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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

VOLUME XCII • ISSUE 7



Former College Employee On Trial for Sexual Assault of Student

JULIA CRISTOFANO
MANAGING EDITOR

Jose Lopez, a former cook in Harris dining hall, is on trial this month for the sexual assaults of a former Connecticut College senior as well as the daughter of a Harris co-worker. Over spring break in 2012, the former student was doing work in Harris when Lopez shoved her into the booth she was sitting in and trapped one of her legs between his own. As reported by *The New London Day*, Lopez then tried to aggressively finger the student through her leggings, despite her numerous protests.

Shortly after this interaction, the student reported the assault to campus authorities and the New London Police Department. In the course of the investigation, New London police found a second complaint of sexual misconduct against Lopez. According to reports, the second young woman was visiting her mother, another employee in dining services, when Lopez slid his hand into her yoga pants and groped her.

Following an internal investigation by the Colleges Human Resources Department, Lopez was put on administrative leave and his employment was officially terminated shortly thereafter.

At the time the assault of the student occurred, little information was available to the larger student body. However, many current juniors and seniors still vividly recall Lopez's abrupt absence from Harris. Several upperclassmen recalled the napkin note board in Harris — where students are able to leave comments or concerns about food items — filled with notes that read, "Where is Jose?" and "Bring back Jose." Speculations behind his "disappearance" included whisperings of sexual harassment or assault, but at the time, these notions went largely unconfirmed.

This heightened confidentiality around sensitive cases, such as the one against Lopez, is necessary to respect the rights of the victims and the accused. Sarah Cardwell, the Associate Dean of Student Life, explained how incidents

In Search of Recognition: A Cappella Groups Lobby for Financial Support

JULIA CRISTOFANO
MANAGING EDITOR

As some may know, "a cappella" is Italian for "in the manner of the chapel," but you may not find Conn's A Cappella groups performing in the campus chapel this year. In the past, all-group a cappella concerts at Conn have taken place in the chapel—favored for its natural acoustics—and have easily drawn crowds that pack the pews. Traditionally,

these special concerts have been free for the campus community and locals, but as of this September you may have to start lining up to procure your tickets.

Earlier this year, leaders of Conn's seven a cappella groups received a notice that all-group concerts in the chapel were becoming a safety hazard, with students sitting in windows, blocking exits, and filling the space far beyond its intended capacity. The groups

were given two alternatives for all-group concerts: host ticketed concerts in the chapel and hire Campus Safety or host events in a different venue, such as Evans Hall or Palmer Auditorium. However, both of these options come with a price... a literal one.

Though tickets for the chapel are free, Campus Safety's rates for simply preventing dangerous overcrowding of the space are quite expensive for student groups. To hire

Campus Safety for a concert in the chapel costs \$35 per hour for each Campus Safety officer. One officer is required for every hundred people, so for chapel concerts (which comfortably hold about 300 individuals) there is a minimum cost of approximately \$210.

The second option involves significantly more cost, as Evans Hall and other performance spaces are more expensive because of their specialized lighting and equipment.

While students receive a discounted rate, Evans Hall still costs \$300 per event, and a student or Campus Safety officer is required to watch the artwork outside the hall for the duration of the concert.

While this may not seem like a lot of money split among seven groups, the costs add up, especially because a cappella groups receive no SGA or school funding. Will Hardy

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Fine Focusing In: From Tempel Green to the Oscars

MATTEO MOBILIO
STAFF WRITER

We first meet Sam, a lively thirteen-year-old boy in his final year of junior high, prepping to begin high school. The camera tucks itself into his home and we watch a routine morning of brushing teeth, getting dressed and breakfast. Quickly we learn, in *Life According to Sam*, a documentary film directed by Sean Fine, that Sam Berns is diagnosed with progeria, a disease that accelerates the aging process of the body. It is a fatal disease that claims the lives of

its victims most always before the age of twenty. Nevertheless, *Life According to Sam* offers the story of a boy who refuses to let his disease hinder his enjoyment of life, even as his physician mother strives to devise a new lifesaving drug. Sam inspires viewers with the confidence instilled in him by his parents. Although this rare disease is ever-present in *Life According to Sam*, the film is much more about adolescence, a theme that often finds center stage in Fine's three most recent films.

The director graduated from

Connecticut College in 1996 and last April he and his wife took the Oscar for Best Documentary Short for their film *Inocente*. Since that night in Los Angeles, Fine and his company Fine Films have been very busy. He recently took time to talk about his work and how his experiences at Conn influenced and shaped his career. His enthusiasm in talking about his craft is perhaps why Fine's subjects let his camera into their most private moments. Fine described his undergraduate experience as one that allowed him to explore unexpected paths. He

designed his own major around the sciences, especially zoology. "In science," Fine said, "you problem-solve and come up with solutions. [My professors] opened my mind up to the idea that science is creative like art. Scientists are great artists." He even used his calculus class to plot mechanical methods for focusing on a moving subject.

After graduation, Fine went to work for *National Geographic* as a filmmaker and cinematographer on the groundbreaking series *Front Line Diaries*. In his years with *National Geographic*, Fine trav-

eled the world to interview the likes of Nelson Mandela and President Musharraf, the former President of Pakistan. He filmed exotic animals, honor killings and commanders of the Fark movement in Colombia. He also met his wife, Andrea, who became his filmmaking partner. Although Fine enjoyed the many incredible adventures that came out of this job, he longed for something more: "What happens is when you're working for a big company you have a lot of people to answer

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NOVEMBER 18, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

Editorial

UrbanDictionary.com – the unofficial authority on all abbreviated, bastardized and nonsensical expressions thought up by recent generations – defines senioritis as “a crippling disease,” citing “lack of studying, repeated absences and a generally dismissive attitude” alongside “an over-excessive wearing of track pants” as common symptoms. The only cure? Graduation.

During my last year of high school, senioritis was all the rage. It was the reason that Emily couldn't complete her assignment, that Nick didn't show up to class for two weeks and that Joey simply *had* to throw that party last weekend with half of the school (and later, half of the town's police department) in attendance.

For high school seniors, senioritis is somewhat understandable, if not excusable. Having presumably been accepted to college, the pressure for stellar grades and scholarly conduct is suddenly alleviated, leaving an abundance of undirected energy and excitement in its stead. Indeed, the Urban Dictionary definition of the term explicitly states that only those graduating high school are susceptible to senioritis. However, in recent weeks I have witnessed a resurgence

of the word as members of the Class of 2014 use this academic pandemic to describe their own struggles in their last year here at Conn.

Though I can sympathize with the hindrance to motivation and work ethic that my fellow seniors face, I think that this sensation is a far cry, both in cause and effect, from high school senioritis. As mentioned before, high school seniors are lax about their academics because, for the next few years, their futures are secure; as a college senior, my future is anything but. Aside from a few fortunate financiers and others seeking employment in industries with wide hiring horizons, for the Class of 2014, the future holds uncertainty.

I believe that this uncertainty, as opposed to security, is the root cause of the collegiate strain of senioritis. Most of us don't know what we'll be doing and where we'll be doing it one year from now, and the endlessness of the possibilities seems daunting. I often find myself weighing these possibilities as if they were options, wondering if I would rather join an artists' residency in Europe or work at an advertising agency in New York, before remembering that, as of now, I have no such oppor-

tunities available to me. Even more practical steps towards employment (like a job application due three months from now) become distractions from more pressing schoolwork (like the paper I have due next week).

Furthermore, with so many “real world” issues ahead of me, I'm finding myself considering each assignment I've been given this year with more skepticism. I don't ask myself how I'm going to finish a ten-page paper in three days, or where I'm going to find resources for an obscure research topic – as a senior, I like to think that I'm pretty good at navigating the logistics of an assignment. Rather, I find myself wondering why I'm doing an assignment, and adjusting my approach based on whether my future will directly benefit from the outcome of that specific task, or whether I just need the grade on my transcript. Four years is a long time to be in college, and two decades is a long time to be immersed in education; I can't (perhaps won't) look at each assignment with the same, unquestioning level of commitment as the one before. A true scholar might find unwavering motivation in each academic pursuit, but I am not that student, and I'd wager

that many of my fellow seniors feel the same.

With one foot out the door of this place – and the other firmly planted on the threshold – my perspective has shifted monumentally in order to accommodate the decisions and experiences that I will encounter in the “grand scheme” of my life, of which the last four years will become only a fragment. Individual tasks may suffer at the expense of this larger consideration of what is important to me, but so what? In college, failure means a letter on a piece of paper; out there, it means unemployment, homelessness, loneliness and a whole host of unappealing prospects.

I'm not saying to stop trying, and I'm certainly not saying to start trying to fail. I just think that – as opposed to the thoughtlessness of high school senioritis – college seniors are faced with life decisions that are sometimes worth contemplating with philosophical, borderline cheesy intensity. For the rest of our lives we'll be weighing options and evaluating the outcomes of decisions that cannot be summed up in a single letter grade. So I'm practicing now, here, while the stakes are low.

