with our relation to the developing world, Singer should propose that we not only threw a child, but children, into the pond. Although it is difficult to fathom the economic, political, and social consequences of our actions, Singer is wrong not to try and resort to manipulating our emotions. Singer should avoid guilt by proposing a scenario that is not even realistic, we are better and more educated than that. All

Singer accomplishes in his suggestion that not giving aid to the developing world is the moral equivalent of passing by a drowning child, is distancing himself from those who may be initially sympathetic to his claim by framing them as moral monsters.

Singer's application of Newton's law of physics, (that every action has an equal and opposite reaction) to the scenario of the developing world fails because it is accusatory. Singer's emphasis that every action we take has a negative impact on the world repercussions led panelist, Alice Fitzpatrick, to voice her dissent. Fitzpatrick dismissed the notion that every dollar we spend on ourselves could be spent as aid to the developing world as unconstructive and offensive. However, I firmly believe that we can only be offended if we allow ourselves to be offended. We do not need to victimize ourselves with the burden of giving (and of knowing when to stop), for enjoying consumption of unnecessary but desired luxuries is not mutually exclusive from provided aid for sustainable development efforts. So, there is good news: we can have both! Singer's suggestion that people allot at least one percent of their income redeems him. In the big picture, one percent of one's income is a negligible amount of money. Furthermore, setting aside one percent of one's income towards aid increases feeling of self-reliance, as opposed to increasing feelings of hopelessness and consequent carelessness that develop when debating between purchasing a concert ticket or feeding a village.

The fact that we can both satisfy ourselves and aid the

developing world relies upon people actually setting aside their income. Does this require government intervention? Notwithstanding concerns of transparency and accountability, objections would likely arise if the US government implemented a law that reserved one percent of US citizens' income for the developing world out of the concern that such a law would violate civil liberties. However, laws that restrain our freedoms are necessary because our choices do not always benefit the common good. The cost of unrestrained freedom can be greater than the cost of restriction, for laws can function as public goods that protect us, such as laws against manslaughter. If then, the public could be convinced that an aid law was a public good, perhaps a consensus for donating one percent of one's income towards aid could be reached.

If aid is possible, what is needed, is a transparent and sustainable structure for aid. However, because aid is complex in its involvement of various stakeholders, aid needs to be managed by non-biased actors. We need to ask ourselves who we are really aiding. For instance, when Bush first came into office, he stated he wanted America to feed the world. To the public, this may at first sound altruistic, however, by sending our food to the developing world, we are only aiding ourselves.

Sending food aid directly puts farmers in the developing world out of business (which affects the entire local economy because subsistence agriculture is the basis of most developing economies) and thus, only exacerbates the long-term poverty of the

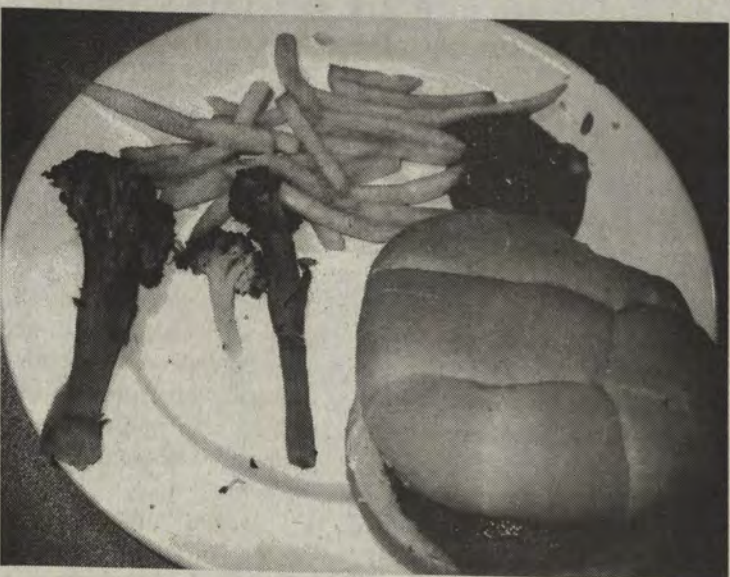
recipients.

