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THE COLLEGE VOICE

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CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT

Connecticut College Explores Post-Cultural Revolution Poetry



Professor Huang introduced the two poets, Bei Lin and Wang Jiaxin (Gardner)

BY KASEY LUM '11

staff writer

A mixed audience of students, faculty, and New London residents quickly filled the Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room of Shain Library last Thursday, eagerly awaiting the appearance of two well-known Chinese poets, Bei Lin and Wang Jiaxin. In a lengthy reading and dialogue moderated by Connecticut College's Associate Professor of Chinese, Professor Yibing Huang, the event focused on exposing post-Cultural Revolution Chinese poetry. The Cultural Revolution in China fostered a group of underground poets, called the Mystic Poets, who were inspired to write in response to the restrictions of the revolution. Many of these poets were exiled from China after the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 for their writings and illegal publications.

Professor Huang, a poet himself,

described the evening as a "four-part play" where the poetry switched from Chinese to English and the readings switched between students and poets. Students from Professor Huang's freshman seminar and Chinese language classes started the event by reading poems written by the Mystic Poets. As Professor Huang described, at the time of the Revolution "China was starved for new voices," and the people looked up to these groundbreaking poets who were expressing all the feelings that came from the Cultural Revolution. The Mystic Poets influenced generations of other writers in China who felt the need to protest the Cultural Revolution and Chinese government through poetry.

The audience sat in silent awe as Bei Ling, a poet, essayist, and the founder

SEE POETRY READING

continued on page 5

New Restrictions on Downloading Media on College Campuses

BY AMY FALK '11

staff writer

Illegal downloading is a cause of large economic downfall in the music and motion picture industry. The MPAA reported that the "U.S. motion picture industry lost \$6.1 billion to piracy in 2005. About 44 percent of the industry's domestic losses over \$500 million annually are attributed to college students illegally sharing files over peer-to-peer (P2P) networks.

The proposed College Opportunity and Affordability Act of 2007, which is a continuation of the Higher Education Act Reauthorization bill, has been enforced to curb the large amount of illegal downloading (music, movies, etc.) that has been occurring on campuses across the nation. The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) believes that this new act would

"direct institutions of higher education to inform students and employees about policies and procedures related to illegal downloading and distribution of copyrighted materials." Also, according to the MPAA, this act would "instruct colleges and universities to develop a plan for offering alternatives to illegal downloading or peer-to-peer distribution of intellectual property as well as a plan to explore technology-based deterrents to prevent such illegal activity." Congress is giving schools a lot of new options but there can be some serious punishments for failing to obey its rules because according to the Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education, "if an institution fails to comply with these types of reporting requirements, the process that an institution must go through is very long."

What do students, those who the act essentially affects, have to say about the act? Will it stop college students from downloading illegally? Freshman Julia Ross agrees that "copyright infringement is a huge

issue" but also thinks that Congress "forgets that College students are poor opportunists who will do whatever to get anything they need, including music." Similarly, Julia Helms'11 thinks that "a lot of music and videos are overpriced anyway so I just don't see the point for students not to get what's free online and to continue giving money to people with twenty cars."

We also asked John Schaeffer from Information Services his opinion on the act and what it means for Conn and its students.

Amy Falk: If you've heard of the Act, do you agree with it?

John Schaeffer: I'm aware of the proposed Act; I don't believe that it has been passed, yet. I also know that many colleges and educational associations are opposing the Act because it is unnecessary. The college

SEE ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING

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News

Turn to pg. 3 for Pressing Issues of the Week, and pg. 4 for an editor's Peruvian experience



A&E

See pgs. 6 & 7 for a review of Diplo live in Brooklyn, a Nirvana re-release, and pg. 14 for a review of The Mist



Sports

Check out pgs. 10 & 11 for an update on men's basketball, men's and women's hockey, and player of the week

EDITORIAL

Where do we go from here?

If we want to stare into the cold face of truth, we will have to admit to ourselves that the art of the newspaper is dying. In order to survive, publications are turning toward the Internet to reach a broader audience, *The College Voice* included. In the spring, we will debut our new website, which will make *The Voice* accessible to an online community. It will feature some of our top articles and will be updated weekly in conjunction with the latest print version of *The Voice*.

In order to keep *The College Voice* relevant, we are taking several steps to improve the quality of the newspaper. We are getting new computers (thank our lucky stars!), and we negotiated a new print date so that next semester we will print *The Voice* on Wednesdays. It hurts to see our beloved creation ignored and trashed every weekend as it sits longingly in front of peoples' doors, just hoping to be picked up and at the very least recycled in its proper location.

As editors-in-chief, we are certainly approaching the newspaper from a very different place – as we put most of our free time and energy into publishing *The Voice* every week – and the lack of interest in the paper is quite puzzling to us. We have had many discussions with friends and faculty about it, and all we seem to hear is that we are doing a great job. That is reassuring, but we are looking for constructive criticism. We want people to care about their student newspaper because if no one reads it, no one cares about it, no one talks about it, and then no one

wants to write/work for it. And when no one wants to work for it, the paper will slowly disappear. *The College Voice* has been in jeopardy in the past, almost to the point of extinction, and we can't help but thinking, "What is a liberal arts college without a student newspaper?"

Journalism and writing for the media is not going to disappear, even if paper editions of newspapers decrease in print quantities. *The Voice* is a prime forum in which to speak and gain experience journalism experience.

The Voice is only as good as the people working on it. If you want to see something covered or changed, get involved or let us know. So as a holiday wish, we would love to hear what people think about *The College Voice*. Compliments are nice, but tell us what we can do better.

Good luck with finals and have a relaxing winter break –

Claire & Areti

Email ccvoice@conncoll.edu with your thoughts



POLICIES

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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NEWS

Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

COMPILED BY DASHA LAVRENNIKOV & GOZDE ERDENIZ '08

news editors

National & Middle East

New U.S. Intelligence Report on Iran

A new U.S. intelligence report, which reversed earlier American statements, says that Iran stopped its nuclear weapons development in 2003 because of international pressure.

However, the report also contained warnings about Iran's continued uranium enrichment activity, however, and said that it could have a nuclear bomb between 2010 and 2015.

Iranian President Mr. Ahmadinejad said that Iran would move ahead with its nuclear enrichment program, adding that the report suggested that the Americans had admitted to a mistake in judging Iran's program. "But their attitude does not allow them to admit their mistake, and so they have to convey it in other words," the news agency quoted him as saying. "We tell them, 'It is all right, and it is enough that you are confessing to your mistakes.'"

The report, a National Intelligence Estimate released Monday, concluded that Iran halted a clandestine nuclear arms program in 2003. Iran has contended all along that its nuclear program is peaceful and that it wants to enrich uranium to produce fuel for its nuclear plants.

Mr. Ahmadinejad and other authorities here have ignored the part of the report saying that Iran pursued secret nuclear weapons activities until 2003, and they have addressed only the part that says Iran's nuclear activities have been for peaceful purposes since then.

The report made headlines in more than a dozen major Iranian newspapers on Wednesday. The state-run daily paper Iran called it a shock for the White House. The headline of another state-run daily, Hamshahri, was "Bush Under Pressure From the Media."

But at least two independent daily newspapers cautioned the authorities not to rush to optimistic conclusions. An editorial in Jomhuri Eslami, an influential conservative paper, warned that the report could be a trap for Iran. It said dividing Iran's nuclear activities into two periods, one before 2003 and one after that, was "mischief" by the Americans to convince the world that international pressure against Iran should continue.

Nazila Fathi. "Iranian Leader Calls Report U.S. Confession of 'Mistake'". Nytimes.com

Europe

Landslide victory for Putin's Party

President Vladimir Putin declared that his party's imposing victory in parliamentary elections was a "sign of trust" that had conferred new legitimacy on the government.

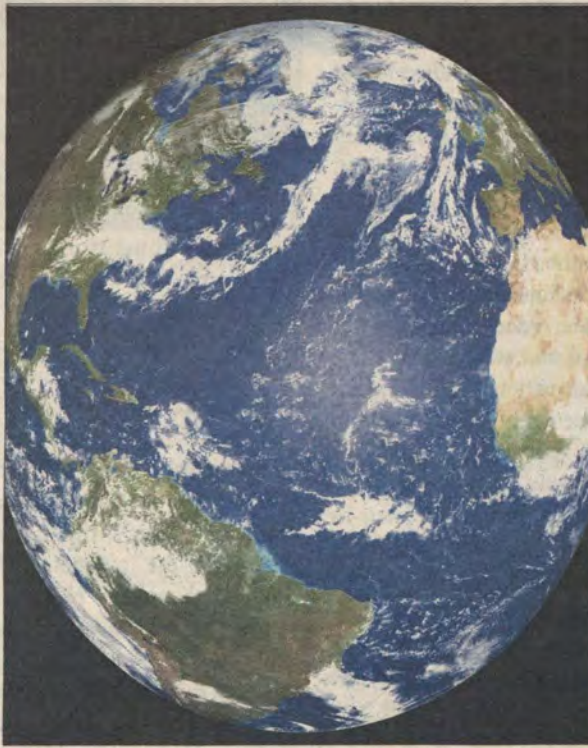
But European monitors and opposition parties harshly criticized the balloting, saying it had been neither free nor fair.

The final tally from the vote on Sunday showed that Putin's party, United Russia, had received 64.1 percent, giving it roughly 315 seats in the 450-seat Duma, or lower house of Parliament, which would be enough

votes to amend the Constitution. Far behind was the Communist Party, with 11.6 percent, or 57 seats. Two other parties allied with Putin - the Liberal Democrats and Just Russia - are also to receive seats.

