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Conn Coll Confessional Ignites Campus

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief

During the finals examination period, the campus was introduced to the Conn Coll Confessional (CCC). Mirrored on the Oberlin Confessional, the site was broadcast to students in the early afternoon of Friday, December 14th via instant messenger. Within the following hours, a Facebook group was created and invitations to join were solicited.

Dean of Student Life, Jocelyn Briddell, said she did not read the posts during the launch period because it would be like reading *The National Enquirer*. Similarly, Dean of the College Community, Armando Bengochea, said he reacted with "surprise and disappointment at the quality of many of the conversations." The online postings concentrated on personal attacks on students, staff, and faculty. Though using the names of individuals is against CCC's terms and conditions, it did not stop the posts from disrupting the finals period.

According to the administrator of the Oberlin Confessional, Shibo, the idea of the confessionals is to foster dialogue and serve as forum to communicate ideas, thoughts, and secrets. He believes it can connect people and build a community to address sensitive topics such as racism, sexism, and sexuality without being identified.

The site is neither endorsed by Connecticut College nor directly under its jurisdiction, therefore there is no difference between CCC and Facebook, MySpace, or blogs. Vice-President of College Relations, Patricia Carey, is not surprised by the Web site but does not

have experience with such a situation.

"Today's students live online to an unprecedented degree and take for granted that they can broadcast their opinions widely without intermediaries and, if they wish, anonymously. In that sense, the controversy reflects how society as a whole is being affected by changes in communications technology," she said.

CCC questions the role of the honor code and how it impacts students. As per Dean Bengochea's e-mail to the student body, offensive and damaging posts are against the College's civility clause. "It's hard to imagine," he said, "that people you know well and see every day are using the cover of anonymity to say things they would never say in person. This is a challenge to our notion of ourselves as a community based on honor, respect and responsibility."

Students responded strongly to the hurtful posts by including their names when calling out those who abused the site's anonymity. On the night of December 16th, students posted suggestions for bands to play Florialia, thus allowing a greater number of students to an otherwise more exclusive discussion by SAC.

Deans Briddell and Bengochea, Carey, and SGA President Nick Sullivan '08 agree that the site is not entirely negative. It is up to the students what they want to see on the site. Though Briddell admitted she was saddened with some of the early content, she was happy to see students reach out to others for support.



Photo: Kaminsky

Editor-in-chief, Areti Sakellaris, interviewed Marcus, the Connecticut College student who runs the website, to get his ideas on the site's implications for the Community and an idea of its history and logistics.

Sullivan sees the potential for students "to learn, address concerns, as well as talk about things they normally wouldn't feel comfortable talking about." As for the anonymity of posts, he praised students who presented their personal struggles. "It takes a lot of courage, even anonymously," he said. "If there is a silver lining to this situation," Carey reflected, "it will be that Connecticut College students rose to the challenge of defining the kind of community they want to live in—and figured out how to make technology reinforce their ideal rather than tear it down."

AS: Did you anticipate the reaction and postings the site flooded with in its first weekend? Where did the idea come from and what was your original intention? Did anyone else help you?

MARCUS: I didn't actually make it, I'm just the Conn representative. The real admin goes to Oberlin College. But I brought it here...this whole thing started when I visited my friend at Oberlin College, and found out about a site there called Oberlin Confessional. I

didn't actually get to use the site while I was there, but was intrigued by the concept. After a few months, I finally contacted the admin of that site, whose name is Shibo. I had originally asked him if I could have the source code for the website so that I could host and set it up here at Conn, and run a site myself. However, Shibo was unwilling to allow me to have the code, and for good reason.

AS: What was the general feeling about it at Oberlin? Did you get a sense that it could be damaging?

MARCUS: Anyways, he has run this site successfully at

SEE CC CONFESSIONAL

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Letter From The Editors

As a student who made the choice to live off campus this year, I did not realize that this decision would drastically limit my ability to access and participate in campus life. The new swipe card system has many advantages, most prominently the safety of students and their rooms, but one obvious misstep by Connecticut College's administration is its choice to not allow off-campus students access to swipe cards.

And as a result of this, we, the meager one percent of the student body, are essentially banned from the privileges of campus life. We cannot eat in the dining halls in Freeman, J.A., Knowlton, and Smith, although meals are still a large part of our on-campus socializing. We cannot freely access club meetings that are held in the common rooms of the dorms. We cannot stop by Coffee Grounds for a late night drink or to do a volunteer shift. We cannot go to the Women's Center or the LGTBQ Center. I can't even deliver *The College Voice* to your door!