Furthermore, short-term food aid increases environmental degradation, because farmers are forced to produce more food to compete in the market. Thus, what is essential to consider is that aid can only be sustainable if it is contextualized. Without context, aid based policies will only foster corruption, dependency, and environmental degradation if they do not engage and respect the interests of the recipients.

We must also realize that the greatest deterrent to creating an efficient aid structure is ourselves. If we perceive aid to be obligatory, aid will continue to be problematic because it will not be given or distributed thoughtfully. Instead, aid needs to be understood as an investment. However, investment in development aid is futile towards countries with the presence of a security and accountability vacuum. For instance, many African countries face problems much greater than their dependence on aid, such as their large size (which consequently leads to their division by ethnic loyalties), their massive presence of arms (as a consequence of US policy in the Cold War), and global warming (which decreases the availability of water, food, and soil). Aid will only be disempowering if such factors are not accounted for. And although aid cannot improve such issues, US foreign policy can spark favorable circumstances for increased accountability and peacekeeping.

Thus, I conclude by suggesting that you earnestly consider Singer's appeal to allot one percent of your income towards a sustainable development organization, such as Oxfam (its aid efforts range from educating women to providing farmers with the necessary tools to support themselves), or that you encourage your friends and family members to do so. However, as a student without a disposable income, I have found that acting as a conscientious consumer when presented with the opportunity is at least a somewhat satisfying action. From eating less meat (as 70 percent of US cropland is devoted to livestock), to purchasing New London goods at the Fiddlehead's Co-op and the Flavors of Life fair trade store, I can at least feel empowered by knowing that the money I am spending is not further promoting the exploitation and cyclic poverty of the developing world. Give it a try, what do you really have to lose?

## Harris Fine Partying



TANAKA SIMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**DONALD BUDGE**  
COLUMNIST

There seems to be some confusion over Harris Fine Dining. Some people seem to think that it is a dining hall when it is in fact a club. I hope this review eliminates some of the confusion.

Theme: \*\*\*\*

After traveling eight different countries in Europe in addition to visiting many major cities in the United States, I have never come across a cafeteria-themed club until Harris Fine Dining. Brilliantly executed, the entrance reveals buffet style rows that you would find in dining halls, filled with parodies of food like "yellow cake" or "ham with fruit topping" that appear edible, but make the few who consume them rather ill.

From the entrance it appears as if Harris Fine Dining is the real deal, but locals know that the back of the club is where the real party begins.

Behind the food façade is a large open dance-floor and social space complete with plenty of tables and easy access to drinks. Harris Fine Dining even goes the extra mile to provide plates and silverware if someone wants to get the "food" and sit down at the tables and pretend that they're having a balanced and nutritious meal.

Atmosphere: \*\*\*

Since Harris Fine Dining commits to its theme so thoroughly, it sacrifices elements of atmosphere to complete its authentic "dining hall" look. The bright fluorescent lights are a bit harsh for those used to dusky dance clubs, but it does make the club extremely easy to navigate without unnecessarily flashy elements like strobe lighting or lasers. The main room is usually

packed, but veterans know to come a bit later than the 6 o'clock rush to enjoy a more intimate experience. In previous years the décor struck an excellent balance of "wacky" and "tacky", but the removal of cereal mascots "Snap" "Crackle" and "Pop" for the confusing and hideous paintings of camels is a move that leaves

From the entrance it appears as if Harris Fine Dining is the real deal, but locals know that the back of the club is where the real party begins.

regulars bewildered.

Exclusivity: \*\*

Like any happening spot, Harris Fine Dining is equipped with bouncers, V.I.P. passes in the form of a card, and a cover charge (\$6) if you don't have one. However, it has become extremely easy to obtain one of these V.I.P. cards. There tends to be a wait, but it's fairly short, as Harris Fine Dining doesn't believe in capacity, allowing everyone in who wants to come.

While all of the big players are there, so is the kid you really don't want to hang out with but is totally going to come over and talk to you. The only real exclusive spot is the V.I.P. room behind the fake "tray clearing" area, where top 40 is usually played.

For some reason, Harris Fine Dining doesn't attract many celebrities. It still remains one of the few clubs Bill Murray hasn't attended.

At best Harris ropes in D-list celebrities like Leo Higdon, the president of Connecticut College, but these visits are rare. Harris already accomplishes its theme well enough that it can afford to be a bit more exclusive and attract Hollywood elite.