The end of the parliamentary campaign is expected to intensify discussion in Russia about who will be the next president. United Russia is holding a meeting in two weeks at which Putin might designate a candidate to run in the presidential election in March. Whoever he names will be the presumptive front-runner.

Putin cannot run again because of constitutional term limits, though United Russia's strong performance on Sunday renewed speculation that he might ask Parliament to amend the Constitution.



Even as Putin was hailing the election, European monitors were taking a different view, contending that there had been "a clear abuse of power and a clear violation of international commitments and standards."

Latin America

Chavez's Constitutional Reforms Fail

President Hugo Chavez's constitutional changes were rejected by voters last Sunday. Venezuelans voted 51% to 49% against the proposals, which included ending presidential term limits. Nevertheless, Mr Chavez's supporters still dominate the national assembly and his current presidential mandate lasts until 2013. If the reforms had been passed, he would have been able to seek re-election indefinitely.

The 69 proposed reforms included: 1. Central bank's autonomy to be ended 2. President to appoint local leaders under a redrawn political map 3. Community councils to be established further, allowing residents to decide how to spend government money 4. Social fund for informal workers to be set up and, 5. Working day to be cut to six hours

When he first acknowledged defeat, Mr Chavez accepting the outcome as a "decision the people have made". Yet he harshly criticized his opponents and

vowed to pursue plans for constitutional reform despite his referendum defeat. On Wednesday, speaking at a televised news conference he stressed that he would not give up on plans to introduce sweeping changes to the constitution, "Get ready because a new offensive is coming", warned Chavez.

Africa

Wanted in Crimes for Darfur by the ICC

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo, announced on Wednesday that he was opening an investigation against Sudanese government officials for what he called systematic attacks on refugee camps in Darfur. Ocampo said his office would investigate "a calculated, organized campaign by Sudanese officials to attack" civilians in villages and refugee camps.

Investigation on violence against humanitarian workers and peacekeepers in Darfur is planned to be conducted, including an Oct. 29 attack on the Haskanita military base that left 10 African Union soldiers dead and 1 missing. Rebels were blamed for that attack.

Ocampo urged the U.N. Security Council to demand that Sudan hand over acting humanitarian minister Ahmed Muhammed Harun, who was formerly in charge of security in Darfur and has been indicted for crimes against humanity. The International Criminal Court has also indicted Ali Kushayb, known as a "colonel of colonels" among the janjaweed, and demanded that he be turned over.

Sudan's U.N. ambassador warned that any Security Council pressure over the indictments would complicate international efforts to promote peace talks in Darfur and deploy a 26,000-member joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping mission to the region. "In no way are we going to surrender our citizens to the ICC," he said.

Asia

Pakistani Troops Retake Two Swat Towns

Troops in north-west Pakistan have retaken two Swat valley towns, Matta and Khawazakhela, that were strongholds of pro-Taleban cleric Maulana Fazlullah. They have also captured the village of Imam Dehri, which was used to broadcast radio messages in support of the militants.

The fighting in Swat is the first serious insurgent threat from pro-Taleban forces in what is known as a settled area of Pakistan. Forces loyal to Maulana Fazlullah, including some foreign fighters, had taken control of a series of small towns and villages, where they tried to implement strict Islamic law.

The Pakistani military says that dozens of captives of the militants have been freed from a makeshift prison and that nearly 250 pro-Taleban fighters have been killed since an offensive in the Swat valley was launched two weeks ago. "Local people of Matta have greatly welcomed the arrival of security forces," the statement said, "However the conflict is far from over."

NEWS

Camels Around the World: CISLA Senior Works with Street Children and Learns about NGO Culture in Peru

BY DASHA LAVRENNIKOV '08

news editor

This past summer I lived, worked and became engulfed in and inundated in the Peruvian culture and life style. I interned at, Inti Runakuna Wasin, a creative arts center for at-risk youth. The Quechua word is translated to mean "The House of the People of the Sun."

Upon arriving I discovered that in Peru there is a miscommunication about the definition of a "street child"; there has been no new publicized information or statistics gathered about street children since 1997. It is an issue that is conveniently ignored by both the local, regional, and national governments. Any information that is collected by NGOs or individuals seems to disappear or sit in anonymous desks, gathering dust.

From this first week I discovered that there are different categories of street children: poverty-stricken children who work on the streets yet live with their families and attend school, independent child workers who are on the brink of breaking ties with their families, children of homeless parents, and then the full-blown street children who have broken off ties with their families and dropped out of school. An unspecified percentage of these children are involved in criminal activities that range from small thefts to drug dealing, to earn money to survive. Consequently, the ambiguously defined "street children" are generally viewed by the Peruvian society as delinquents and criminals.

The project I interned for works with the first category of children: children

who worked on the streets selling post-cards, shoe shining, and playing instruments to help support themselves. Each of them attended school, although at one time or another several of them had dropped out or had very poor attendance. The majority of children had Quechua speaking parents and spoke Quechua themselves. Almost 100 % of the children were indigenous, their families lived outside the city of Cusco and the children commuted 1 to 2 hours from their homes to attend school and then go to Inti Runakuna Wasin. The NGO is a center with the goals of providing vocational skills training, and a creative outlet, along with building self sufficiency and self respect in the children. Moreover the NGO strives to get the children reconnected with their families and reenrolled in the education system. It holds parent workshops on topics such as domestic violence, education, environmental awareness, and ethical behavior.

Initially it was difficult to understand and find my place within the internship because my job was never clarified. I took the initiative and began to organize activities with other volunteers such as theatre workshops, piñata building, dance classes, card-making, etc. I developed close relationships with the other staff members, who were all Peruvians. My last week in Peru we began a project to spread public awareness throughout the local community about the issues of working street children and how their rights must be protected.

Throughout my three months, the roots of the issue of child abandonment and child neglect revealed itself to me. I was exposed both to effective models of



NGOs and to the manipulative and corrupt nature of specific organizations. What I was most disappointed by was the discord between organizations in Cusco. During my interviews with directors of NGOs, staff members, and community members I began to notice the lack of unity between those who are seemingly working for the common cause of protecting children's rights. I was taken aback by the competitive atmosphere that exists among NGOs. Rather than sharing resources, ideas, and information, the different organizations harshly criticize one another of corruption, ineffectiveness, and illegitimacy. Unfortunately the children are the ones who suffer from the power politics and disharmony between NGOs; as a result no detectable long term solution is being developed. Although many of the NGOs that I worked with and investigated appeared to support children and teach them important skills of self-sufficiency, each new organization had to start from square one. Veteran organizations refused to reveal methodology and advice on how to develop and succeed in the early stages of an NGO's creation.

Moreover, there was a great discord between the local and regional government and the NGOs in Cusco. The government participated and coordinated with NGOs to a nominal degree in order that it would gain recognition for its minimal efforts. One of its chief political and economic missions was to develop the tourist industry in Cusco. For the government this signified clearing the most beautiful and culturally rich areas of the city of the "street children". The local and regional police force followed orders

and took action to relocate the children through whatever means necessary.

I found access into the police station where children were taken by the local police for numerous reasons and began to see, first hand, the discrepancies within the system. For instance children are legally allowed to be kept at the police station only for 32 hours yet are at times kept there for weeks as a result of no orphanage willing to take them in and no other existent space in society for the children. They are kept in a small room with no access to schooling or recreational activities and limited adult attention. Many of the children suffer from claustrophobia, depression, and fear of authority. These children must be receiving the rights, resources, and love that they deserve if they are to develop into successful, productive, healthy citizens of their country.

Outside of my internship I had a jam-packed schedule of research, volunteer work at a shelter for street children, and teaching dance classes to a group of Peruvian women. It was the day-to-day conversations with close Peruvian friends, men, women, and youth on the streets of Cusco, and with motivated travelers interested in human rights works that I began to understand the socio-economic issues plaguing Peru along with the wide range of opportunities I had to help the Peruvian people both during my time there and in my future. After graduating I hope to continue my work in the areas of children's rights and policy and in the promotion of equal artistic and academic opportunities for at-risk youth.



NEWS

Dan Flynn Advises Students to be Skeptical of Ideology

BY JACOB KARLIN '08

contributing writer

The take-home message from last Tuesday's talk by Dan Flynn was to be skeptical of ideology. Students packed into the 1941 Room to listen to Flynn argue that many people that we look to for ideological cues often develop bad ideas as a result of their ideologically-narrowed perspective.

He started the speech by looking at three examples of "Intellectual Morons". The first was Noam Chomsky. Flynn points out that Chomsky is one of the most cited intellectuals of our time. Even after Chomsky has made multiple academic mistakes such as overestimating the civilian death toll in Iraq by a factor of a thousand, his intellectual influence is steadfast. Flynn says that Chomsky's ideology drives his research and this leads to poor academic foundations.

Flynn shifted his focus to Paul Ehrlich and his predictions associated with overpopulation. Flynn drew parallels between this type of prognostication and the contemporary environmental

movement, including global warming. This is consistent with the most recent and accurate scientific studies, which show that current climate change is an effect of cyclical factors such as solar variation, rather than human influence and that its effects are not as dramatic as previously believed (Debret, M., et al 2007; Njau, E.C. 2007; Foukal, P., et al 2006; Raper, S.C.B., et al 2006; Woppelman, et al 2006; Wild, M. et al 2005).