I was told that the theory behind this decision was that off-campus students were seen as a liability since we do not live in the dorms. If this theory was stretched to its limits, the college could say that any student who is in another person's room is not allowed to be there because he/she does not live in that room. Any student who is in a dorm that is not theirs, technically, should not be able to access it. Why are we, students who were approved by Residential Life to live off-campus, being penalized for a decision that the college administration supported?

More than likely, the quick decision to install the swipe card system did not account for any complications or exceptions to their established rules, but one of the great privileges of Connecticut College is that the students can implement changes in the administration.

My roommates and I are looking to petition this decision through SGA, and if any other off-campus students or sympathetic on-campus students would like to support us, please feel free to contact me at cdowd@conncoll.edu.

- Claire

Welcome to the 21st century, Connecticut College. The dorm access system is a promising step for the college towards offering a more dynamic card to students. We all have friends at universities who boast about the wonders of their id cards: mine does this, I can get that, it even works at outside vendors!

With all good things come complications. I am the Park Housefellow, and wondered if cards would work after 2 am at the door leading into the Lambdin/Morrison side since I do not live there. Would I have to walk outside the Plex and enter from the Park West entrance at the parking lot? What about all the kids in Marshall who walk through the Plex and then Park to get their rooms?

Brrr.

Maybe it is a quick fix, but I have also heard many of my residents say they do not mind too much because either not much is happening during those hours or they are already where they plan to be. However, I think Claire's situation with living off-campus must be swiftly addressed.

In the near future, when our cards can open doors and get us into Harris, won't students living off-campus need one of those ID cards because everyone needs an ID? Would those cards open doors? Or would they be a sub-standard version of the regular card with the access function disabled?

I cannot complain. The alarm will keep doors from being propped and keep the sneaks shoving flyers underneath doors out. We like to think we are a special campus community, and we are a safe school, but we are totally open to the surrounding community. Last semester demonstrated various security breaches, and I am confident the glitches will be worked out.

I also cannot complain because, as a Housefellow, I am privileged with an all-access pass.

- Areti

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Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

COMPILED BY GOZDE ERDENIZ '08 & DASHA LAVRENNIKOV '08

news editor & staff writer

National

Delving deeper into the Iraq quagmire?

With its international mandate in Iraq set to expire in 11 months, the Bush administration will insist that the government in Baghdad give the United States broad authority to conduct combat operations and guarantee civilian contractors specific legal protections from Iraqi law, according to administration and military officials.

This emerging American negotiating position faces a potential buzz saw of opposition from Iraq, with its fragmented Parliament, weak central government and deep sensitivities about being seen as a dependent state, according to these officials.

At the same time, the administration faces opposition from Democrats at home, who warn that the agreements that the White House seeks would bind the next president by locking in Mr. Bush's policies and a long-term military presence.

Democrats in Congress, as well as the party's two leading presidential contenders, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama have accused the White House of sponsoring negotiations that will set into law a long-term security relationship with Iraq.

Europe

Turkey moves to amend speech law

The Turkish government says it will change a controversial law restricting freedom of expression.

Justice Minister Mehmet Ali Sahin said a new bill would be put before the Turkish parliament in the coming days. The law being reviewed, Article 301, bans perceived insults to Turkish identity or the country's institutions.

Earlier on Tuesday the European Commission said restrictions on freedom of expression were blocking Turkey's progress towards EU membership.

"It is not acceptable that writers, journalists, academics and other intellectuals...are prosecuted for simply expressing a critical but completely non-violent opinion," EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn said. "The infamous Article 301 must be repealed or amended without delay," he added.

Nobel-winning Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk and Turkish-Armenian writer Hrant Dink were both prosecuted under the law for their comments on the mass killings of Armenians during the years preceding the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

Middle East

Iran's Reformists purged from the ballot?

With more than 7,200 candidates registered to run for 290 seats in Parliament in Iran's elections this spring, officials with the reformist party, the Islamic Participation Front, said it appeared that 70 percent of reformist candidates had been disqualified.

The decisions are not final and will not be completed until early March, but the early indications are that the religiously conservative forces in control of every branch of government will try to block a comeback by the reformists who had hoped that the coming election would be a referendum on President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's management of the state. With inflation and unemployment high, and now a serious shortage of heating gas during a record cold winter, the races were

seen as a way for reformists and their allies to gain a second chance at power in Iran. They had once controlled Parliament and the presidency.

But the president and his allies control the system of vetting candidates for access to the ballot. The first step is for local boards in each province, known as the Executive Councils, to approve a candidate for access to the ballot. The boards are appointed by regional governors who have been appointed by the president.

The next step is for the Guardian Council, a hard-line body of clerics close to the supreme leader, to approve or disqualify candidates. In past elections, the Guardian Council was where reform-minded candidates found themselves disqualified.