## Mash-Up Takeover

**ANDERS NIELSEN**  
COLUMNIST

My biggest problem with taking road trips with strangers is I'm never sure what types of music they're going to be into. Generally I make some assumptions based on their physical appearance and how they present themselves to take some stabs in the dark at appealing tracks. I begin by searching around until I get that "Ohhh- YES" that signifies I've tickled their eardrum in just the right spot. Sometimes I resort to 90's rap, sometimes to some sort of 70's or 80's pop, it all depends.

Recently I had landed on a pop radio type of road trip and had decided to throw in "Tiny Dancer" by Elton John. A solid choice no matter who the listener is, but I was thrown off when one of my companions in the car began moaning with frustration. "Weird, I expect Biggie to come in right there," she said referring to the part of the song Greg Gillis aka Girl Talk had used in his song "Smash Your Head." It was this precise moment in my life when I realized Mash-Ups had infected our culture past the point of no return.

We have actually reached the point when we recognize a song by someone like Elton John more for the way it has been remixed and mashed-up than for the way the song was originally written and recorded. Mash-up is no longer a subculture, but rather a full-fledged genre of pop music, like it or not. What does this mean for the future of pop music, now that we have a new contender the same way that hip-hop was in the late 70's and early 80's? First we must look to the history of the genre.

The roots of mash-up can be traced back to sampling which was pioneered in the public eye by The Beatles in songs like "I Am The Walrus" and "Revolution 9" but not popularized in the form of a DJ until acts like Grandmaster Flash began appearing in early 80's New York City. The use

of samples became popular in hip-hop and DJ culture to the point where now we don't even flinch when we recognize a Led Zeppelin drumbeat in the middle of a club banger.

Fast forward to 1996 when DJ Shadow changed the world with the first widely known album made entirely of samples: *Endtroducing...* Incorporating sounds from hip-hop to psychedelia to spoken word and television clips. The ensuing years brought many early mash-ups, none reaching universal fame until 2004 when DJ Danger Mouse mixed samples from The Beatles' *White Album* with a cappella tracks from Jay-Z's faux retirement record *The Black Album*. From there the culture took off thanks to the Internet until you now can't scan anyone's iPod without finding Girl Talk or Super Mash Bros.

It seems that the popularity of the genre can come from many sources depending on how the music is consumed. It seems to immediately lend itself to dance music, but frequently it pops up in non-party atmospheres. Artists like DJ Earworm create year-end mixes of the top 25 Billboard tracks as essentially pop music time capsules condensed into danceable three-minute blips. These are almost more like history lessons than songs, but there is something attractive in them to what is commonly labeled as the "ADD Listener" who can only stand to hear the twenty seconds of chorus from each song.

Another attraction is the novelty of songs that are unlikely but well paired, thus the listening experience becomes about consuming the songs in a new context. This would suggest that prior knowledge of the songs is essential; as there would be no novelty in hearing mash-ups of songs you've never heard the original versions of, no matter how effective the DJ was at pairing them. This phenomenon helps to explain why the songs used are almost exclusively Top 40 pop songs that are known to the widest base of people.

Mash-ups are entirely dependent on original work, but are completely unoriginal in terms of audio content. This isn't to say a mash-up DJ is unoriginal, just that the originality lies in the sequencing of pre-recorded sound, and never production of new sound. As a leach genre of sorts to radio pop, there would presumably be a shift in mash-up output if there were a shift in pop radio output. An interesting possibility is music produced to be mashed-up, perhaps as the consumer becomes less willing to pursue music that isn't mixed or sample based.

If there were to be another rise in, say, grunge music, what would happen to the mash-up culture? Radio rap doesn't appear to be going anywhere and neither does hook heavy teen pop, two popular genres for mash-ups to leach from. However, the era of pop bliss has to come around to an end at some point to usher in the utter rejection of form that movements like Punk and Grunge were. Though rejections of this sort are short lived and get old fast, they change the face of pop music, which would undoubtedly change the face of mash-up music. A logical progression would be towards the darker, glitchier sounds of Grime and Dub music. When this shift over will take place is up to debate, but history has been proven to repeat itself, and pop music is no exception to that rule; the cycles have to come around again at some point.