Finally, Flynn looked at Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood. He argued that Sanger should not receive all of her accolades considering that she spread faulty contraceptive ideas (such as the use of laxatives for contraception) and her main passion in her life was promoting eugenics through sterilization or isolation of degenerates.

He tied all of this together by pointing out that some intellectuals have some good ideas, but that those individuals may have a slew of bad ideas as well. Thus, we must be question each idea rather than wholly accept an individual's

entire ideology *prima facie*. He ended his speech with a C.S. Lewis quote, "We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; in that case, the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive."

Flynn took questions from the audience for about 45 minutes. He fielded many thoughtful questions, many of them attacking his topics and reasoning. One sensitive issue seemed to be environmental movement, with many people from the audience pointing to recent empirical observations as evidence of global warming. Flynn refuted that these observations relied on a small sample; ten, thirty or even 100 years out of the earth's history is a very small proportion. He pointed to past sensational environmental movements to show that this type of commotion has been occurring for a long time and each time, the movement has been exaggerated.

Another sensitive issue surrounded Margaret Sanger. Many contested that even though Sanger promoted eugenics, she should be respected for what most

people know her for, founding Planned Parenthood. Sanger serves as an example of why an individual's ideology should not be accepted blindly; agreement with one intellectual's idea does not warrant acceptance of his or her ideology.

One question addressed an advertisement for the event that used, "If women want to be paid as much as men do, they should stop getting pregnant." The flyer attributed this quote to "Dan Flynn, at Conn College, 11/17/03". The quotation was published in the College Voice on 12/05/03 in an article written by Dan Meltzer, founder of CCLeft, who was present at the event and attributed Flynn with stating the aforementioned quote. Flynn explained that he was either misquoted or the quote was taken out of context in a sarcastic remark.

After taking questions from the audience, Flynn signed copies of his book and discussed issues ranging from the use of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT), gay marriage, universal health-care, and more with a variety of students who decided to stick around.

POETRY READING

continued from page one

and editor of an exile literary journal, strutted to the front of the room and began to read his poems. As Bei Ling read, one could see the raw emotion and passion of his poetry and his ideology. With waving fists and animated facial expressions, Ling definitely embodied his philosophy of fighting by language. The poetry he recited spoke of his anger and frustration with China and his experience of being exiled. As his confident and outspoken persona illustrated, Bei Ling was not afraid to honestly express his thoughts. From listening to Bei Ling's poetry, one could sense not only his struggle of anger and hurt but also his apparent victory that comes from his successful self-expression through writing. Ling's poems expose the emotions and observations of people angered by the decisions of the Chinese government and make us realize the importance of freedoms we might take for granted.

Wang Jiabin timidly stepped to the front of the room to read his poetry next. As a poet, professor, and the poet-in-residence at Colgate University, Wang Jiabin's writing was from a slightly different perspective. Self-described as pastoral and surrounding his childhood experiences, Jiabin's poems were somewhat more lighthearted. Despite this, Jiabin's poetry also expressed dissent

against the Chinese government. He explained that his first anger with the government was sparked when he was not allowed to join the young Red Guard army during the Cultural Revolution because of his family's social status. As lightly as he took it at first, as he grew older, Jiabin realized just how unhappy he was in China. Using his childhood experiences to talk about his ideas about the Chinese government and the Cultural Revolution made Jiabin's poetry a relatable experience that also transported the audience to a certain period in China.

After both poets read some poems, there was a time for questions and discussion that led to interesting, informative responses from the poets about the Cultural Revolution and China's government today. Members of the audience fervently raised their hands to ask the poets about their craft and their revolutionary beliefs. The night came to a close while some audience members lingered, conversing with Professor Huang, Bei Ling and Wang Jiabin. The poetry event seemed to open the eyes of all those curious about China's post-Cultural Revolution society and the strong impact intellectuals like Bei Ling and Wang Jiabin have been having on framing the opinions of individuals everywhere.

ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING

continued from page one

has had the policies and educational programs that the proposed law requires in place for a number of years. In fact the SGA voted to ban external peer to peer file sharing four years ago. We use firewalls and packet shapers to block most of the known illegal sources. We also provide free access to Ruckus and promote and encourage the use of other legal music services.

AF: How can we stop illegal downloading besides this Act or would this Act stop it?

JS: Network logs can identify downloading and other network devices can determine the music, games or movies that are being shared. This information could be forwarded to the student judicial officials for action. This is the process that we already follow when we receive a copyright violation notice from a copyright owner, such as the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The recording industry's violation notices identify specific users by their IP address, the source of the download, and the title and format of media. The college is required by law to identify the person associated with the IP address if we are subpoenaed. We can also block some known illegal peer to peer sources. I expect that people intent on illegally downloading materials would develop new ways to download that could not be detected. The current laws provide significant financial penalties for illegal file sharing: pre litigation settlement agreements range between \$3,000 and \$9,000 and a recent suit resulted in a \$220,000 settlement.

AF: How bad is illegal downloading at Conn?

JS: We have received only one violation notice from the recording industry this semester. Last year we received fifty violation notices. Only a very small portion of our Internet bandwidth is being used for known peer to peer activity. The peak detectable external peer to peer traffic is less than 250 Kbps out of our 70 Mbps Internet connection and the average external peer to peer traffic is less than 100 Kbps. Our traffic logs indicate that only a few people are downloading any significant amount of possibly illegal material.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Omnibus

Now Hear This: Diplo & Co. Massacre Brooklyn

BY JACQUES SWARTZ '09

staff writer

Just as Girl Talk's beats came to overtake every party on campus last year, this Fall has seen the rise to ubiquity of a singular, irrepressible three-and-a-half-minute anthem: MIA's "Paper Planes." Beyond the breathtaking Sri Lankan artist herself, the lyrics and delivery are nothing when compared to the genius of the track's melody and production. Who is this person sampling The Clash and making a chorus out of gunshots and cash registers? Dances, Dance Club pieces and late-night sing-alongs are our gift to keep courtesy of the singular DJ/Producer known best as Diplo. On Friday night I went, accompanied as always by trusted compatriots, to hear him spin gold in northern Brooklyn. He delivered, to say the very least, and brought with him a cadre of DJs who stand ready to progress and redefine the dance experience.

Seeing Diplo at Studio B in Greenpoint was illustrative of all the ways in which the Concert experience is different from, for lack of a better term, the Club experience. To elaborate: Rather than this night being one on a series of stops on a formalized tour, Diplo et al. were more like convened for the occasion on the behest of promoters Trouble N' Bass. We learn this from adverts that "Trouble n' Bass Presents:" and learn further that they're presenting not just the artists themselves but rather a whole unified nightlong event: "Masters of the Universe II." Whereas Studio B may on a typical Friday night showcase one headliner and several lesser known acts, an event-style night like this features a series of performers that'd be headliners anyplace else, topped by an arch-headliner, who was, in this case, Diplo himself.

If the Justice show at Terminal 5 this November was a Scene Mecca, then Diplo's show at Studio B was like a



World Tribunal. "Diversity" is the choice word here, with far-flung musical representatives gathered together to deliver a range of danceable styles in turn; emissaries on high emitting down to the people below. The DJ booth was not a "booth" in the typical sense of a small enclosed space, but seen from the crowd appeared as a long tribunal bench, spanning the dance floor lengthwise. Rather than playing in sequence and leaving when not playing, all the chosen Masters were present behind the booth for the entirety of the night, mixing music, overseeing festivities, taking pictures, and nodding heads in time. Each was garbed differently, further reflecting the plurality of styles: South Rakkas Crew in camouflage and hoodies, T&B in matching grey mod-era suits, Diplo sporting a vintage Miami Dolphins jacket. With each set the feel of the floor and of the space was shaped and reshaped, moving the night towards its culminating apex.

We arrived as Drums of Death, DJ Spooky's latest project, was finishing up. South Rakkas Crew, a new addition to Diplo's nascent Mad Decent label, came to the wheels of steel and the first strong mutation of vibe and mood took hold. Comprised of the formidable

Dow Jones on the turntables and DJ Agony, SRC are traditionally dancehall-reggae DJs, and as such are certified purveyors of the grimy dance party. Under their command the space was transformed into the Platonic early 90s public high school dance, as black scenesters sporting retro flat-tops mingled with white would-be-thugs bouncing to Biggie and Dow Jones. Some faced the DJ, heaps faced one another, but everybody danced, even if alone. And though Agony quickly grew tiresome—how many reps of "Is Brooklyn in the House?" are really needed? I had to resist the urge to shout back "The House is in Brooklyn, f**k it"—it's important to realize the MC impelling us to "put up our lighters" when the Sean Paul track was dropped was all part of that experience. The mood was pure, and the party had begun in earnest.

SRC was succeeded by our hosts, New York duo Trouble n' Bass, and the evening's second mutation followed accordingly. From the gyrations of Reggae to methodically hard-driving drum n' bass, T&B's scene was a nonsense UK-style progression in earnest. T&B brought us tracks from the veteran "Drop the Lime" to a breakbeat-amplified DJ Food remix of "Pinball

Number Count" from Sesame Street. Good balancing of bass with breaks and deft blending of vocals kept the dance floor intact—read: the kids who were dancing for reggae-dancehall stayed to dance for drum n' bass. We'll come back to this, but note for a minute the continuity here.

T&B were followed in turn by 22-year-old Parisian revenant Surkin, the next great apostle of Electro-House, one album or hit away from ascending beside Justice. Surkin's set was locomotive bass-and-synth-heavy four-on-the-floor for your indie partygoer and club purist alike. Throughout Diplo repeatedly referred to the young Franco as "my younger brother" and despite temptation to cite nepotism as the means to an early rise to top billing, it didn't take long to see that it was well deserved.