-Dave

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

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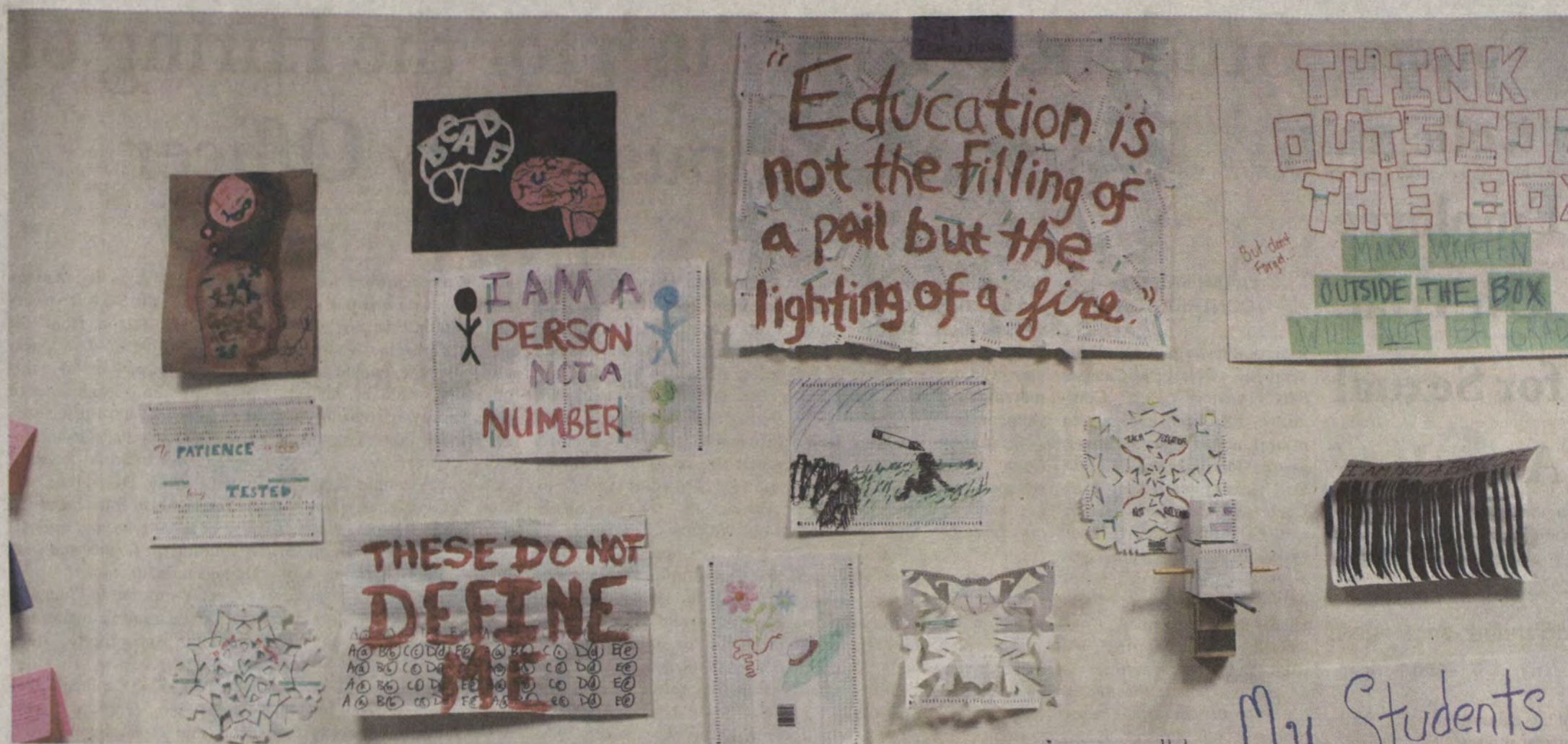
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&

Thank you for writing

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Students gather at the Artful Resistance event held above Harris, where they were given supplies and asked to create art that responds to these questions:

What is it you love about education? What have you lost? Where do you think it went and why?



Manager of Sustainability Josh Stoffel Talks Holistic Sustainability Practices

MELANIE THIBEAULT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Every year at Conn, there are a few words that seem to infiltrate campus conversations and discussions. So far this semester, the big three have been vaginas, Oreos and sustainability. The first two have seen their fair share of *Voice* coverage in the past few weeks, but the latter topic has only been briefly touched upon in articles covering the failed Mug Share Program — which was not officially supported by the Sustainability Office — and the Sustainable Food Market. Since we have been writing around — and not about — the topic of sustainability, *The College Voice* recently sat down with Josh Stoffel, Manager of Sustainability at the College, to learn the ins and outs of the Office of Sustainability, as well as its goals and initiatives.

Prior to being hired by Conn in October 2011, Stoffel, who has a master's degree in integrating sustainability into higher education, worked as

a private consultant in Boston and as a sustainability coordinator at UMass Amherst. Soon after he began working at Conn, he was promoted to work for the Dean of the Faculty, Roger Brooks.

"Before I arrived here," Stoffel said, "sustainability [at Connecticut College] was not as I would define it. It was very environmental, and I am very much trying to kill that as a term. That's a very closed-minded way of looking at sustainability."

Many people view sustainability as a way of creating positive environmental changes, but that is only part of this bigger initiative. A holistic view of sustainability, according to Stoffel, "is a balance of need and value of social equity, economic well-being and environmental stewardship at local and global scales. It's about problem solving."

Stoffel acknowledges that some of the systemic challenges we face may be purely environmental, but there are certainly social and economic factors to be considered. When we think about solutions to

these types of problems, we connect the environmental with the social and economic: "Sustainability allows us to look at [a problem] and ask how it impacts the environment, people, people's health, economics."

The Sprout Garden is a great example of a sustainable project that may seem completely environmental in nature, but that has significant social and economic effects. "By selling local organic produce to the dining halls at cheaper prices, we are providing better quality food to students," said Stoffel. "It's not just an environmental thing. We are providing students with healthy options and not breaking the bank."

In a broad sense, sustainability allows us to develop long-term solutions to problems — solutions that will last and that will balance those three components (environment, society, economy). "There is going to be a bit of give and take," said Stoffel. "But if we balance that compromise, the solution might actually survive into the future. That is, in essence, what sustainability is to

me and to the Office [of Sustainability]."

Stoffel wrote a sustainability plan with 14 priorities, and acknowledged that while it might seem environmentally focused right now — "it's taking the College some time to shift to this holistic view" — the school is getting there. The Office of Sustainability was created at the beginning of this semester, and the office has almost achieved all of its short-term goals. Thanks to a donation from an alumna, the Office is working to create a position for a faculty member who will co-direct with Stoffel to see how sustainability is and can be integrated into the curriculum; the Office has its candidate pool narrowed down, but has yet to announce who will assume this new position.

At the same time, Stoffel is waiting for the administrative shift when President-elect Katherine Bergeron takes office in January to see if she decides to work with the Office on long-term sustainability plans.

"My work has been focused on building student, staff and

faculty engagement around issues of sustainability," Stoffel said. "The role that I hope my office can play is to both help the College consider this idea of sustainability as a decision-making lens, but also to be an organization that can help pull together offices, student organizations, departments and external community organizations in ways that they wouldn't normally feel pulled together."

Currently, the Office has 23 student fellows, and two are collaborating with community partners United Way, F.R.E.S.H. New London and Ledge Light Health District to research where K-12 school gardens exist in the county, as well as how they are run and funded, and who uses them. Where there aren't school gardens, these fellows will work with willing districts to help start them. Having a school garden, "gets students growing their own food, and they're excited by that ... [it's] empowering to them ... if you can grow your own food, it's a good way of off-setting costs," Stoffel said.

Students are truly at the core of how the Office of Sustainability runs. "Each of our fellows is working on actual, real life projects on campus. There is a deep collaboration between myself and those fellows," said Stoffel. "Students ... [are] working with committees and task forces. They are the ones coordinating, developing proposals and making things happen. [They] get incredible experience of how to actually get stuff done in a bureaucratic environment... And the College benefits, pushing forward these truly innovative projects, which helps us and the community."

As Manager of Sustainability, Stoffel wants to work with all groups, organizations and departments to create a more holistically sustainable campus, and is willing to sit down and consider any idea, at least initially. "It's not just about the environment. We will fail in our efforts if we continue to look at it like that," he said. "I want to do more projects that are holistic in scope, that impact the campus more than just helping pockets of people." •

Former College Employee On Trial for Sexual Assault of Student

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

of this nature are treated with the utmost privacy. “We have to be incredibly mindful of the victims in these situations,” she said last Thursday. “We are a very small community, which can be a barrier to reporting in and of itself.”

Compared to larger universities where one’s identity can be shielded by the sheer size of the student population, Connecticut College’s small size allows for a gossip grapevine that can act as a deterrent when deciding whether to report a criminal act. Pressure to protect friends, fear of identification or other potential repercussions may act as barriers to reporting sensitive crimes.

However, the intimacy of Conn’s campus can also be positive. Deb MacDonnell, Director of Public Relations, attributed students’ comfort in reporting incidents of assault to the close relationships and visibility of college staff. “In this kind of community, where people know each other, individuals are more apt to report something like this [sexual assault] because you are reporting to someone you know,” MacDonnell stated in an interview Friday. She continued, “You aren’t calling a flat out stranger on the phone and saying, ‘Something happened to me,’ you are calling someone you know or your friends know.” The visibility of key individuals, such as Director of Sexual Violence Prevention and Advocacy Darcie Folsom, has helped to make students feel more comfortable reporting their experiences in the past several years.