This time, however, candidates and party officials said that the mass disqualifications began at the regional boards dominated by much more radical members than those of the Guardian Council.



Latin America

Will Castro be re-nominated?

Fidel Castro, the 81-year-old president of Cuba, wrote in an essay how he had been instructing officials what to do after his death as doctors battled to save his life. Castro has now dedicated himself to "thinking and to writing". Mr. Castro has not been seen in public for almost a year-and-a-half, since the time he ceded power to brother Raul as acting leader.

Although Castro no longer runs Cuba's government, he retains his role as head of the Council of State and voted by absentee ballot in elections earlier this month.

Cuba's parliament will meet on February 24th to elect the next president and a new Council of State. Only then will it become apparent whether Fidel Castro wants to remain as head of state or retire and continue in his current role of elder statesman. Ricardo Alarcón, the National Assembly president, said in an interview that he expected Fidel Castro to be nominated for president on February 24 when the new Parliament meets, but expressed uncertainty over whether he would accept the

post again.

Africa

Elections lead to violence

The violence in Kenya continued on Friday where young men in gangs from opposing ethnic groups battled with machetes, metal bars, and bows and arrows. Nakuru, capital of the Rift Valley, has seen some of the worst violence in the past month. The unrest was triggered by the election on December 27th and has driven 250,000 people from their homes. Rival groups in the area have long-standing land disputes and these tensions have erupted, as ethnic, political and economic fault-lines have reinforced each other.

Some 700 people have been killed in clashes between rival ethnic and political groups since disputed polls. Some of the latest violence seems to be revenge by members of President Kibaki's Kikuyu community on groups seen as pro-opposition, such as the Kalenjins and Luos. Kikuyus have been targeted elsewhere in the Rift Valley and many have fled to Nakuru. "We have vowed that for every Kikuyu killed in Eldoret, we shall kill two Kalenjins who are living in Nakuru," said bus conductor Dennis Kariuki, according to Reuters news agency.

The Kenyan police have imposed a curfew after at least 10 people were killed in clashes in the central town of Nakuru. Furthermore, former UN chief Kofi Annan has been holding further talks to try to end the crisis.

Asia

In Burma, arrests have accelerated

Four months after the violent crackdown on peaceful demonstrators in Burma, Amnesty International has said Burma's military government have accelerated arrests and detained 96 pro-democracy activists since November, when it promised to stop such arrests. At least 1,850 activists are currently being detained, including 700 who were arrested after the protests, it added. "The new arrests in December and January target people who have attempted to send evidence of the crackdown to the international community, clearly showing that the government's chief priority is to silence its citizens who would hold them to account."

Amnesty said at least 15 protesters and their supporters had been sentenced to prison terms since November, and that it had received reports that detainees were being tortured. More than 80 people remain unaccounted for since then and "are likely the victims of enforced disappearance", it added. Among those arrested recently is the well-known poet, Saw Wai, who was detained after one of his love poems was found to contain a hidden message criticising Burma's military leader.

New Key Cards on Campus: Do They Help or Hinder?

BY KATHERINE SHUSHTARI '11

contributing writer

By now Conn students are well aware of the new key card access system that was installed over winter break. The new key cards were given to every on-campus student resident with a nifty little wallet for safekeeping. These cards make life a lot simpler. Instead of attempting to punch in their entire code while holding their books and possibly a cup of coffee in freezing cold weather, Conn students now just have to hold their card up to the new proxy readers, and the door unlocks. In fact, it is not even necessary to take the card out of one's bag or pocket; the card just needs to be within a few inches of the new device.

Many students have mixed feelings about the new key card system. Everyone agrees that the new cards make entering dorms easier and make the dorms safer. The problem most students have is the new imposed curfew: students only have access to their own dorm between the hours of 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Nick Sullivan '08, President of Student Government, agrees that the new key cards make campus life easier and safer.

He states, "I think they are a great and much needed improvement from our old system." Nick then goes on to speak about the new curfew, asserting, "Most students will be able get where they need to be regardless of whether or not their key cards work only on their dorms at that hour. So, it is just an inconvenience. Personally, I would like to see students have open access throughout the campus." Nick also addresses his disappointment in the administration for imposing these new time constraints without consulting the student body and is looking into what can be done to change the current situation.

Claire Dowd '08, editor-in-chief of *The College Voice* illustrates another drawback, "Although the key card system is great for protecting the dorms, as a student who lives off-campus, it is really disappointing that we are not able to get a card for ourselves. Most of my friends live on campus, and it really takes away from the spontaneity of visiting and socializing in the dorms." Off-campus students were not given the new cards and many agree with Claire that without access to the dorms, people's social lives and friendships are impeded upon.