Then, at a little before 3am, the Man Himself took the helm. Raised in Edgewater, FL and now based in Philly, Diplo is the undeniable future of the modern DJ. Whereas the deific MadLib creates his art from the obscurities of the past, Diplo is the last word on all aspects of the contemporary landscape. He is as much a musicologist as he is a performer or producer, mixing in cumbia two-step from

Argentina, French-African hip-hop from the Ivory Coast, and post-Psytrance from Tel Aviv, to say the least of all the roughest diamonds and brightest gems on the American stage. His work is a re-ordering of all hierarchies: "Soulja Boy" stands with Eddie Money, Spoon blends to MIA. His mixes played live are thrilling not just for the suspense of waiting for his next track, but for the ways in which he re-contextualizes and reshapes each new song.

It is in this way that Diplo was the culmination of all that had come before him that night. He is dancehall bonded to heavy bass, electro and house refitted to hip-hop. Not only does this set him apart as the furthest progression from all of his peers, and accounts for the utopian diversity of his audiences. Studio B was a venue packed immovably with scene kids white and black, Brooklyn hoods of every discernable race, the nary above 18 and the seasoned club-goer, ostensible Manhattanites and Long Islanders, all one people under god. His is the purest genius of what it is to be a DJ: to make of disparate and varied sources a unified upward motion towards sonic ecstasy, to bridge all gaps of type and place.

Diplo finished his epic set with none other than "Paper Planes", and for the melody many did indeed go apeshit. Consider now, if you will, how just as at Studio B, his music has already crossed so many barriers of type and place here at CC with this one single. Might not an hour-long outdoor set, say perhaps on a warm Spring day someplace near the Shain Library, be a similar success? Selfishly I impel a wait until we're back from abroad—but it's for the sake of everybody at our school that I hereby cast my ballot for Florialia's headliner in 2009.

Photo by Amalia Vernicou

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Classics Revisited Black Sabbath Churn Out the Metal on Paranoid

BY JACOB MEADE '08

staff writer

In the early '70s, Black Sabbath basically epitomized the collapse of the hippie dream. By the time the British band landed in the United States, rock and roll had reached a turning point: flashy psychedelia was fading, and young people disillusioned with both establishment and counterculture were responding to music that was darker, harder, and scarier. The real mainstream arrival of punk was still years away, but artists like the Stooges were pioneering its manic rage. In the meantime, another nihilism-drenched genre burst on the music scene, galvanizing teenagers and enraging parents everywhere: heavy metal. First explored in the power of Led Zeppelin's early records, the genre reached its peak in the hands of Black Sabbath.

Led by Prince of Darkness-to-be Ozzy Osbourne (you may have heard of him), the band first indulged a love for the occult on their self-titled debut. But it was on 1971's *Paranoid* that Sabbath really hit the big time, with huge (and hugely catchy) songs of apocalypse and dread delivered with leaden force. Everyone knows the title cut and "Iron Man", staples of classic rock radio. But *Paranoid*'s other tracks, mostly lengthy jams, are just as awesome. The primal sound this band created has since become a touchstone for every hard rock band from Metallica to Nirvana.

So how did Black Sabbath stumble on such a breakthrough? The source was, oddly enough, an industrial accident that sliced off

the ends of two fingers on guitarist Toni Iommi's playing hand. In order to play again, he had to tune his guitar lower, and bassist Geezer Butler followed suit. The result was music that churned and groaned on a level deeper than anyone had heard before, the first true embodiment of "heaviness" in rock. By also slowing the tempo, cranking the bass, and igniting every song with drummer Bill Ward's massive cymbal splashes, Black Sabbath took rock to a frightening new extreme.

Music critics and other snobs were unimpressed, particularly with the album's blunt lyrics about madness, drug abuse, and world destruction. Others took issue with the brutal simplicity of the band's sound, dismissing them as amateurs. But for Black Sabbath's fans, mostly teenagers, that was the whole point. Ozzy and co. had no interest in offering anyone comfort, or in giving their music rich textures. Their songs were so recognizable and their riffs were so powerful that they didn't need it.

Never was this more obvious than on the world-famous stomp of "Iron Man." When Iommi's blazing guitar solo merges back into the bass riff and Ward bashes his drums in perfect unison, it becomes one of the most arresting moments ever achieved in a rock song. Elsewhere, *Paranoid* has plenty of other moments of rock-hard brilliance. The dueling guitar solos in "War Pigs" spin your head in all kinds of crazy directions. The out-of-nowhere transitions from quiet to loud in "Hand of Doom" are stunning. And the urgency of Ozzy's seriously disturbed yelps light up every track.

But more than anything, it was the album's overall sense of crushing power that made Black Sabbath instant rock legends. It's not subtle or sophisticated, but if anything *Paranoid* showed how sometimes it's best to avoid those qualities in the pursuit of a smashing good rock album.



Nirvana, Unplugged

BY GABRIELLA GEISINGER '11

staff writer

MTV has long abandoned its name, transforming from "Must Television" to "Reality Television", with a few rare music videos thrown in for appearances. But it was still a surprise that VHI Classic, not MTV, recently showed a re-run of Nirvana's *MTV Unplugged* performance from 1993. In the bottom right hand corner of my TV at home a little scroll box popped up alerting me to the new release of Nirvana's New York City performance, with extra tracks and behind the scenes footage. I was more than a little excited by the idea of having another Nirvana performance in my collection - the *Unplugged* album is noted as perhaps the most famous episode of the series for MTV, and as a top notch live acoustic album.

After my initial ecstasy, I began to wonder why the DVD was being released now. Nirvana has been named one of the most influential bands in the 'grunge' scene of the 90's, a genre widely regarded for pushing our generation into its apathetic, albeit angry, state at having to clean up the mess of our parents' generation. Kurt Cobain is also a much more complex musician than most would think or give him credit for. Cobain was not only a poetic song writer, but also very involved in every aspect of the financial success of his band. The myth that Cobain didn't want to be famous is indeed a myth (though he may have been unaware of the baggage that such fame came with). He worked his way through Seattle club scenes and a dozen drummers until he found Dave Grohl to complement himself and his bassist and friend Krist Novoselic. Cobain was very forward thinking in terms of music, and did not want to be seen as the leader of a "grunge" trend, where everyone followed him in wearing flannel shirts and ripped jeans. "He was an amazing artist... completely original, The best art draws you into its own world, so Kurt built his own world", Novoselic once said. In reading *Kurt Cobain: Journals*, this assessment is completely apparent as fact.

Nirvana is perhaps best known for their single infamously titled after a brand of deodorant, "Smells Like Teen Spirit" - a gritty, angry, and self venerating track off of the band's breakthrough album *Nevermind*. The *Unplugged*

album is probably their second most famous release to date; however, their discography extends far beyond those two albums. A host of demos, covers, drug-induced improvisational songs, and rough mixes of album versions can be found on their box set *With The Lights Out*, an excellent collection for any Nirvana addict. Tracks to look out for include "Sappy", a social commentary on the oppression of women, "Verse Chorus Verse", a relentless search for meaning, and the demo version of "Smells Like Teen Spirit", whose shockingly different lyrics are barely audible amidst the home recording blips and white noise. Also worth listening to, if only for a laugh, is an odd rambling piece where Cobain seems to be sucking helium through/out. A DVD is included, with home and live recordings from their earlier days.

The *MTV Unplugged* album was monumental in exposing Nirvana's lesser known songs such as "About a Girl", and their cover of "The Man Who Sold The World", a song that fits almost perfectly with Cobain's life story. The live performance is instrumental in revealing aspects of Cobain's personality - or at least the personality traits he wanted to be exposed.

Nirvana's music has been a genre changing and catalyst for all sorts of alternative-grunge bands. Yet their music seems to have dwindled in popularity since the successive eras of gangster rap and sexually-driven pop. They've become a band noted for a single song instead of as a major influence in the music industry. The release of the *Unplugged* performance, therefore, confuses me. Is it an attempt to garner a rebirth of a fan base for Nirvana that is quietly still in existence? At fourteen years, almost to the day, of the legendary performance, the DVD is going to be a requirement for any self respecting Nirvana fan.

Having been dubbed a Nirvana-freak by many of my closest friends and family members, the release of this DVD has recharged my appreciation for Nirvana's music. As Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young say: "I feel like letting my freak flag fly", and if this article serves no purpose other than to encourage the rest of my fellow Nirvana fans to raise that flag, or to encourage my peers to pull out their dusty copy of *Nevermind* and give the lesser known tracks another listen, I will still be satisfied.



Fall 2007 Highlights



Fall 2007 Highlights



CAMEL SPORTS

Men's Basketball Renews Passion

BY MATT FAVA '09

staff writer

The Men's Basketball team is still playing at an extremely high level. As they entered this week's games, the thought of an undefeated first semester became a realistic consideration. With a record of 4-0 and four seemingly beatable teams in their sight, the Camels started this week with high hopes.

Their game on Saturday went according to plan, and there were no doubts that this match would go down as a win after the first few minutes of play. Facing New England College at home, Conn shot a blazing 50% from three point range, which accounted for 45 of their 95 points. The Camels jumped out an early lead in the first half. By the end of the first half, the home team had solidified a 12 point lead and had no intentions of slowing down.