We live in an exciting time of new musical horizons, the use of the Internet being the greatest mark our generation has made on the music world. As formats of music change, so does the way we consume it, which leads to even broader scopes of where pop music can travel. Someday our kids will laugh when they dust off our iPods in the basement and ask us who in the hell Girl Talk was. Then it'll be hip to have an MP3 collection in your dorm room, how old school.

Show (us) your Parents at  
[thecollegevoice.org/showyourparents](http://thecollegevoice.org/showyourparents)

## The "Public Option"

**DANIEL HARTSOE**  
COLUMNIST

The leaderships of the Executive Branch and of both houses of the Legislative Branch have proposed enacting a government-sponsored health insurance company, or 'public option,' to compete with private insurers to ensure that all U.S. citizens have access to healthcare. The best way to lower healthcare costs, they claim, is to create a private organization, supervised by Congress, to offer low-priced health insurance to all, and thus force private insurers to lower their prices.

The problem with this proposal is that administrators in the Executive Branch, unaccountable to anyone but the private interests that lobby them (such as health insurance companies), do not tend to disengage themselves from the programs Congress charges them with implementing.

Congress, too, often cannot stop itself from interfering in the operations of 'government-sponsored enterprises.' The two government-sponsored enterprises in the mortgage finance market, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, achieved near-duopoly status over the past seven

decades in that market, thanks to subsidies from Congress.

In its quest to achieve universal health insurance coverage, Congress is sure to subsidize a government-sponsored health insurance enterprise, in order to lower the premium prices the enterprise offers to consumers. Unfortunately, this would also have the effect of driving private insurers to drop coverage for their most expensive policy-holders in order to artificially lower their costs — thus forcing the public option to cover these people, leading to an increase in costs for the public option.

As Congress would not want insurance premiums to rise in concert with the rising costs facing the public option, it would force the public option to keep its prices low while compensating it for its losses by giving it an even larger subsidy. The public option, however, would have no incentive to cut its rising costs, since it would not be paying for the increases in costs. Thus the subsidy would grow and grow as costs kept spiraling upwards and as Congress continued to mandate low prices — and the bill, of course, would be footed by taxpayers.

Moreover, by subsidizing the public option in order to lower prices, Congress would be enabling it to drive out all of its private competitors, who would not have the same access to subsidies. This would create a government-sponsored and privately-operated monopoly in health insurance, just as the subsidies for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac created a government-sponsored and privately-operated duopoly in mortgage finance.

Rather than reject these claims, however, many of the public option's supporters embrace them, and advocate a socialized, state-run system for health insurance. Citing the examples of European nations' lower-cost socialized healthcare systems, they argue that socializing the healthcare industries would lead to decreased costs and increased efficiency.

Ignoring the obvious question — how can political bodies possibly be as motivated in lowering costs as private organizations driven by the profit motive in a competitive market are — let's examine France's healthcare system, which in 2001 was rated the world's best by the World Health Organization.

In France, every citizen has an account with *Securite Sociale*, the French

government's social services program. This account reimburses each citizen for a certain number of different medical procedures. This allows the French government to pay for a minimal level of healthcare for each of its citizens without determining how this healthcare will be provided.

The result of this policy, according to health economist Paul V. Dutton, is that 'the vast majority' of physicians are in private practice; patients have significant choice among doctors and hospitals; and that 'nearly 90 percent of the French population' possesses health insurance coverage above the amount covered by *Securite Sociale*, for which there is 'a booming (and competitive) private health insurance market.'

France's healthcare system is highly cost-effective because it is highly competitive, and it is highly competitive because it is very lightly-regulated. In contrast, the United States' healthcare industries are regulated very tightly by states, and thus are monopolistic and inefficient. The way towards lower costs, and increased access, is through unfettered competition on a national scale, and not through government control.