The increasing trend in reporting sexual assaults is evident in the Annual Security Report and Crime Statistics compiled and published each year by Campus Safety. In 2012, the year the charges were filed against Jose Lopez, there were 12 reported instances of forced sexual assault, up from four the year before. “These increased numbers do not mean that more sexual assaults are happening,” stressed Darcie Folsom. “Through increased education, I think we have made students more aware of things that they should be reporting and how to go about [the reporting process].” The Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network estimates that as many as 60% of sexual assaults go unreported, so while increased figures may indicate that sexual assaults are becoming more frequent, it is likely they simply serve as a more accurate representation of assaults taking place each year.

Last Friday, the defense rested its case in the Lopez trial. Both the defense and prosecution will deliver closing arguments Monday. The jury is expected to arrive at a decision sometime later this week.

For more information and updates see *The New London Day*.

Students, SGA Push for the Hiring of Woman Campus Safety Officer

RYAN FRIEND
CONTRIBUTOR

Since the beginning of the year, the College’s Campus Safety Officer Search Committee has been looking to bring a new officer on board. Laura Garciduenas ’14, Student Government Association Chair of Diversity and Equity, and Ted Steinberg ’16, Vice President of SGA, put forth a resolution stressing the importance that this new officer identifies as a woman. Considering that 55% of Conn students are women, there is a case to be made that hiring a woman officer would better represent our student demographics.

Campus Safety Director Stewart Smith reacted positively to the resolution and invited Garciduenas to join as a member of the search committee, which consists of Director Smith, Residential Life Area Coordinator Frida Rodri-

guez and two current campus safety officers. Of the initial 45 candidates, Director Smith and the committee have now narrowed the pool down to 14 individuals, five of which are women.

From 1989 until May 2011, Conn has employed seven women Campus Safety Officers and two women dispatchers. Director Smith answered concerns about the lack of gender diversity on staff asserting, “We have always sought to further diversify our staff to better reflect the community we serve.” However, he made no promises when asked about specifically hiring a woman. “We always strive to hire the best possible candidate,” Director Smith continued. “Our goal is to keep campus safe.”

Conn, as it is, is one of the few colleges left in the NES-CAC that does not currently have a woman campus safety officer on staff. Diversity is

a topic that has gained more attention recently from the Conn’s administration and the addition of a woman campus safety officer is a step in the right direction. Should we find ourselves with a woman officer this spring, Conn will rejoin the ranks of Williams, Amherst, Bowdoin and Middlebury, all of whom have women officers.

Some students have noted that the addition of a woman officer would be beneficial because it would give students the option to talk to a man or a woman, depending on with whom they felt most comfortable. Some have specifically brought up the concern that individuals may want to speak with a woman in the case of a sexual assault or domestic violence. However, Darcie Folsom, Director of Sexual Assault Prevention and Advocacy, stressed that all our officers are trained to deal with such matter. “I would think

that the expectations for men and women on campus safety staff wouldn’t be any different,” said Folsom. “That being said, having a female officer [on staff] would be fantastic for a variety of reasons, not just for the sake of reporting sexual assault.”

Currently, campus safety officers receive yearly training with Darcie Folsom, the New London Police Department and the States Attorney’s office including basics of policy and procedures for domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Additionally, two officers attended Title IX Investigator Training and Folsom says she has a close working relationship with Director Smith and the Campus Safety Staff.

However, many students want to make sure that hiring a woman officer does not deter the College from implementing more training for our current officers on issues of sen-

sitivity and diversity. Anique Ashraf ’17, the SGA Diversity Committee liaison from the new club QPOC(+) – Queer People of Color – spoke to this point explaining, “The fact of the matter is, there just needs to be more sensitivity training [for our officers].” Ashraf noted that the Diversity Committee has also introduced the idea of sensitivity and diversity training for faculty and staff to the administration.

Conn’s culture is changing to promote more inclusion and diversity. Accordingly, steps are being made so all Connecticut College students feel comfortable reporting incidents and seeking help from Campus Safety. It remains to be seen whether this catalyst for continuous change will lie in hiring a woman campus safety officer. •

Additional reporting by Julia Cristofano

Precedent Set for Presentations of Student Research

Professor Caroleen Sayej’s class delivers successful, fair-style conference

MOLLY BANGS
NEWS EDITOR

The open space above Harris refectory between Main Street East and West usually serves as just the home to a sole grand piano came alive in the late afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 13. What was responsible for this palpably invigorating energy? The answer is simple, yet clarifying: 24 capable, professional students presenting their independent research to a diverse crowd of interested students, faculty and other members of the College community.

As *The College Voice* reported last week in previewing “Transformation: Political Change and Growth in the Middle East,” these students enrolled in Government and International Relations Professor Caroleen Sayej’s courses have been conducting independent research on a topic of their choice for the past three months. After a semester of collaboration with Dr. Noel Garrett of the Academic Re-

source Center, this brainchild of Professor Sayej’s finally materialized.

The event was set up in a fair-style format, with each student standing next to a large, polished poster that displayed their research questions, methods and findings. Garrett commented, “The posters look great and work really well... which is a testament to [the students’] hard work.”

“The poster provided a really great opportunity to summarize and take a step back to prioritize what points we actually want to expand upon,” student presenter Ali Peknay ’14 said in reflection of the event.

Professor Sayej said of her students, “[They] were working on the research projects for the last few months, but seeing it all come together added a whole other dimension of satisfaction. The students really rose to the occasion from day one, taking ownership of their topics and taking the conference seriously. They really wanted to make original

contributions and their presentations were evidence of their success. Throughout the semester, they performed like graduate students and never complained about the heavy workload – they embraced it and often talked about feeling guilty if they skipped a day of working on their projects. We spent a lot of time in class, during office hours and over Skype dealing with their research concerns, and they benefitted greatly from the support of the librarians, Writing Center and of course the Academic Resource Center.”

Her students expressed gratitude to Professor Sayej. “She’s done so much for this class,” Tom Olson ’14 commented. Peknay added, “It’s been so much work, but she’s been amazing. I think I speak for all of us, when I say she’s wonderwoman!”

Another presenting student, Conor McCormick-Cavanagh ’14, said, “All students should have the opportunity to promote and be proud of their work in the public realm.” This sentiment was echoed

by many others at the well-attended event.

The topics included analyses of Palestine and Israel’s relationship, Jordan’s refugee policies, questioning the United States’ potential democratic decline in light of the Bush Administration and the Iraq War, the political framing of torture and critiquing the Iraqi Constitution and Islamic Law in the light of Iraqi Women’s rights, among many others. Attendees of the event seemed to appreciate the wide spectrum of research.

When asked how he was enjoying the conference, Ramzi Kaiss ’17 replied enthusiastically, “I love the diversity of topics from art to rhetoric used to speeches... [This diversity] can satisfy many more kinds of audiences.”

For Professor Sayej’s students, the opportunity presented them with a chance to more freely research topics that interested them. Lauren Schumacher ’14 explained that she had been exposed to her research topic while intern- ing this past summer at

the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C., but that this independent research enabled her to more vigorously investigate the elements that she is most passionate about.

The presenting element of their research also benefited students in that it enabled them to gain feedback through conversations with the conference’s attendees – which will surely prove itself useful with a final 6,000 word paper due date on the horizon.

In reflection, Professor Sayej told *The College Voice*, “I felt very proud of my students when professor after professor came up to me at the conference telling me how much they learned from the posters, how professional and competent the students were and how much depth of knowledge the students clearly gained. The students were talking about their projects effortlessly, filled with passion. At the end of the day, the conference left me speechless and euphoric – a stark reminder of why I chose this field.” •

CRIME STATISTICS TABLES			
TOTAL OF ON CAMPUS PROPERTY WITHIN THE SAME REASONABLY CONTIGIOUS AREA OF THE INSTITUTION AND DORMITORIES AND STUDENT HOUSING CRIME STATISTICS			
CALENDAR YEAR→	2010	2011	2012
Murder (Non-Negligent Manslaughter)	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Forcible Sexual Assault	8	4	12
Non-Forcible Sexual Assault	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	1	3	0
Burglary	3	4	6
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Arson	2	0	0

Taken from the Campus Safety Department Annual Security Report and Crime Statistics 2013-2014

NEWS & FEATURES

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

In an Effort to Save Knowlton Dining Hall, Residents Speak Out



KRISTEN FORRESTER

Students enjoying a weekday lunch in Knowlton's language-immersive dining hall

MOLLIE REID
STAFF WRITER

Due to the renovations in Shain Library, expected to begin next academic year, the Language Dining Hall, located in Knowlton, might be getting a new, less worldly feel. Students across campus can expect to find various library facilities spread all over Conn. To the disappointment and frustration of Knowlton residents (also known as the Knowlton Knights), and many Conn students, who are not immediately a part of the Knowlton community, the Language Dining Hall might become a computer lab. At the same time, the dining hall and those who work there will be temporarily moved to the 1973 room in Harris, affectionately referred to as the "antisocial room" by many Camels.

For those who have not ventured into Knowlton's Language Dining Hall, it is a small venue with various tables that have place cards labeling what language is spoken there. Language professors and students converse in their targeted tongues, and are able to practice speaking and listening. This continuation of learning, even outside the classroom, is a huge draw for many students. The dark wooden tables, chandelier-like lighting fixtures and high ceilings with blue detailing give the dining hall an overall historic feeling,

matching the style of the dorm it belongs to.