In addition to shooting lights out, the Camels showcased their defensive skills as well. NEC averages nearly 80 points a game, but the home team

held them to just 69. The spread in the second half increased by 14 points, and this 26-point victory made the Camels 5-0. Jeff Young '08 and Shavar Bernier '10 led the way, both tallying 17 points and shooting a combined 11-17 from the field.

The next match up was an entirely different story for the Camels. In a NESCAC-NEWMAC match up, Conn traveled to Wheaton College to face a young, athletic, and extremely confident pack of Lions. The first half went relatively well, but the home team managed to keep the game close. Not being able to put them away early, the Camels found themselves in a tie at halftime.

The start of the second, however, did not go quite as well. Wheaton came out firing and jumped out to an early double-digit lead. The Camels found themselves down by 15 with just over 10 minutes remaining. Sparked by a Charles Stone '08 two-handed dunk which was then followed by a won hander, Conn fought back to take the lead with less than a

minute remaining in regulation. Everything seemed under control until the Lions came up with a loose ball rebound and took the lead by one with less than 35 seconds left.

As the Camels came down the court, Christian Mosley '08 got a good look at the basket, but his shot rimmed out. Coming up with a clutch loose ball due to the hustle efforts of Billy Karis '09, Young, and Bernier, the Camels had one last chance. With six seconds left, Billy Karis '09 had a lane to the bucket, but he did not get a foul call on the way up and was unable to convert. Stone's game-high 26 points were not enough as Connecticut College fell 60-61 for their first loss of the season.

The team has two games left before winter break, and they look to make the most of them. They will undoubtedly play with renewed passion after this disappointing loss. Sitting at 5-1, the Camels are still in a great position to end the semester with two more wins and enter league play with confidence and determination in January.

Black and White

BY BEN EAGLE '09

staff writer



Last Sunday, the NFL and the Redskins mourned the loss of Redskins' free safety, Sean Taylor. The NFL placed #21 stickers—Taylor's number—

on the back of each player's helmets. The Redskins remembered Sean Taylor by starting their game with only ten players, instead of the usual 11, and they used this symbolic vacancy on the field to express the void that his death left in their lives. Memorials bearing Taylor's number could be seen all around FedEx Field.

Most sports fans, however, were not immediately stricken with grief when they learned that Taylor had been shot and killed in his Florida home. Instead, they wondered 'in what way was he responsible for his own death?'

You can't blame anyone for having these thoughts because Taylor's conduct on and off the field tended to be unsportsmanlike. In 2004, his rookie season, he started off on the wrong foot. During a game at FedEx Field, T.J. Houshmandzadeh accused Taylor of spitting on him following a hard hit. T.J. labeled him "a punk." In 2005, he was ejected from a game for spitting on Tampa Bay Bucs player, Michael Pittman.

Taylor's first encounter with the law was in 2005 when he allegedly pointed a gun at someone in a dispute over two potentially stolen ATVs. He left the scene before any violence started, but he returned later and started throwing

punches. In 2006, this case went to court, and Taylor negotiated a plea bargain. In accordance with the deal he made, Taylor donated money and his time to various charities. While he may have avoided jail time, his image was permanently tainted.

Taylor's tarnished image transformed Taylor from a human being to a character. Journalists portrayed him as another victim in a long line of black-on-black violence. They implied that he would never escape the mean streets no matter how many millions he earned. They presented Taylor was a stereotypical troubled youth who was destined for destruction because of all his poor choices. His decisions, they claimed, somehow made him responsible for his own demise.

But in reality—which tends to differ greatly from the black and white world of the media—Taylor was just a victim of bad luck. On Wednesday, the police reported that they had no reason to believe he was a target. The defendants, who have now been detained, assumed Taylor would not be home and were unaware that he was not traveling with the team. When the robbers broke into Taylor's house and found him there, they panicked and shot him in the leg which severed his femoral artery. The resulting blood loss cost him his life.

We can no longer paint portraits with such wide brushes. Sean Taylor had made many mistakes in his life. He had a problem with authority, and he tended to make a fair amount of bad choices. Nevertheless, it was bad timing that caught up with Taylor—not his storied past. We must stop placing athletes into clichéd storylines and start seeing them for what they really are: human beings who live in the real world.

Player of the Week: Emily Cummings

BY STEVE BLOOM '10

staff writer

Emily Cummings '10 from New York, a second year player on the Women's basketball team, was selected as the Player of the Week. Emily scored sixteen points against Smith College on November 30th, and I recently sat down with her for some Q&A.

Steve Bloom: What position do you play on the team and what exactly does this entail?

Emily Cummings: I'm a guard. A two-guard to be more precise. I'm not the tallest or quickest on my team, and this position doesn't require me to be. Basically, I'm a shooter.

SB: You recently scored 16 points

against Smith. How did that feel?

EC: I have never scored that many points in my life, so it was a career high. Smith was playing in a zone so it was easy for me to get by their defenders. I put a lot of shots in, and most of them were falling.

SB: Has there been anyone in your life who has been especially influential in terms of basketball?

EC: Oh yeah. My dad has been incredible. He is a big part of everything I do, especially basketball. I don't think he has ever missed a game so far. He even comes to away games like this past weekend when he showed up at a tournament we had in Massachusetts. That is what is so great about going to school close to home.



Emily Cummings (web)

SB: Is that why you picked Conn?

EC: I picked Connecticut College partly to do with the fact that it is close enough to New York and that I could play basketball here. I wanted a school where I had the opportunity to play.

SB: Finally, how do you think the team is doing this year?

EC: Really well, we are 5-1 so far. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that we are all returning players[, and] we didn't graduate anyone last year. Last season we focused on a lot of fundamentals and because everyone is back this year, we can focus on winning.

CAMEL SPORTS

Men and Women's Hockey Melting the Ice

BY **ABBY MAYER '10**

staff writer

After showing the Connecticut community what our guys are made of in its season opener—a 2-2 tie against Middlebury—the Camels' men's hockey team is anxious to prove itself the rest of the league as well. With a NESCAC record of 1-1-2, including a victory over Williams, the players have not wasted time setting the tone for this season.

Led by captains Rob Campbell, Patrick Collins, and Walt Wright, all '08, the team hopes that its momentum from last season will carry over into this one. Qualifying for the NESCAC playoffs for the first time since joining the league, last year's team achieved great success.

The team graduated four seniors, but gained seven freshmen that, according to Campbell, have proved to be promising additions. "They are doing a good job of filling the shoes of those seniors we lost," says Campbell. "They work hard, and they're good kids."

In his fifth year as the head coach, Jim Ward continues to inspire his players on and off the ice. Campbell notes that the team's intensity continues to increase each year as a result of Ward's efforts. Due to effective recruiting, this year's squad has extraordinary depth. There is no doubt that Ward's program has emerged as a significant force in the NESCAC.

Ward is joined by assistant coach Eddie Ardito. Although this is his first season with the program, Ardito is no stranger to coaching. After graduating from New England College, Ardito went on to coach six seasons for his alma mater. Ardito notes that his own college

coach heavily influenced his coaching style, and he is excited to learn even more working with Ward.

Collins identified the team's greatest challenge: "We can win every game. We have the potential to beat every team in this league- it's just a matter of whether we show up that day. We can just fall apart and play down." Ward attempts to prevent these let downs by creating a weekly build-up around a given game. The team approaches the season one game at a time.

The team tenaciously tackled fall training by attending captains' practices three times a week and working out five times a week in smaller groups. The captains attribute much of the solid team dynamic to this time spent together early on in the year. Campbell notes that "[w]e have become more and more cohesive as the season goes on. We hope to become even closer by the end."

In addition to this time spent training, the boys engage in a good deal of off-ice activities. Collins, however, is eager to eradicate a common misconception surrounding hockey players on campus. "There is a negative connotation around hockey players because we hang around with each other. But as individuals, we are good guys. Often, we think others have preconceived notions about us. We are more intimidated of you, probably, than you are of us."

Aside from watching Ryan Joyce '10 dance to techno music in the locker room, the team's true psych-up before games stems from the knowledge that fans are in the stands. The team gives great thanks to all of the students and parents for their continued support. Keep that in the locker room, Joyce.



A chat at the goal (Schuerhoff)

BY **STEVE BLOOM '10**

staff writer

The women's hockey team is 3-2-1 and has already surpassed their win total from last season. After finishing off with a 2-11-3 record last year, the team had much higher hopes going into this season. Their top eleven scorers returned this winter, and nine promising freshmen have joined the team.

Caroline Jeffery '09 leads the team with 6 goals, and tri-captain Kristen Van Slyke '08 has the most assists with 6. They both lead the team in points with 7.

According to forward Stephanie Quinn '10, the team has improved because "everyone came into the season in great shape, more fit than last year. Also, we have been skating a lot in practice, which has helped a lot."

When speaking about the season, tri-Elinor Mason '08 says, "I am so excited to see what our group of freshman can do." Among these new faces are Kelsey Kirker, Holly Atkins, Kourtney Brim, and Celia Medeiros. Bridget O'Gorman, another freshman, will look to make a big difference on the defensive line. According to Mason, "she can snipe like nobody's business."

The team meets in the Athletic Center at 7:00AM three times a week for group workouts, and they practice every day on the ice. "Our evening practices are a mixture of straight out skating and fast drills that apply to our plays and then we also do technical system work. [Head coach Kristin Steele] lets us scrimmage a lot too which is helpful," comments Mason.