# EDITORIALS

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## THE COLLEGE VOICE

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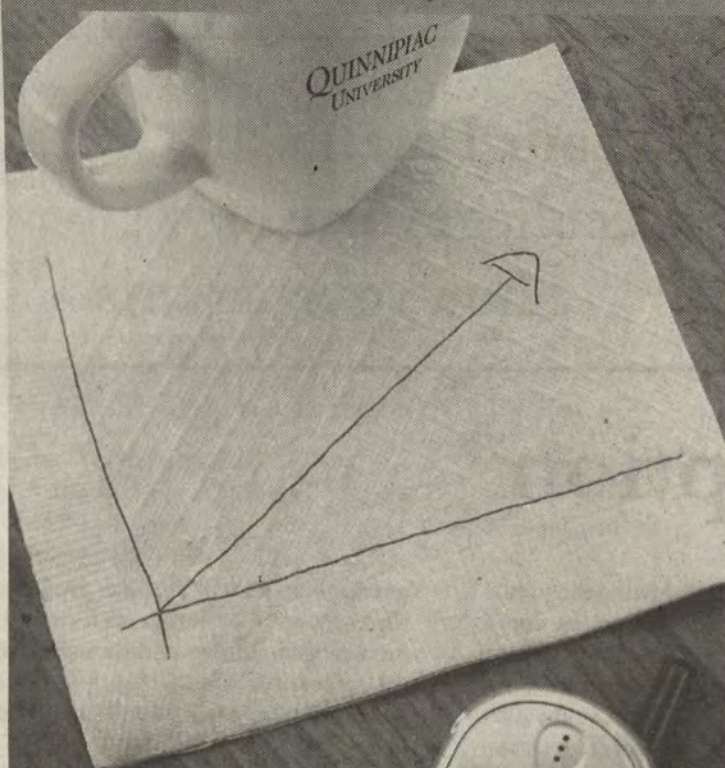
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## Editor's Voice

### Challenging the Process

Warning: this is a rant.

During the Student Government Association's executive board training this past summer, we took a personality/leadership style test, and out of the possible results ("Model the Way," "Inspire a Shared Vision," "Challenge the Process," "Enable Others to Act" and "Encourage the Heart"), I received equal scores in "Inspire a Shared Vision" and "Challenging the Process."

To "inspire a shared vision" is to envision a future with exciting possibilities and encourage others to share that goal.

Meanwhile, to "challenge the process" is to seek innovative ways to improve current systems and to take risks by trying new things.

I think the "challenge the process" is coming out in me right now - I'm willing and raring to try new things and take risks in SGA initiatives, the future of the *New York Times*, *The College Voice's* new website, etc. because right now I feel like we're ("we," being students, the administration, faculty and trustees) in a rut and scared or unwilling to explore new possibilities.

We have some broken systems.

We are constantly reminded of our limited budget.

We don't always get what we

want.

Let's acknowledge these things, but then move on.

I'm getting frustrated watching students, administrators, faculty and trustees alike as they stare at something broken, talk about how and why it's broken, and either brush it off to someone else to fix, or pull out twenty reasons why it will take too many resources (human, monetary, time, etc.) to repair.

We waste so much time creating subcommittees of subcommittees and focus groups of focus groups to fixate on finding ways to resolve things, but end up arriving at a solution that is identical with or similar to the way "it's always been done."

In some cases, that's fine. But generally the way "it has always been done" or resolved is part of the problem itself.

Everywhere I turn, I see people bringing up issues to make others aware of them, but not offering viable, fresh solutions.

So in order to not make myself one of them (as in, writing this article bringing up a point and then offering no solution or creative suggestion), I have a few ideas for what we should do:

- Think more about collaborating, either with someone,

with another group, etc. I've seen such lack of communication between departments or student clubs/organizations, which is disappointing considering our college's small size.

- Imagine how you would tackle a problem if you didn't know the "proper" or "previous" methods.

- For every complaint or concern you have, talk about it, but then think about what can be done to fix it, or brainstorm with someone.

- Question everything. Challenge every process.

This isn't just a problem at Conn - this is a universal problem, with people demanding change, wanting change and pointing fingers at everyone except themselves.

Let's point the fingers at ourselves and make change happen at the micro-level.

After all, if we can begin creating new methods of thinking and problem-solving techniques here at Conn, we'll bring this mentality to the "real world."

/End rant.

- Claire

## Responses to Last Week's Editor's Voice

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

### Results of the Twitter Poll:

Do you think the Readership Program (that brings the *New York Times* to campus for free) should be continued?

100% yes (14 individual votes)

**What do you think? We want to know!**  
**Tweet us, Facebook us, or e-mail us!**

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

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