While speaking to a few residents about the proposed changes to their home, they became immediately interested in preserving the legacy of the Knowlton dining hall during a time of change. When asked about her personal feelings about the possible switch, Christine Connolly '16 a first-time Knowlton resident said, "it should be a last resort only because it provides a space in which students can practice language skills with professors without the stress of the classroom environment...it is a safe space."

Similar to Connolly's response, sophomores and two-time residents of Knowlton Kate Sullivan and Melissa Mangum, in a series of emails within the Knowlton community regarding the possible change, expressed views that the dining hall should remain in an environment that encourages a love of language. They remarked that, "Knowlton is one of the smallest dorms on campus, and as a part of specialty housing, one of the main draws of Knowlton is its close community and the camaraderie that it inspires amongst professors, international students and students interested in foreign language and culture." Additionally, although this change would only be in place for one academic year, Sullivan and Mangum expressed concerns about how

Knowlton's future residents for the 2014-2015 academic year could be affected by the change: "This move would have a strong negative impact on the incoming freshmen of next year. It would take away opportunities for the members of Knowlton to bond and to form the community that the dorm is known for having."

In the same line of emails, Claraliz Rodriguez '17, resident of Knowlton, felt that the dining hall's central location allows for easier professor and student interaction. She believes that, "language and even non-language professors can squeeze in the time in their busy schedules to come and sit with students and engage them in conversation." This unique aspect of the College should be maintained during the renovations because these lunches "further improve students' conversation skills outside of the classroom and allow for the one-on-one professor-student interactions Connecticut College prides itself on."

If the modifications were absolutely necessary, several students, such as Knowlton's SGA senator, Ramzi Kaiss '17, feel that the change would be acceptable, but only as a last resort. Mayra Valle '14, Knowlton's housefellow, believes that, despite these alternations, language fellows that live in Knowlton would have the opportunity to, "share their wealth of knowledge while still maintaining the

integrity of the dorm's theme." At the same time, Valle strongly expressed that much would be lost to this change. The intimacy of the space, for instance, would be weaker in a larger dining setting, thus hurting the overall sense of camaraderie Sullivan and Mangum spoke of.

"The relocation of the dining hall would mean that most of the residents could no longer lead discussions in a space that fosters comfort and reassurance," Valle noted. In other words, the accessibility for students and professors alike would become harder to recreate since, Valle observed, "many have already expressed their inability to go to Harris due to time conflicts with other activities."

Additionally, as a Knowlton resident for her entire time at Conn, Valle understands the importance of having a safe space that fosters students, many of whom may be new to a language. She said how the dining hall's "ambiance is much more relaxed, which makes the challenges of developing proficiency in a language much easier. Relocating the Knowlton Dining Hall, even for a year, would mean that students have to take more formal measures to learn a language, which may not be suitable for every student here. Some of my residents consider those measures quite intimidating. Furthermore relocating the Knowlton Dining Hall would

mean that there is nothing to bind Knowlton with its title of being the language dorm." In other words, as Kaiss put it, "without the language dining hall, Knowlton would technically cease from being a language house."

Thus far, Kaiss, fellow SGA senators from Plant and Katherine Blunt, respectively, Zander Mintz '17, Joel Perez '17, and Freshman Class President Rob Jones '17, have written a resolution that, "seeks to represent the disapproval of the student body with the decision to relocate Knowlton." Kaiss said that they have worked in conjunction with higher members of SGA, such as President Evert Fowle '14 and Vice President Ted Steinberg '16. Together, they will present their resolution to the larger student government on Thursday, Nov. 21, and "if it passes," Kaiss said, "we will go on to meet with the administration and try to work with them to find a better place to relocate the computer lab that is supposed to replace the dining hall." Steinberg encourages students to actively participate in this debatable challenge by voicing their options to the SGA.

In an email exchange between Steinberg and *The College Voice*, he, like many others who feel connected to the plausible changes to the dining hall, raised the issue of Conn's greater needs during Shain Library's renovation

and the desires of the students who use Knowlton for either living or study. Many agree that the dining hall should be left where it is. At the same time, as Steinberg noted, "that being said, the library project is great for the school and I understand we will need to make some inconvenient accommodations for next year." Until the resolution faces the Student Government Association, and perhaps even if it is rejected at first, students should "brainstorm different locations for the computer lab," suggested Steinberg.

Perhaps Conn might need to keep the Knowlton dining hall as-is during the renovation due to the fact that it is a safe haven that cultivates what Valle has found to be a "place that allows conversations of culture, language, current events, and study abroad experiences to occur." While Conn has other places that bring people together, such as Coffee Grounds or Harris, Knowlton's Language Dining Hall's unique approach in creating community will be hard to recreate in an area that does not embody the same environment. As Valle's ending point, she highlighted how, "keeping the Knowlton Dining Hall would mean that during a time of campus renovation, the idea of community would still persist and empower students to pursue and succeed in language and community building." •

Mystic Restaurant Week Gives Students the Chance to Dine Well, Inexpensively

ELEANOR HARDY
STAFF WRITER

Each year the seaside town of Mystic, Connecticut organizes their Restaurant Week. This is a part of the larger Connecticut Restaurant Week, which saw 30 towns participate this year. 17 Mystic restaurants participated, including Oyster Club, Azu, Ancient Mariner and the Steak Loft. On Friday, Nov. 8, Mystic geared up for the tradition once again, and Conn students were lucky enough to have the opportunity to go through SAC's off-campus trip.

Go! Mystic Restaurant Week was put together by Cassandra

Saimond '14, Student Activities Council Director of Off-Campus Activities. When thinking up ideas for off-campus events Saimond used her past experiences and explained that "[I often] just think of things that I would enjoy doing, because I always did a lot of day trips as a kid and I live in the area, so while I don't test the trips out beforehand, I have been to many of the places that we go to." She also mentioned that in order to ensure some variety she looks to her "amazing committee that helps think of ideas and what different types of people would enjoy doing."

It's not unusual for students to

complain that there's nothing to do on campus, but it's often that they aren't taking advantage of this huge subgroup of SAC that offers more than just Cro dances and concerts. They are most well-known for their off-campus trips. "If students want things to do, they can find something, they just have to look outside," explained Saimond after describing the lengthy list of upcoming events.

The trip provided transportation to and from Mystic that evening, and was a great way for freshmen or any students without cars on campus to get out and see what the surrounding area offers in terms of unique

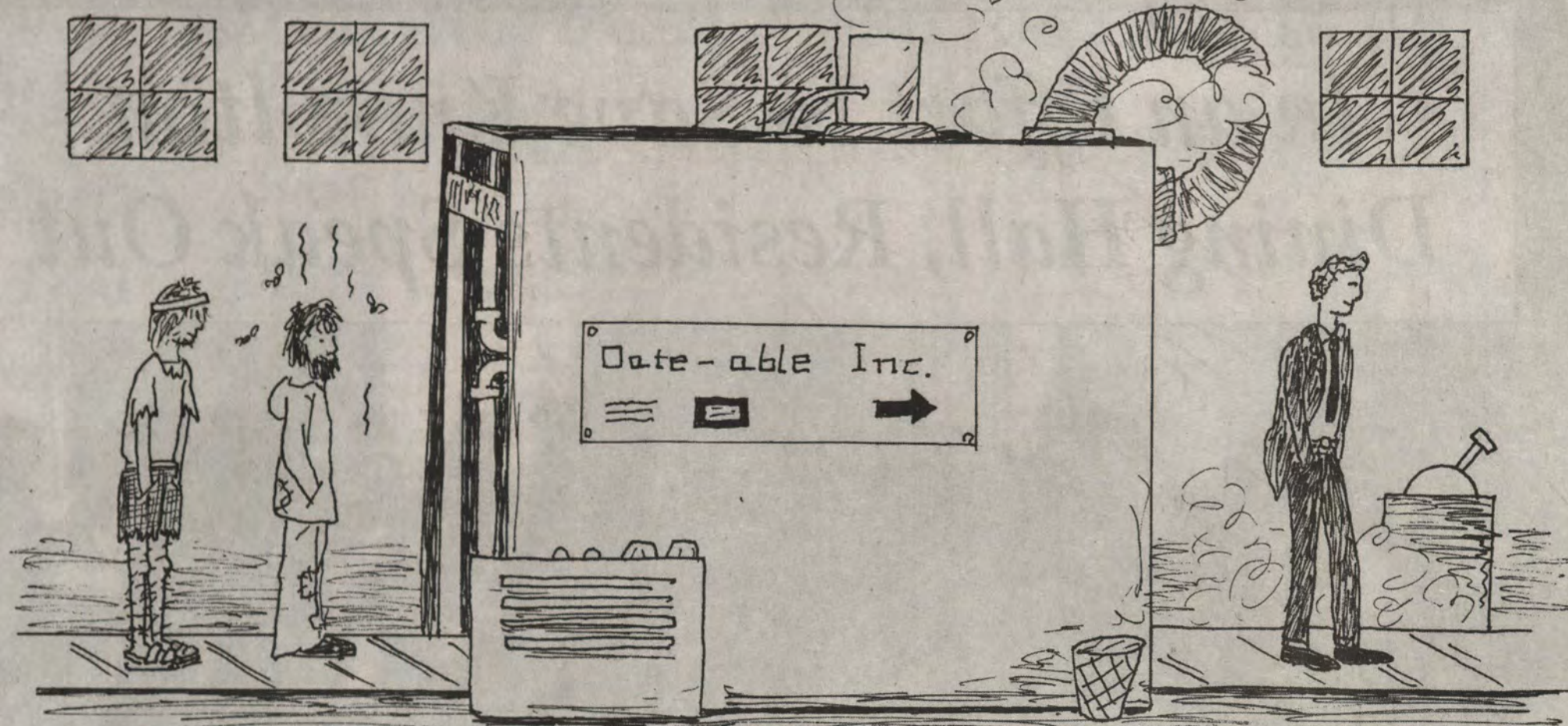
dining experiences. In addition to the transportation, Mystic Restaurant Week offered a prix fixe meal for \$20.13, a friendly price for college students, especially when compared to the normal prices these restaurants offer. Students who did explore outside and went to enjoy Mystic Restaurant Week had raving reviews.