For the first time in four years, the women's team made cuts during tryouts,

and not everyone on the roster will be dressing for each game. "Everyone is competing for the spot to dress... We have three spots for people who won't dress for every game. I definitely will be working extra hard," says Mason. Quinn agrees that "[e]veryone is giving 100% to make sure they dress for games, and this has headed a healthy competition."

Despite their competitive nature, the team remains close both on and off the ice. Mason asserts that the compatibility of the team is due to each player's ability to be open-minded. "This speaks a bit to our coach. She does a good job of choosing people with personalities that fit into our team. There is never that one girl that you can't stand on the team. We are very close-knit."

Steele is in her seventh year at Connecticut College, and her assistant, Ellisa Popoff, is two years removed from playing on the defensive line for NESCAC rival Williams. "Both have good vision on the ice and know what's going on. Ellissa controls the defense. She will get in there and pressure," adds Mason. Steele has spent a lot of her time at Conn recruiting players as well as fans. Mason believes that "[o]ur fan base has definitely grown."

Their next home game is on January 15th against Salve Regina, and everyone should cheer them on. The teams' biggest games of the season will be on February 22nd and 23rd when they will face defending NESCAC champion Amherst two days in a row. Mason explains that "[w]e definitely really want to beat Amherst... They are our biggest rival in terms of attitude."

CAMEL RECORDS

Women's Basketball 6-2	Women's Hockey 3-3-1	Women's Squash 2-5
Men's Basketball 5-1	Men's Hockey 1-4-2	Men's Squash 2-4

Green Progress Being Born Right Now

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



There are so many exciting changes in climate policy happening right now - this may be old news before *The Voice* hits the press. While we might be anxious about this from a journalistic perspective, it's thrilling to see that the changes we desperately need are actually happening.

We want to address a few issues presented by Professor Monce in his most recent letter before we get to all the good news. First, he attempts to argue that we missed his assertion that "a single piece of confirmed contrary evidence" can overturn an established scientific theory. We didn't miss his claim; but since policy is being created on present climate change, policymakers need to rely on the best science available. Even though Professor Monce might disagree, the best available science about climate change points decisively to human-produced greenhouse gases as the primary cause.

Consider also that ethical-but-misguided scientists make up a small minority of "climate deniers." Most of those who dispute the current state of climate science are in the employ of oil, coal and auto companies, or far-right political think-tanks. We urge Professor Monce to be as critical of his own theory as he asks us to be of ours.

This dry dispute has diluted this column for too long. We're moving on. News about climate change is now dominated by a happy and hopeful exclamation mark, not a murky question mark.

In the next few days (perhaps by the time you read this) the US Senate will vote on the 2007 Energy Bill,

which has provisions raising fuel efficiency standards from 25 to 35 miles per gallon and possibly a Renewable Portfolio Standard, which would require electrical utilities to get 15% of their power from clean energy by 2020. This will be a fantastic step forward for a political body that has recently been unacceptably stagnant. It's a great step, but it's just one step; we must hope and demand that whoever is elected president next fall will bring the United States up to par with the rest of the world. We need to work toward much higher investment in clean energy, a moratorium on new coal plants and a reduction in subsidies for "dirty" energy. This will inject bright green power into our economy, creating millions of new jobs and the sort of prosperity we demand.

Also, international climate negotiations are occurring this week in Bali, Indonesia. Delegations from nearly every country in the world are meeting this week and next week to generate a successor to the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto agreement required that signatory nations reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to 5% below 1990 levels by 2012. Until now, only Australia and the US were the only industrialized countries to not ratify the Protocol. But just a few days ago, the brand new Australian prime minister announced that he would sign the treaty, leaving the United States as the last industrialized nation holding out against it. There are great hopes that Bali will set the stage for a meeting after the Bush administration leaves office in which a new international climate action plan can be created.

These phenomenal political initiatives show that the American people, and the people of the world, have realized that the time for environmental action is now.

Anti-Meat: Cancer, Sperm, & Farts

By Andrew Margenot '10



For my last article I will shamelessly attempt to convert you, dear reader, to vegetarianism by simply taking a look at our shameful eating habits—STOP! Already I sense you dismissing me as another PETA fanatic or wannabe hippie. Clear your mind of such filth and listen: I am not advocating vegetarianism based on "animal rights" or any other tricks out of PETA's (skimpy) playbook. Frankly, I could care less about a rabbit's "feelings" if I wanted to eat it. No, dear reader, I will show that the health benefits of switching to a meat-free diet are alone reason enough to at least give vegetarianism a try.

Last month the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) issued a troubling report on how drastically our diet needs to change if we ever hope to reduce cancer rates (I know it's cheap to keep pressing the cancer button, but bear with me). There are several problems with our Western diet. First, the obvious—we eat more than we need and so we're fat. Sorry, I take that back. We're obese. Obesity, measured by Body Mass Index (BMI) sets up the human body for a host of problems, but we're only interested here in the increased risk of esophagus, colon, pancreatic, breast, endometrial (uterine lining), and kidney cancers. Much of the rise in obesity is attributed to our meat-based diets, as many

types of meat are high in saturated fat and calories.

Red and processed meats are responsible for most cases of colon cancer. A multitude of studies have proven again and again that the more red meat in one's diet, the greater the risk of colorectal cancer by up to 30%. Based on additional studies, the WCRF recommends a maximum of 300 g of meat per week. That's just 10.5 ounces, or about 5 of the "standard" 2-ounce serving. Thankfully for colon cancer, McDonalds and Burger King lead you to think that choking down 4+ ounces of charred or fried meat in one sitting is the norm. And if you think that you'll be fine long as you stay away from those beastly quarter-pounders, well, you're wrong (unless you eat a bare salad...but why would you pay money for that limp stuff that passes for greens?). A "medium" Chicken Nuggets alone is 3.5 oz of processed meat. The average adult male plows through about 1,000 g (2.2 lbs) of meat per week, with women consuming a bit less at 1.2 weekly pounds.

Speaking of men—hey guys, do you know why we're producing less sperm nowadays? For those of you that are blissfully unaware, the average sperm count is two-thirds of what it was in the 1970s. A drastically lower sperm count is yet another casualty of eat

ANTI-MEAT

Jingling All The Way To Bedlam!

By Adrian Stover '08



As this is the last issue of *The College Voice* before a much-needed holiday vacation, I have chosen to write about this wonderful time of year, and how much I hate it. Yes, I am that guy. Not the famous *That Guy*, who appears on posters here at Conn clutching an alcoholic beverage

as he crawls towards a predetermined destination (he is actually pretty cool, and I am secretly in love with his sister, *That Girl*), but rather, I am an Ebenezer "The Muppet™" version of this movie is the best" Scrooge. Let me preface this piece by saying that I do not hate the actual holiday. In fact, I embrace the religious nature, the commercialization, and most of the traditions that come with the season of Yuletide joy except for one: the music.

Those of you who know me are probably thinking right now, "Adrian, you hate the music more than anything because you are a music and French major, and your loathing is rooted in an overexposure to this genre, as well as a kind of snobbery that you have adopted." To my deconstructionist friends, I would respond to this statement by saying that I do not mean to bloviate, but I will admit that the former half of this argument is correct. It is indeed true that I have suffered an overexposure to Christmas music in my life. As a musician, I have performed for countless holiday services over the years, which left me bereft of any feeling for most songs included in the holiday genre. However, I will have to insist that I am not the only one who shares this sentiment.

To those of you who have had to step inside a shopping mall, department store, market, or any other place of commerce during this time of year, I ask you this simple question: Have you ever experienced a chill running up your spine to the back of your head when you have suddenly heard a horrible rendition of "O Holy Night"? The sound coming out of this person's mouth is as warbled and emotionally saturated as a drunken pig who has just learned that his favorite patch of mud is being developed into a **Wal-Mart™**. It is loud, penetrating, and especially irritating when the person in front of you in the checkout line has decided to make friends with the cashier. What is even worse is that if you turn on the radio in the car, you can sometimes hear selections from Billy Idol's Christmas album. These are the tortuous experiences that have happened to me many times and have driven me to have sour feelings toward the season altogether because I dread the pain that it entails.

I have always secretly envied people of other faiths who can simply shrug this off because it does not apply to them. At one point, I have even sought to convert to Judaism so that I could fully enjoy this feeling. However, my friend and source of all knowledge concerning Judaism, Jake Stolar, has told me that my dislike of Christmas music is apparently not a sign of a serious commitment, and is not a good enough reason for wanting to join the Jewish faith. I would convert to Islam, but the evening prayer time conflicts with **House M.D.™**. For now, at least, I will wear earplugs when I go shopping, avoid turning on the radio, and try to protect myself from the horrible music. Otherwise, I would go mad.

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OPINION

I Am No Simple Jester

By Ian Barnes '09



I was recently the victim of a vicious, crippling, *ad hominem* attack from which I might never recover. Insensitive and naïve; so traumatized was I that I reached for my serrated combat knife and considered ending it all right then and there.

In fact, the argument levied against me was so devastating that I'm not even going to respond to it; I have no counter. This seems rather non-combative of me, I know, but let's face it - I'm dealing with a master. I can't possibly fight an objection to an argument I didn't make.

The understanding my opponent seems to have obtained from the piece in question, "Equal Opportunity Terrorism," seems to be as follows: I am a heartless monster who feels no compassion for 9/11's dead because I did not know them. Furthermore, following my precedent, we should not pay attention to Darfur because we have no personal connections to those people.

Also, the Holocaust never happened and we never landed on the moon. Oh, and Elvis isn't dead and Mother Theresa was a whore.

I'm capable of making stuff up, too.

The difference is that I do so in jest; when I actually decide to raise an objection, I do so carefully and only after making sure I've comprehended my opponent's literature rather than salivating wildly and uttering the first rampant emotions that pop into my head.

As I said, I'm not going to defend my piece, partially because I'm lazy, but mainly because my opponent conveniently did it for me. As she proved, any time 9/11 is mentioned in a negative way, people get this disturbing bloodlust and lash out feebly at whatever the easiest target is, namely me.

The truth is, I'm full of compassion. I simply have priorities. People who might die tomorrow deserve more attention than people who have been dead for six years. People who might be murdered next week deserve our outcry more than people who were murdered six years ago. Attention, energy and money are limited; irrational, foolish idealism is not.

I don't want people to shut up about 9/11 because I'm some festering aberration that doesn't care. I care and I've cared for six years. I just care about other things more. Things like government-sanctioned torture, gay marriage rights, or our troops overseas who are dying when they shouldn't be. Things that matter *right now*.

That said, if wanting to focus more of our attention on protecting the rights of the living rather than lamenting the dead *ad nauseam* constitutes naïveté, someone might as well start putting the nails in my wrists right now, because I make no apologies for my alleged callousness.

Some people just look for excuses to be offended because they don't have anything worthwhile to say on their own. God willing, those people will live forever because I can always go for a little backlash; the hunter is nothing without the hunt.

ANTI-MEAT

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ing meat. Why? O' the humanity! O' the hormones! All those cow steroids don't just "go right through you." They do a drive-by on your gonads on the way out. For female readers who could care less about Bobby Joe's fertility, consider this: One study found that women who had seven weekly servings (a mere 14 oz) of red meat during pregnancy gave birth to sons with a 25% below-average sperm count. Please, future mom and dads, think of your sons before you bite into that bloody hunk of grilled flesh.

Also, the medical cost of meat-induced health problems has put conservatively estimated at \$123 billion dollars, not to mention the loss of productivity that comes with premature death.

Here's one health *benefit* to a meat-free diet that *nobody* can disagree with: you will fart less, and on those rare occasions that you do, those little buggers will have much less room-clearing power (though in some cases this may be a disadvantage). The large amount of protein in meat requires quite a bit of digestion. Undigested meat sits inside you, literally rotting away (it is flesh, after all), and even during digestion plenty of gases are generated. My roommate from last year can attest to the fact that the very week I turned vegetarian, our room began to lose its sulfurous aroma. Within a few weeks he was able to stop using his gas mask. If for nothing else, please, for the sake of humanity's noses, lay off the meat.

Islam Promotes Democracy

By Yama Noori '10



Whether Islam and Democracy can walk on a parallel line, or whether an Islamic state can be democratized, has become a controversial issue in the realm of politics. In some parts of the world, Islamism and democracy are seen as two opposite political ideologies that will never co-exist within a single state. In 2003, a presentation

at the Secretary's open forum in Washington DC conclusively stated that Islam is inherently opposing democracy and thus these two ideologies will clash. Having read this report, as a Muslim, I am obliged to present my picture of Islam which nullifies the assertion stated above. I claim that Islam is a peaceful religion that has always promoted equality and individual freedom among the members of a state, and yes, an Islamic State can be democratic as well.

While discussing ideologies such as Islamism and Democracy, the conceptual definitions of such terms are very crucial to one's understanding. What do *we* mean by Democracy and Islamism and who is this *we*? Democracy, by its universal definition, is a political system in which political power is exercised either directly or indirectly by the people. Democracy guarantees the right of participation, competition and the practice civil liberties in a society. Likewise, Islam, as a religious ide-

ology, (not a political one) encourages the practice of the same values. Democracy as a political ideology and Islam as a religion both struggle for the same goal: the establishment of peace. Prophet Mohammad said, "A believer is one from whom people feel secure as regards their lives and property" or that "He is not a believer from whose nuisance his neighbor is not safe". In this *hadith*, Prophet Mohammad invites his followers to perform good deeds that will increase security and peace in their neighborhoods. From this and similar *hadith* and versus of Quran, we can infer that Islam aims to breed individual peace and love to the ultimate extent.

However, democracy, some might argue, is more than what is stated in its definition. Its core values are hidden within its three components: participation, competition and civil liberties. Well, Islam not only supports all these factors but rewards those who give priorities to such factors in their lives. The practice of human rights and individual freedom is clearly encouraged in Quran. God says to Prophet Mohammad, "You are not there to overawe them by force", while *they* in this verse refers to all human beings, which means, Islam promotes devolution of power and gives autonomy to its followers to choose for themselves. He goes on and talks about freedom of religion, "There is no compulsion in religion; truth stands out clearly from error" and he tells the Prophet to tell non-Muslims, "To you your religion and to me mine". This clearly states that, Islam has always

chosen peaceful ways of solving a problem.

There are hundreds of other examples and cases where Islam dictates peace, freedom and equality. Hence, Islamism, a religious-political ideology framed around Islamic laws, does not clash with democracy. An Islamism that is based on real Islam will always support democracy.

Today, there are some Islamic states and organizations who take the interpretations of those lines to an extreme, and their actions violate the principles of democracy. It is because there are different divisions within Islamism, such as, traditionalists (political, scholarly and conservative Ulama), progressive Islamists (Muslims who are rational, analytical and reconcile progressive Islam with modern science) and then revolutionary Islamists (who wants to establishing an Islamic stated based on strict and self-extracted laws). Those extremist revolutionary states and organizations such as Al-Qaeda form only a small division within Islamism which has been born very recently. They operate based on their own version of the interpretation of Quran which contradicts the real Islamic school of thought. Therefore, it would unjust and totally baseless have conclusions rooted in a small division of a big religion.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



A Healthy Bit of Cynicism

BY JACOB TISHER '08

staff writer

I've never felt such naked distrust from a stranger before. My fellow theatergoers were so harmless during the previews. Yes it's melodramatic, but I knew they looked at me differently. I definitely looked at them differently. The potentially evangelical, they were the scariest. *The Mist* is the newest film inspired by a Steven King novel. And in the great pantheon of films inspired by Steven King novels, this is my third experience. From the familiar setting of a small town near Greenville, Maine on Moosehead Lake, a peculiar weather pattern is making people die in violent ways. This film has the exact same project as another Steven King adaptation, the TV network movie *Storm of the Century*, which was set on a remote island, also in Maine. During the filming in Southwest Harbor a friend of mine was given the title of "Nordic Consultant." His job was to decide what type of cross-country ski wax would work best with the potato peels they used for snow (I never actually asked what he recommended). Not only does *The Mist* have almost the same exact plot as *Storm of the Century*, but the majority of the actors are the same too. And once again, the director has some trouble understanding the setting. *The Mist* takes the theme of people in isolation destroying themselves to a completely new level; it is profoundly disturbing.

As you may have guessed, I'm from a small remote town in Maine. I live very near Steven King. His sons had the same English teacher as I did. From the small amount of contact I've had with him, two things are for certain. First, he is one of the greatest modern authors, despite popular opinion. The second, and this may explain the popular opinion, is his mind does not work in the way it should. He has serious difficulty establishing the difference between fantasy and reality. He once said, "I'm glad they pay me for this, otherwise they'd lock me up," and he wasn't even half joking. When he talks about his characters they don't appear in his fiction so much as present themselves to his mind, as if he is subservient to their will.

The Mist is about a group of very real people who are set upon by horribly fantastic beings from another dimension lurking in a huge fog bank. As the mist descends upon the town, people gather in a super-market. This is not *Lord of the Flies* - these are real, full-grown individuals that Mr. King obviously based on people he knows. Because of Mr. King's peculiarities he has the audacity and courage to explore topics that no other author would go near. No other film could tell you in such a strait-forward and honest voice that people are generally bad.

Yes, you should be very afraid of the old lady on the school board who makes people roll their eyes

by suggesting school prayer. The initial reaction to seeing a stock-boy eaten by a tentacle that snaked out from underneath a door is denial. It takes the death of four people to convince everyone that something unnatural has occurred. The next step is for the inhabitants of the super-market is to confront the possibility that the mist is what the Bible calls the 'end of days.' The week and ignorant amongst them are the first to fall into religious fervor. A distinct parallel is made between those who are killed by the monsters and those who come to believe that a woman in the store is an instrument of God. Steven King is not a post-modern hack. He doesn't try and disguise an ideology while secretly promoting one, he tells you his ideology and why his ideology is the least destructive. The crimes of the characters don't seem possible: they seem inevitable. By the end even the hero has difficulty separating right and wrong, and makes tragic mistakes. At this point, you become aware that there are people in the theatre — people who would succumb to ignorance, prejudice and religious insanity if given the chance. All at once, you realize that the crusades actually happened, the holocaust actually happened, and things of that nature will continue to happen. You don't know how the film will end, but you don't really care. The ending is like crashing in the Andes with your soccer team; you might survive, but you'll never be able to live with yourself.

Surprise! More Problems with America's Music Industry

BY RICH ABATE '10

staff writer

I was really struggling to figure out what to write about this week. I didn't have a new album to review and going to concerts every weekend tends to get a tad expensive. So I figured I'd try something new. I decided I'd do a little review of the music industry.

Let me backtrack a bit. I was visiting my new favorite music news site, thedailychorus.com and stumbled upon an article entitled "Universal Mistake". It turns out that recently, Universal has limited its recording artists to posting only 90 second clips of their songs on sites such as Myspace and Purevolume. The article uses Jimmy Eat World as an example, stating that there is only a portion of their newest single "Big Casino" available for listening on their Myspace page. I wanted to check it out for myself, and sure enough, the song had been reduced to a 90 second clip.