Olivia Wilcox '16 dined at Bravo Bravo, part of the CK restaurant group that owns Azu and Olivo. Rated 4 out of 5 stars on the reliable site Yelp!, Wilcox took advantage of the Go! Mystic Restaurant Week trip to put this rating to the test and experience what the trip had to

offer. She told the *Voice* that she had been to Bravo Bravo with her parents, but never with her friends, and that she enjoyed being able to spend time with them in a comfortable environment off campus. Wilcox especially enjoyed the freedom the prix fixe menu gave her (along with the free transportation), saying that she "didn't feel so guilty splurging on the pâté special." Wilcox's favorite part of the meal? Dessert, of course. "The dessert was definitely my favorite part, I had the chocolate bread pudding!" Wilcox added that she went to buy hot chocolate at Drawbridge Ice Cream afterwards, even though

this store wasn't participating in Restaurant Week.

With overall positive feedback from those who went on the trip SAC hopes that students' interest in the trips continues. Attendance this year has been strong and despite budgeting challenges and planning around what is happening on campus, it appears as though taking advantage of these discounted trips can change and shape students' experiences at Conn while helping to briefly escape the comfortable bubble we all fall victim to once in a while. •



KRISTIAN MAESTRI

‘Datability’ Goes Both Ways

A gay man’s response to Conn’s recent ranking as the ninth worst college for women to meet men, according to *Cosmopolitan* magazine

COLIN LANG
CONTRIBUTOR

When I was considering applying to Connecticut College, I looked at academics, club sports, the lack of Greek life and the international perspective. I certainly was not immediately concerned with the dating scene, but according to *Cosmopolitan* I should have been. *Cosmo* currently ranks Conn as the 9th worst school to meet single guys. This is attributed mostly to our supposedly 60:40 female to male ratio, and while admissions statistics reveal that the ratio is probably closer to 55:45 these days, those attracted to men are currently left to fight over about 800 individuals.

According to *Cosmo*, men too often fall into two unfortunate categories: “uncouth nerds or womanizers.” Now, while this may be true, as a gay man, I don’t have to worry about dating a womanizer. In fact, according to *College Prowler* the men and women of Connecticut College are all “A’s; our attractive student body and good

grooming habits have earned us high marks. So if womanizers aren’t the problem, and we have it on good authority that we have an attractive student body then there must be other gay or bisexual men out there at Conn that are totally dateable.

Let us pretend for a moment that Conn, with around 2,000 students, represents similar sexuality demographics as the United States, where 11% of people admit to some level of same-sex attraction. Now halve that because gay men only want gay or bisexual men. Now gay men are working with 6.5% of the 800 men on this campus; that is 52 men. But I’m a considerate and progressive gay man and I only look for men who are openly gay or bisexual. According to the US census in 2010, 3.5% of adults openly identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. If we halve that for just men, the result is a whopping 1.75%. So that means there are only 14 openly gay or bisexual men at Conn and since I am one of them, I am looking at a pool of 13 guys.

Do not complain to me about

some 60:40 nonsense.

While there are certainly more than 13 queer men at Conn, the odds are still not in a gay man’s favor. Being gay or bisexual is a great starting point for a same-sex relationship but things start to go downhill quickly from there.

community as there are within the human race.”

Dating another human being is difficult; many things have to line up: attraction, morals, interests, and life goals. Many of us think alike to a certain degree at Conn, but we are all individuals with different in-

these restrictions reduce the prospects for a gay man on this campus to maybe one or two guys.

My point is that it takes two people to make a happy relationship. This is something that *Cosmopolitan*, a magazine marketed towards straight

proved themselves.”

That said, men are not immune to the same kind of self-indulgent stereotyping because of Conn’s “immature” hook-up oriented social scene. Where are the suitable women for that nice, cute, single guy down the hall? The struggle to find a suitable partner is not a women’s issue; people of all genders and sexual orientations encounter this struggle.

To my knowledge, the best way for me to meet a nice gay man is to be a nice gay man. This idea is common across all gender identities and sexual orientations. Statistically, it may seem hard for some to find a compatible companion within the Conn bubble, forcing students to seek relationships off-campus. Social dating sites, such as Tinder or OkCupid, make finding someone nearby relatively easy while lying in your bed alone. Still, if you are a gay man and you want a Camel by your side, don’t think about the ratio, *Cosmo*’s dating advice, or the undeniable dearth of gay and bisexual men; go out with an open mind and meet someone new. •

According to the US census in 2010, 3.5% of adults openly identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual. If we halve that for just men, the result is a whopping 1.75%. So that means there are only 14 openly gay or bisexual men at Conn and since I am one of them, I am looking at a pool of 13 guys.

Do not complain to me about some 60:40 nonsense.

“Sexual orientation is a poor binding agent,” said iO Tillet Wright, a gay activist and artist. “There are just as many jerks and sweethearts and Democrats and Republicans and jocks and queens and every other polarization you can possibly think of within the LGBT

terests, ambition, and desires. Queer men are not attracted to every single other gay or bisexual man, and unfortunately attraction itself does not equal compatibility. Everyone across the entire sexual spectrum limits their options because of individualized expectations;

women, does not seem to understand. Men simply are not “boyfriend material” for the perfect *Cosmo* gal or for the Conn woman interviewed by *HerCampus* who thinks, “Men on this campus are capable of being good boyfriends/partners, but as of now they haven’t

GWS Professors React to V-Men Video

KATHLEEN RADIGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

“Why are vaginas important to you?” One hundred Connecticut College men were publicly asked this provocative question. In the resulting video, chuckles, averted eyes and mumbled “Uh-hhhh...”’s convey initial discomfort, yet as they process the query, the students produce comic and wise replies. The popular V-Men video, created by Alia Roth ’14 (producer of “The Vagina Monologues” on campus) has stimulated an unusually candid discussion regarding vaginas, sexuality and gender on campus. Two professors of Gender and Women’s Studies, Ariella Rotramel and Mab Segrest, offer their opinions on the video’s success, and provide steps toward furthering the gender conversation and opening it to a larger audience.

“The V-Men video,” said Rotramel, “in my opinion, is successful in encouraging men to

start reflecting on their attitudes towards vaginas. It offers an opportunity to reflect on cultural discomfort and lack of information about basic human anatomy. Addressing gynophobia through these clips is particularly interesting considering the gaps that exist within a sex-saturated culture that does not adequately support sexual rights or people across genders and sexualities.”

The video opens channels toward honest dialogues regarding health and sexuality, and aims to squash a double standard that traditionally renders female sexuality a more open conversation topic than male sexuality. Additionally, the video’s candid question alleviates any pressure that falls on cisgendered men (men whose gender identity is aligned with their biological sex) to conform to a conventionally masculine silence regarding “women’s issues,” and unlocks the beginnings of a cross-gendered conversation.

Segrest also found the V-Men video successful. “I thought the

Conn guys in “100 Men Rise” were great, one and all. This YouTube video is a moving public answer to anonymous, cowardly and trashy misogyny that periodically surfaces on CC Confessionals,” she said.

When asked what steps might be taken toward furthering the discussion, Segrest elaborated on her opinion, “There were a couple of things I noticed as possible innovations for future such productions. In some answers, the love for vaginas came from a love of and solidarity for the women who had them: mothers, sisters, friends. Other answers, also appropriate, came from a love of heterosexual sex with women: of being in vaginas.

Many students I recognized as queer were in the first category, which was a category of solidarity. The second category tilted towards the heterosexual, and it is very important for men having heterosexual sex to affirm the beauty and power of the vagina in terms of their interactions with women as lovers and mates.

I’m not sure how to open up the discussion more fully to queer voices, but it’s worth thinking about. Also, I do think there should be a voice for trans students in this dialogue about vaginas. Having their answers in the mix would have shaken it all up in even more interesting ways because not all ‘female’ humans identify with their vaginas, and not all ‘male’ humans identify with penises. The people who don’t are particular targets of the very gender violence this great YouTube [video] speaks out against.”

Rotramel agrees. “The Vagina Monologues have long been critiqued for the conflation of vaginas with women, and there has been some effort to address this concern. Nonetheless, as the video demonstrates, men slip from talking about vaginas to women, which is understandable within the existing V Day frame. To me, more in depth discussion would help disrupt essentialist understandings of gender. Our community can come together

to develop ways to foreground in our discussions and advocacy work how gender and bodily difference (among other social identity markers) structure everyday forms of violence that are experienced by people across genders.”

Both professors asserted that this connotative link of vaginas to “female-ness” is worth further edification. Transgender students and others whose gender identities do not line up with their assigned sex are alienated by the reduction in the video of women to “vaginas.”