But who cares right? What's the big deal? Let me put it this way: you're listening to the radio in your car and a new song comes on by Paris Hilton / Soulja Boy / whoever you crazy kids listen to these days. This song sounds awesome and you can't wait to hear the chorus...when suddenly it cuts out. That's it, that's all you get. For all you know the rest of the song could flat out suck and you would have no idea. Not cool right? This is exactly what Universal is doing with legal online music sites and it seems as if other major labels could follow suit.

This new procedure is an attempt to boost record sales by hindering the ability to illegally download music. By providing previews to these songs, they believe that it will cut back on the amount of illegal downloading and force fans to go out and buy the albums of their favorite artists.

Are they serious? I understand the legal issues of downloading copyrighted music, but look at its skyrocketing popularity in recent years. Do they really think that further limitation of what people can listen to legally will actually help album sales? Of course it won't! People will continue to find new and easier ways to get their music; if they haven't stopped now with all the ridiculous lawsuits going on, they won't be stopping anytime soon. I understand that it's an industry, and as such is designed to make money. But this is the music industry, and music is a form of art. And it has come to a point where it seems that the artist has very little control of their medium anymore.

We've seen this all before: Napster, the RIAA lawsuits, etc. But even something like limiting the length of free music only adds to the absurdity that is the music industry. At the same time, there's been a recent resurgence of a "do it yourself" attitude, and independently record companies have been gaining popularity. So maybe this new policy that Universal has isn't such a bad thing. They might just be digging their own graves and do the whole music world a favor in the long run.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Apple of My Eye

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08

editor-in-chief



Would it be entirely demeaning to compare New London to the Little Engine That Could? They are both small and they both chug along — and they both ultimately achieve something great! The Little Engine made its way over the “big” mountain and New London has established a thriving music and art scene.

The cultural Mecca for this New London music scene is The Oasis on Bank Street, right at the heart of downtown. With a modest sign above the door and no overt outdoor lighting, you could easily walk past The Oasis on any given night if it weren't for the crowd of artist-y types lingering out front puffing cigarettes and for the music blaring from behind closed doors.

Within the past week, I have seen two extremely solid shows that have made me proud to witness the growth of a creative community. I come from a town that has little to no music scene to speak of, specifically one that appeals to anyone who listens to something other than Phish and the Disco Biscuits. So hearing music that is not simply cheap knock-offs of already aesthetically challenged bands, but music that is actually *interesting* is quite a pleasure.

People feel we are at a disadvantage in New London because it isn't New York, Boston, Providence, or even New Haven, but this city has talent. And one big way to foster that talent is to see and support it.

The first show I saw was last Friday, called Frequency Activism with MC

Stat, or more commonly known as Professor of Statistics Gabe Chandler. I don't know much about hip-hop, but I do know what it means to be a crowd pleaser. With motivational and proactive lyrics, and an incredible ensemble of a DJ, another MC, a guitarist, bassist, drummer, female vocalist and flutist, and even a harmonica player, MC Stat and Frequency Activism completely owned the audience. The crowd itself was an organic mixture of local New London musicians, hip-hop fans, and Connecticut College residents, and all were responding positively to what was happening on stage.

Personally, it was the spontaneous break dancing that won me over.

On Monday, Quiet Life played along with The Teeth and High Strung (who are not of New London descent). Quiet Life has been making a bit of a scene at Connecticut College (there are Quiet Life tote bags *everywhere*), but the band has a very solid and established reputation in New London, despite being so young of age. Their music is an appropriate blending of country-western nostalgia with indie rock sensibility/aesthetic. And they had a pedal steel player on stage, which makes them officially very cool in my world. Most importantly, Quiet Life sounds great live. They know how to play together and they know what works, which is quite admirable because knowing what works is a key element in creating good, crowd-pleasing music.

There is much more fine artistry in New London, and when I see it, I shall speak about it. Although this seems like a New London advertisement - I am sincerely happy to find good music wherever I may be.

Is it Luxe or Lust?

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief



It's the holiday season, and I'm in a panic. What on earth will I ask Santa to bring me? I flip through my magazines and catalogues, giddy with potential new friends. But the truth is, I have everything I will ever need. Why do I pine for over-priced objects of affection?

This is my confession. It's also the confession that the luxury market does not want to hear. In 1999 luxury indexes rose 144%, meaning there have never been so many wealthy people in the world. But the fashion industry loses \$9.7 billion a year to counterfeiting, according to the World Customs Organization, and that counterfeiting is among the top three sources of terrorist funding.

Scary. Did you ever think wanting a handbag could have such massive repercussions? Handbags drive the luxury fashion houses, and they are among the first things you see in a boutique because they are the easiest items to sell. No tricky sizing involved. You buy one designer bag, everyone knows you mean business.

I've been working on an independent study that takes an in-depth look at the luxury market and how different marketing and branding techniques work for a particular luxury fashion house. Handbags are a huge part of the equation, and they announce that consumers aspire to the brand's philosophy.

Fragrances, cosmetics, small leather goods and accessories are also part of the buying ladder, leading up to the ultimate purchase of high fashion clothing. Few companies actually create, produce and

market their own fragrances these days—namely Chanel and Hermès. Most companies actually send a brief to different chemists and await for a pitch back with samples to fit the descriptions requested. When fashion companies go public on the stock exchange, that company becomes responsible to its shareholders and must keep the bottom-line in mind. They take shortcuts. Things that used to be handmade in Italy are secretly made in China. Different materials have been substituted. You might as well go order a Big Mac, because the experience has been reduced to a similar one.

A certain luxury fashion house marks up its handbags 300 percent. It makes me queasy to look at the \$1500 price tag for a bag of striped jacquard fabric and leather trim. At most, it cost the company \$500 to manufacture, but if I want to look like a rockstar, I need to triple that initial investment.

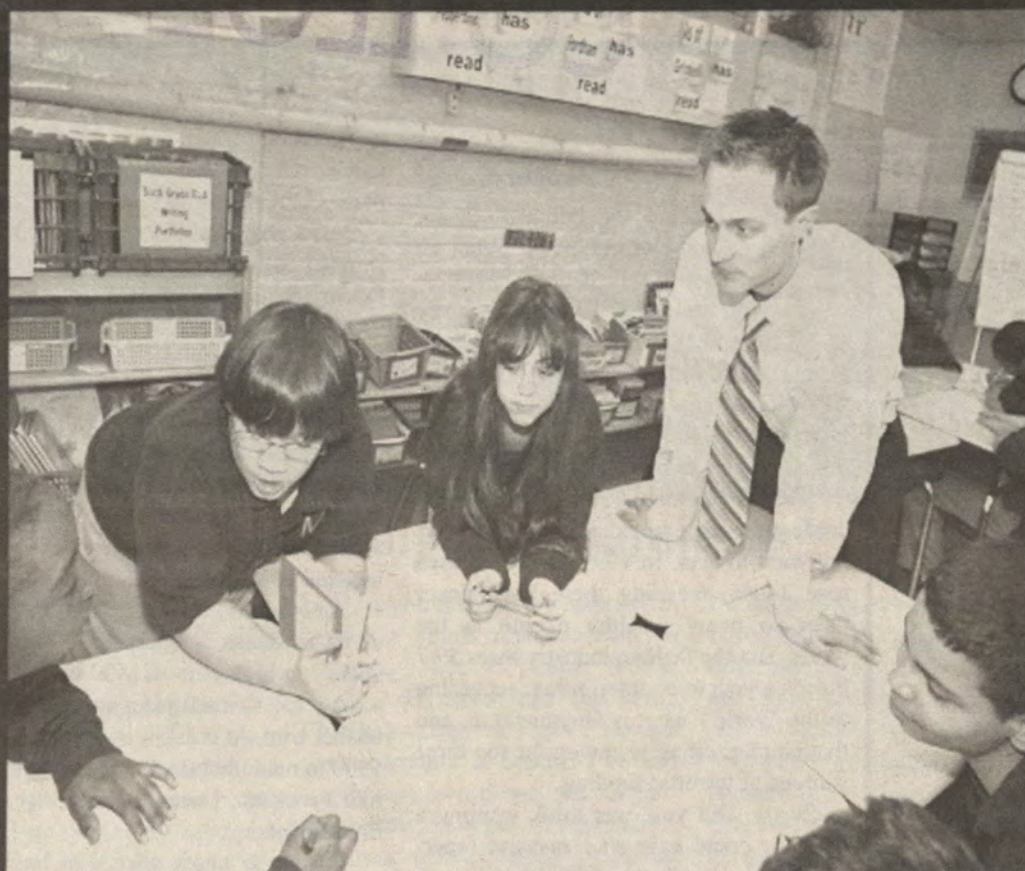
I want to know what I'm buying. I want my purchase to be special. When it says “Made in France,” I actually want it to be. I want to know what I'm getting. These are not unreasonable requests, but how many sales associates can really explain the treatments and sources of the materials of their products? The most frightening aspect of the luxury market is that mysterious point of origin.

Real luxury will certainly cost you. We're children of the Eighties, and that doesn't mean we wore scrunchies and outrageously bright outfits. It means our society enjoyed an increase in spending and purchasing of status-items. Everything was designer, so now we're force-fed items with logos. Sad thing is, we are socialized to want the logos because we think we know what we're getting.

View From The Hump

Dan Silberberg '10 & Alex Krogh-Grabbe '08





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