Opportunities on campus for furthering gender education, however, abound. Segrest said, “I in 4, the Green Dot Program, and the THINK S.A.F.E Project have transformed the campus climate around issues of sexual assault and empowered students to move from being bystanders to active intervention in cases of gender violence. GWS also has been around for over 20 years raising these issues.... The LG-BTQ Center has also done great

work familiarizing students with the complexity of gender and sexuality beyond the gender binary.”

A cultural binary is rarely demolished by one activist art piece, but Segrest and Rotramel agree that the open sentiment of the video and the initiative to talk constructively about sexuality is hugely positive. Prompting men to discuss the importance of vaginas is valuable in breaching communication gaps that surround gender-based political issues, and in beginning to eliminate gender-based violence.

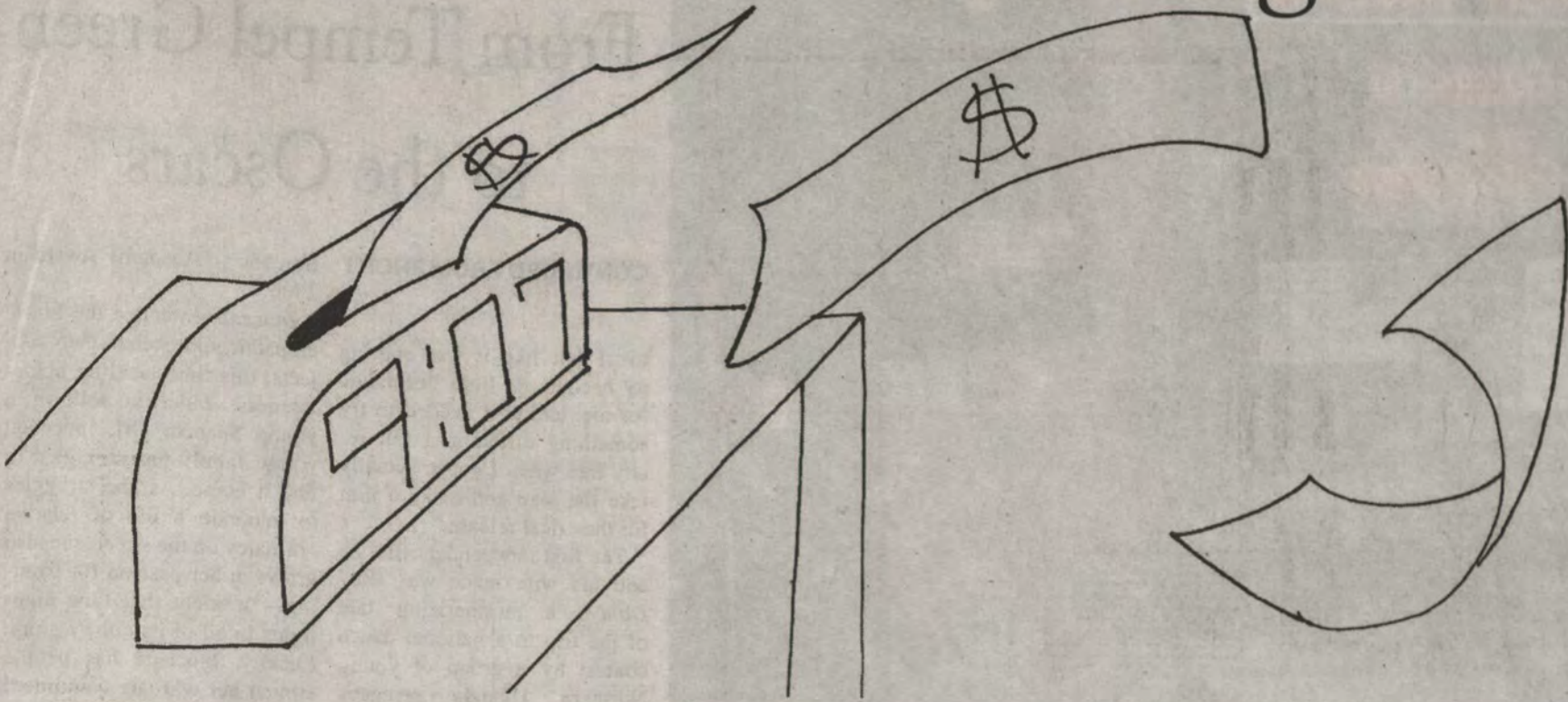
“Feminism is not just for women and not just about women: that’s what ‘gender’ means: the way we all understand our embodiment and our relationship to what our culture marks as ‘male’ and ‘female,’” Segrest said. “It’s all a work in progress, and this is a great step forward.” •

OPINIONS

THE COLLEGE VOICE

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

The Cost of Missing Classes



MARINA STUART
STAFF WRITER

Missing or skipping class is a part of college life. Most of the time students miss class for excusable reasons: family emergency, sickness, etc. However, many students miss class for less legitimate reasons.

When asked why, students replied with a variety of answers. The largest divide in responses was between freshmen and upperclassmen.

When two seniors were asked what they thought about missing class, and what they take into account when doing it, the first said, "Well, I try not to miss class, but if I have other work that needs to get done, I will." The other senior then added, "I agree, if you have work for another class that you won't get done unless you miss the class, I'd

just miss the class and do my work."

There was a surprising contrast when I asked two freshmen what they thought about the issue. Of the appropriateness of missing class, one commented, "I guess if you're really tired, or sick or something", at which point her friend chimed in, "Yes, when I'm really sick I don't go to class, that's usually how I decide."

A sophomore, who had overheard the conversation added, "Or [missing class is acceptable] when you have a lot of work that needs to get done", with which the freshmen immediately agreed.

The variety of answers from different class years is telling; older students have different priorities when it comes to missing class, most likely because they've been in college longer and know when they

can afford to miss class.

Professors know that skipping, for better or for worse, is a part of college life and, for the most part, are understanding. In many classes, your grade will not be affected unless you miss more than three classes. One of my professors had a system wherein if you maintain perfect attendance throughout the semester, your grade would go up by half a letter grade (B+ becomes an A-), which was a huge incentive for students to not miss the class.

I recall another professor saying on the first day of class that she understood missing class was a common thing and if we did miss her class to make sure it was for a good reason, and to get notes from a friend. Granted, this was an 80 plus student lecture, so attendance was not as much of a factor in grading as in smaller

classes.

However, one thing that students don't usually take into account is the cost of missing the class.

The actual monetary cost.

Most students to whom I mentioned the cost of skipping class remarked, "I'd never thought of it like that".

From the Connecticut College Admission's page on tuition: "The comprehensive fee for 2013-14 is \$58,780. The comprehensive fee covers tuition and room and board as well as lab fees, studio fees and other course expenses." From this number, we can calculate the cost of a class at Conn.

Subtracting \$12,695 for Room and Board, a full year of class time is worth \$46,085 for students who pay full tuition. Thus, one class at Connecticut College is worth a little less than six thousand dollars.

At Conn, the semester is about 14 weeks long, figuring in the fact that we start on a Thursday and during Fall and Thanksgiving break we miss classes.

We have classes up to five times a week. From here we can figure out just how much each individual class is worth.

$5760.625 \div 14 = 411.47$, and let's say we take the class three times a week, so that each class is worth: \$137.16.

If you take class one time a week, the number comes to \$411.47.

This is not factoring in labs, which would have to be determined by hours a week rather than meeting times.

But for the majority of students a class that meets three times a week is worth one hundred thirty-seven dollars and 16 cents a lesson. Throwing that away because you're tired? That's a steep price to

pay.

Granted, this is only for students who pay full tuition, which is only 51 percent of Conn students, but nevertheless, the cost of missing a class is surprisingly high.

Here are some things you can buy with 137 dollars:

- One ipod nano: \$149
- Nike's LunarGlide Running Shoes \$124
- 27 dozen donuts from Dunkin Donuts
- Food for a family of four for one week \$146
- 23 pizzas in Oasis Snack Shop (less if you get toppings)
- Average Emergency room co-pay which varies to depending on insurance but is between \$70-200

Personally, I'd go on a Target shopping spree. •

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TIM HARTSHORN

Dutch Tavern A New London Staple

TIM HARTSHORN
COLUMNIST

This week's column will concern New London's oldest drinking establishment: Dutch Tavern. First opened in 1933 (following the end of Prohibition), "the Dutch" is now among the most storied spots downtown. For an impressive eight decades — decades which have seen the city of New London undergo substantial political, economic and demographic changes — this venue has remained steadfast in its commitment to providing a friendly, tranquil environment for patrons.

When one enters the Dutch, the tavern's history becomes immediately apparent. The dark wood walls of this single-room establishment are decorated with numerous photographs, most black and white, depicting New London buildings and residents at various points of the past century. Of particular note is a portrait of legendary modernist playwright Eugene O'Neill who, for those of you who've yet to brush up on your New London history, spent much of early life in the city (his boyhood summer home, the Monte Cristo Cottage, is now open to the public). During the 1910s, O'Neill is said to have frequented "The Oak," a bar located where the Dutch now stands.

In terms of seating, the Dutch has one of the best arrangements among downtown bars. Five large, round wooden tables are positioned throughout the tavern, with plenty of room for maneuvering (if you're used to squeezing between chairs at Smith dining hall, expect a much more comfortable experience). There is also a bar table which seats about ten people. Although the Dutch tends to get quite busy at lunch and on weekend nights, I have never witnessed anyone being forced to wait for a table or spot at the bar.

Complementing the Dutch's well-formulated floor plan is the peaceful atmosphere that the establishment maintains. If you are looking to sit down with a few friends over a beer and not have to worry about loud music or televisions drowning out your conversation, this is the place to go. There is a single TV positioned toward the front end of the bar table (generally broadcasting a baseball game or other sporting event — though I did have the pleasure of watching a documentary on Jimi Hendrix one Friday night), which is

always played at a reasonable volume.

Now onto drinks and food. Being a tavern, the Dutch serves only wine and beer. On tap are Bass Ale, Brooklyn Lager, Budweiser, Coors Light, Cottrell Old Yankee Ale, Guinness Stout, Harpoon IPA and Miller High Life. A number of other beers, including Heineken and Sam Adams, are available in bottle. The Dutch also carries eight varieties of wine, four red and four for white. I recommend the Torresella Pinot Grigio.

Along with its notable position in New London history, the Dutch is widely known for having the best hamburgers in town. So well regarded are these burgers that, upon learning of my enrollment at Connecticut College, one of my neighbors back home in Boston

asked me if I'd ever tried one. During my initial visit to the Dutch, two other first-time patrons entered the establishment specifically to sample this menu item. If you are a burger connoisseur, don't go through college without stopping by the Dutch for lunch.

And if you're a vegetarian or simply not a fan of burgers, do not despair. The Dutch offers a variety of food options, including a veggie burger, grilled cheese and chicken salad. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, noon to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Particularly if you haven't spent much time in downtown New London, and find the more nightlife-oriented scene of Bank St. slightly intimidating, Dutch

Tavern is a great place to check out. Tucked away on Green St (take a right off of State St. at North Indian), the establishment retains a quiet, laid-back atmosphere, day and night. You can count on both patrons and staff to be genial individuals deeply invested in what is a truly unique space on the New London landscape.

For a full menu of both food and drink options, be sure to check out the Dutch's website: <http://www.dutch-tavern.com/site/Welcome.html>. The Dutch opens at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, at noon on Saturday, and at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. It closes at midnight Sunday through Thursday, and at 1:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. •



A host of eclectic memorabilia is featured behind the bar at The Dutch (above) and framed photographs of New London in past decades line the tavern's walls (below)



Fine Focusing In: From Tempel Green to the Oscars

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

to...I felt like it was starting to become a little formulaic for me, and so I needed to try something different. I felt really free when I got to actually take the leap and make a film for theatrical release."

The first independent film he and his wife made was *War/Dance*, a mesmerizing tale of the trip to a national dance contest by a group of young Northern Uganda refugees whose lives were ravaged by the grotesque nature of their country's civil war. The Fines track thirteen- and fourteen-year-olds Nancy, Dominic and

tion for an Academy Award in 2006.

Inocente extended the Fines' empathic approach to their subjects, this time tackling homelessness. *Inocente* follows a young Spanish girl, Inocente, whose family has struggled to find a home. As she struggles to maintain a life of relative normalcy on the street, she also grows in her passion for painting — a talent that Fine highlights in all of its quirky glory. Luckily, Inocente has people around her who are committed to exhibiting and showcasing her art.

Fine's kinetic cinematography captivates us; from close-ups of Inocente's canvas to

Beautifully
photographed, sharply
edited and graced with
a moving score, the film
never lags. Inocente's
insight into not only
herself but also into her
family and environment
dramatize this story of a
young woman's
expression through art.

the way the camera
peeks in on her daily
routine, we lose ourselves in
Inocente's story, in the swirls of
paint that fill her life. Fine selects the tiniest moments that reveal her creativity and the deep pain of homelessness. Analyzing what might be the essence of

to serve as a child soldier; although it is years since he escaped, he still refuses to disclose the details of the acts he was forced to commit.

One heart-wrenching scene shows us Nancy visiting her father's grave—he was killed in the war just a few years ago—and breaking down at his burial site. This scene, perhaps the most raw and intense scene in the film, is characterized by Fine as "totally unexpected. I couldn't believe that happened and it was actually a moment where I thought I was in the way. I kept putting the camera down, thinking, gosh, I should not be here: this is a personal moment. But I kept thinking this is the only moment that people are going to understand what this war is doing to people. It's the only moment that's happening right in front of your eyes, so I kept filming and at the end, her mom thanked me for being there and that it helped her to have the camera there."

The teenagers' only solace is dance. Through its movement and rhythm they can tell stories of community, family and ancestry. But the dances also allow these children to express the pain and suffering they have endured. That is not to say that they cannot articulate their pain with words. In tightly framed interviews, Fine draws out their feelings and brings the audience into their experience by filming the children as they look directly into the lens. "You're forced to look at someone who you think you know," Fine said. "You've read in the news about child soldiers and people in Africa that are suffering. Then these kids get up on screen and they open their mouth and they say something that blows you away and it's completely different than you would ever think would come out of their mouth. That forces you to listen. Your mind takes over." That powerful reaction no doubt helped *War/Dance* receive a nomina-

his filmmaking technique, he said, "When you look at something with your normal eyes it just happens so quickly, but when you have a camera you have the ability to see the details, the things you might miss and the things that are emotional. Whether it's somebody holding somebody's hand, a sigh or a tear falling down, you can look and appreciate it for what it is."

And although *Inocente's* story is steeped in pain, her voice and artwork show resilience in the face of despair. The film conveys her emotions pointedly, catching the look in her eyes when she speaks of her hardships. Beautifully photographed, sharply edited and graced with a moving score, the film never lags. Inocente's insight into not only herself but also into her family and environment dramatize this story of a young woman's expression through art.

A scene in *Life According To Sam* shows Sam awaiting the results from the drug trial his mother has worked tirelessly to produce; her hopes of curing Sam are dependent on what they learn. Almost always upbeat and relaxed, Sam now appears anxious; his mother's efforts and hopes as well as his own future hang in the balance. The film cuts from a shot of Sam's family listening to the doctor to a tight shot of Sam's hands fidgeting nervously. The camera hangs on the moment for a few seconds to allow us to share in the complexity of how Sam deals with his disease. To bring us these nuanced moments, Fine explained, "You have to be ready, you have to be looking, you have to blend in and listen. You become part of the scene and you capture those moments." •

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NOVEMBER 18, 2013

THE COLLEGE VOICE

In Search of Recognition: A Cappella Groups Lobby for Financial Support

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

'14, SGA's Chief of Finance, broke down the reasoning behind this decision: "Traditionally, groups that are exclusionary in nature are not allowed to receive funding from the student government...because of the audition process, a cappella groups meet this definition." However, both Hardy and SGA president Evert Fowle '14 expressed the desire to find a way to fund all-group concerts because they are some of the most well-attended events on campus.

Director of Student Engagement and Leadership Educa-

tion Scott McEver expressed similar thoughts on financial support for the groups, saying, "There is a case to be made for [a cappella] groups receiving funding specifically for concerts because these events welcome and benefit the larger community."

The case for funding is bolstered by the fact that all-group a cappella concerts frequently have some of the highest attendance rates of all activities on campus, with previous concerts reaching to crowds of almost five hundred attendees. The groups' recent Lorde concert completely sold out Evans Hall, a space that holds almost four hundred people. This con-

cert served as the impetus for the discussion around funding because it was the first a cappella concert where tickets had a price and were not simply used to reserve space.

Kadeem McCarthy '15 of the Co Co Beaux reported that charging for the concert enabled the groups to completely cover the cost of Evans, and they even made over \$100 in revenue. They have chosen to use this money to cover future concerts, but many a cappella members are strongly opposed to charging admission to their concerts.

Elaine Frost '14 of the ConnChords spoke passionately about the issue, stating,

"It costs nothing for us to get together three times a week for two hours and rehearse, and we don't need to make money off of the community that allows us to do this." IG Schottlaender '14 of the Conn Artists echoed Frost, saying, "All-group concerts should be for the school...it's about enjoying the music, not [a cappella groups] making money off of it. It is just tough for us now to know we are going to lose money every time we do a concert like this."

Additionally, groups expressed concern that charging for concerts would deter people from going. While the Lorde concert was a sold-out

success, some speculated that this was the case because of the heroic advertising and publicity efforts of McCarthy.

While the amendments to the use of the chapel spurred initial concern about funding, the change has ended up serving more as a jumping-off point to focus contrast between financial support for a cappella and the way these groups are used as a selling point for the College. On numerous occasions, a cappella groups have been the subject of photos or videos on the College's homepage, and these groups perform for free at many campus events. Frost explained, "It's exciting to see [the College] reference

us and promote us...but there is a disparity there when [the school] is benefiting from us but we aren't benefiting from them."

Members of several groups are working to set up a joint a cappella account that would hopefully allow the groups to receive SGA funds specifically for all-group concerts. "We love Conn," said Schottlaender. "I mean, all of us have some pun about Conn in our names. We support so many organizations on campus--we would just like some credit in return." •

On the Town Is Your New Facebook Friend

RACHEL MATSON
STAFF WRITER

This past Wednesday from 4 p.m. until late at night, drama enthusiasts and hopefuls auditioned for the yearly spring musical, which this time will be *On the Town*. New for this year, however, is the significant Facebook presence occupied by the musical. There is not one, but two Facebook pages listed for *On the Town* auditions: an event that students can RSVP to, and also a page for the production itself.

This Internet presence provides a host of information to students while also making an effort to remain relevant. The Facebook page, which will remain active until the production opens in late February, provides resources such as music cover sheets, audition tips and a director's synopsis, along with reminders of the

audition dates. Similarly, the event page gives students information about dates and requirements, but the RSVP aspect also allows people to see who is attending and builds a measure of community.

The page goes beyond a simple prompting, however, for it also remains active in people's News Feeds by posting information unrelated to the production. On Monday, the page posted a link about a United States Department of Veterans Affairs event to honor veterans on the holiday. As this event is completely unrelated to the auditions or the musical, this act is courteous but also twofold. For one, it demonstrates the increasing prevalence of social media in ordinary affairs: although it is a government page, the Veterans Affairs event also advertises the hashtag #HonoringVets, displaying their attempts to connect an older hol-

iday to a younger generation. Secondly, by posting the Veterans Day reminder, the group is able to expand their Facebook presence, keep appearing on people's News Feeds and therefore encourage people to audition.

This is a significant departure from last year's advertising of the musical *Into the Woods*, which had only limited Facebook appearances. Theater veteran Julian Gordon '14 describes the Facebook page as "a change from past auditions" and looks forward to seeing "how this new approach will affect the way auditions are conducted and attended."

This new advertising tactic does more than serve as a reminder to its students. The drama enthusiast who waits all year for the musical will likely need few reminders of the dates or the materials, and therefore will find new resources in the

Facebook page. Gordon notes that the "extremely detailed" page provides useful information, but also "encourages a deeper exploration of the material in *On the Town*;" he is likely referring to resources such as the director's synopsis and the period paintings that help to set the mood.

However, the newly public nature of this previously private community could present some drawbacks. When the callback list was announced—presumably a sensitive topic for actors—it was done on the Facebook page. This meant that the game-changing list could be easily viewed by the public, thus allowing anyone, theater-involved or not, to become aware of the production's inner workings. If an actor was not called back, he or she might not want the entire Facebook community to become aware of this. Sev-

eral students commented on its nonchalant nature, expressing surprise that a "callback list suddenly appeared in my News Feed".

This new social media-heavy approach is similar to that of the student-run club productions. Wig & Candle, the College's student-run theater company, has a Facebook page and specific events to publicize their performances, such as the Disney Cabaret that was performed last Friday. Wig & Candle's prominent Facebook presence also encourages students who might have less experience to get involved. For example, Wig & Candle recently posted an Actors Wanted page for Ukleja's Haunted Trail, which invited any and all students to get involved. It will be interesting to see if the theater department's developing Facebook presence will encourage the same re-

sults, making their productions seem more accessible to students who are not as familiar with the department.

Looking forward, it will be interesting to see what kind of role this new Facebook presence develops. The page advertises information about lists for callbacks and casting, demonstrating its intention to remain a relevant resource throughout the life of this production. As February approaches, we can expect to see more advertisements about the performance, this time aimed at the entire student body. It will be interesting to see how the page tries to bridge the divide between the drama enthusiasts and the student population as a whole, and just how successful it will be at this goal. •

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NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Depth in the Dugout

How to Win a World Series

PETER BURDGE
CONTRIBUTOR

After enduring the long mess that was the Red Sox 2012 season, Boston fans have had more than enough reasons to forget those miserable six months. Yet we can thank that scattered group of uninspired and uninvolved prima donnas for enlightening the baseball world on something that has hovered unseen in front of the game for over a decade. The Red Sox of 2013 won the World Series because, after purging the team one year before of its parasitic and overpaid All-Stars Adrian Gonzalez, Carl Crawford, and Josh Beckett, general manager Ben Cherington rebuilt the team around winners. We thank that 2012 team for proving that compiling All-Stars like a collection of expensive and milk-white figurines, a collection the Red Sox cherished before last year, does not work. Ben Cherington knows why, just weeks ago, his Red Sox team paraded through the confetti-swept streets of Boston, hoisting the World Series trophy in front of two million fans. He handpicked a group of decent players (not necessarily All-Stars) to create a consistent and winning group. On their spirited run to the

World Series, it was the consistency of their lineup that pushed them to eek out win after heart-thumping win.

The consistency of Boston's role players eased pressure off the stars at the top, driving the team over the edge offensively in the postseason. The flow and balance in this Red Sox lineup created a consummate consistency that ensured that someone, seemingly a different player every night, would come through in the clutch. Mike Napoli, Daniel Nava, and Johnny Gomes — the role players near the bottom of Boston's lineup — know how to win. They can always be counted on to get big hits when needed, accumulating 25 game-winning runs batted in (RBI) this season. Napoli alone won two games in the Championship Series against the Detroit Tigers with two game-deciding home runs over the wall, helping to push the Red Sox to the World Series.

These three quality hitters, considered mid-level talent, earned a total of \$18.5 million in 2013. Together, the trio combined to drive in only four fewer game-winning RBI than the Anaheim Angels' stars Albert Pujols, Josh Hamilton, and Mike Trout did. Those faces of the Angels franchise, though, took in nearly double that this year at \$50 million.

The power hitters on the Angels and Los Angeles Dodgers, Disneyland-like teams built around entertainment and ticket sales, have no such role players to support them. That pressure to drive in runs, added to the pressure of living up to their several-hundred-million dollar contracts fit for Superman, never materializes into winning baseball, especially not in the most draining situations, in the throes of

short of beating the Cardinals and advancing to the World Series. When they could have made a push to come back and win the series, their supposed behemoths of baseball choked, losing 9-0 to end their much-hyped season with a mouse-like squeak.

The Angels are in a far worse situation after signing Albert Pujols, who for nearly a decade, was far and away the best hitter in the game, and

Angels missed the playoffs twice. In 2013, they finished with an abysmal 78-84 record. How could this happen? The Angels have an incredibly unbalanced lineup. The role players hitting at the bottom of the lineup do nothing to support the top, batting a dirt-poor .241 average with runners in scoring position this year. When their stars do get on base, they have no one to drive them in.

parade in November 2014. It won't. The pressure of being transplanted to a foreign market with expectations all too high and every swing all too important will make them crumble, as it has over and over again in the past.

Do what the Red Sox have done, and what the St. Louis Cardinals do every year. Create balanced batting lineups and pitching staffs centered around a star and supported by winners. Go after Carlos Beltran, who has proven to be a perennial postseason flash of excellence, batting .333 in 51 career playoff games. Take Shin-Soo Choo, as solid and consistent a player Major League Baseball has seen this decade. Try your luck with Omar Infante, who, at a cheap price, could bolster the bottom of your lineup and take pressure off of the top of the order.

Within ten years, we should see a revolutionary difference in free agency in baseball, turning from a complacent bidding war between the most moneyed teams into a selective and deliberate process in which general managers shirk big names and go after players that fit into their unique systems and create a balanced lineup. •

There was a flow and balance in this year's Red Sox lineup that created a consummate consistency, ensuring that someone, seemingly a different player every night, would come through in the clutch.

playoff baseball.

When the Red Sox traded Gonzalez, Crawford, and Beckett to the Dodgers in 2012, the Dodgers happily scooped them up, knowing that they would generate much needed excitement around the team. Yet the Dodgers did not make the playoffs that year. In 2013, they reached the National League Championship Series, only to fall two games

pitcher C.J. Wilson to mega-deals (amounting to more than \$300 million over the course of their contracts) after the 2011 season. A year later, they followed their spending spree up with a similar deal for 2010 American League MVP Josh Hamilton, agreeing to a contract worth \$123 million over five years.

Even after winning the off-season two years in a row, the

So go forth, general managers, and buy the best you can buy. Throw money at big names of Robinson Cano, Brian McCann, and Jacoby Ellsbury. See if it works. See if you can build a roster with enough big names to send brainwashed and foolish fans rushing in a mobbed crowd of excitement and anticipation to your ticket office. See if it leads to a championship

This Week in Conn Coll Sports:

Tuesday, November 19:
Men's Basketball
at Salve Regina
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21:
Women's Basketball
at Roger Williams
7 p.m.

Friday, November 22:
Men's Ice Hockey
vs. Williams (Home)
7 p.m.

Men's Squash
vs. Navy (Home)
5 p.m.

Women's Ice Hockey
at Hamilton
7 p.m.

Saturday, November 23:
Men's Cross Country
NCAA DIII Championship
at Hanover College
12 p.m.

Women's Cross Country
NCAA DIII Championship
at Hanover College
11 a.m.

Men's Swimming and
Diving
vs. Coast Guard (Home)
1 p.m.

Women's Swimming and
Diving
vs. Coast Guard (Home)
1 p.m.

Women's Basketball
vs. St. Joseph (Home)
2 p.m.

Women's Ice Hockey
at Hamilton
3 p.m.

November 15-17 In Case You Missed it:

5-2

Trinity v Conn
Men's Hockey

5-2

Wesleyan v Conn
Men's Hockey

1-1

Trinity v Conn
Women's Hockey

2-1

Trinity v Conn
Women's Hockey

7-2

Wesleyan v Conn
Men's Squash

9-0

Wesleyan v Conn
Women's Squash

9-0

Wellesley v Conn
Women's Squash

62-59

Bard v Conn
Men's Basketball

92-69

Conn v Western NE
Men's Basketball

63-53

Conn v Cabrini
Women's Basketball

58-55

Swarthmore v Conn
Women's Basketball

12/50

NE DII Championships
Men's Cross Country

14/53

NE DII Championships
Women's Cross Country