The administration's main concern is

the students' safety, which is the reason for these time constraints. Dean Briddell, speaking about the new curfew, states, "This is typically a time where problems can occur, such as theft, and the College wants to make certain that students are safe during this time frame. Modifications will continue to be made as your meal and library cards will also be integrated into one identification card." Most Conn students agree that the safety of the students inside the dorm will be increased with this new curfew. But what students feel is not being addressed is their safety outside the dorm. Maureen Durkin '08, Head of the Judicial Board, hypothetically creates the situation where a student is walking alone after 2 a.m. from the south side of campus back to their dorm on the north side of campus. If that student were to be chased or harassed in anyway, they would be locked out of all the dorms except their own, which is a half-mile away.

Although there seems to be a few glitches, all of Connecticut College is happy to see such new technology on our campus.

Tom Hogarty, new Head of Campus Safety, states, "Campus Safety is really

excited to have this new system in place on campus." Hogarty then goes on to explain how not only will the new system strongly increase safety within dorms, but will also reduce acts of vandalism within the dorms due the new curfew. Alyssa Faro '08, who is the Chair of Residential Life, asserts that, "The new proxy cards are great because they combine convenience and security."

"The cards will eventually be combined to be part of our IDs to create a one-card system. The one card will have the capability to combine dining, laundry, library and printing, vending machines, bookstore credit, things like Cro Money and even a possibility to add money that can be used like Cro Money at off-campus locations such as restaurants."

The administration is eager to hear any and all suggestions about the new proxy system and is not completely opposed to looking into the curfew and off-campus students receiving access cards in the future. But for now things will remain the way they are and students are encouraged to give the new system a chance.

CC CONFESSIONAL: MARCUS INTERVIEW

continued from page one

both Oberlin and at a high school called Kzoo. At some point during the site's early days, someone got offended and sued him.

AS: Did you find a way to protect yourself?

MARCUS: This is the reason he won't let me run it on my own; I have no legal experience, and he does. He didn't want any blame to fall on me, which is turning out to be a good thing.

AS: Why would he want to assume it for himself?

MARCUS: That is how I protected myself. I technically have nothing to do with the ownership or operation of the site. Because it is his site, and he knows how to protect himself. Plus, he's won in the past, so he can handle it.

AS: You just promote the link?

MARCUS: Basically...I emailed him, and he said he would host it and run it for me, and I agreed. Once the site was finalized, I began advertising it heavily at 2:30 PM on Friday the 14th of December. I used AIM, Facebook, and actual slips of paper with the URL on it to advertise. By midnight that night we already had about 100 posts and even more comments...the only power that I have that other people don't is that I will (eventually) be able to post with an avatar, [and] that means that my posts will show up in the "Blog" area of the site. That's about it. I'm anticipating administrative response, and I've heard that the Housefellows have already received emails. And I'm expecting an email myself, but really, there's nothing I can do but point them in Shibo's direction.

AS: How do you feel about some of the things being said? In bringing the site to Conn, what did you want to do? Was it just for fun and you'd take it with the good and the bad?

MARCUS: The things being said are reflective of the kind of people we have here at Conn. If anyone was under the impression that everyone here was amazingly nice, they were wrong, and this is a good eye-opener. I didn't really want to do anything; it was more for fun than anything else, although I did expect this type of response.

AS: And you are technically safe because of Shibo. When people request to have things removed, those requests go to him?

MARCUS: Yes, Shibo gets the requests.

AS: Does he have a good turn-around time when it comes to granting those requests? On what grounds will he do it, is it as easy as asking him?

MARCUS: Generally it seems like he does it every evening. He's a busy guy, running three of these sites, so he does it when he can. If you click the "Report inappropriate comment" link, you have to give a reason, and then it gets sent to him. You can also supply an email if you would like a reason why he did/did not delete it.

AS: So, the site is primarily for fun? I just want that to be clear.

MARCUS: I suppose so, because I can't imagine any other use other than fun. I mean, if Shibo had wanted to make money on it, he could have easily

thrown some Google ads on the page, but he didn't. The primary purpose of the site isn't to be malicious, but that's how Conn students are. Welcome to the real world.

AS: If your name is not on it, do you think you will be directly contacted? How would that work? Can the admin target you if they don't have your name on the site? It would be pretty hard, but the students know and the Facebook group traces to you. You are still responsible for supplying the link en masse, you are complicit in it.

MARCUS: Yes, but that's like saying that I would be responsible for spreading a link to alex-marcus-sucks.com, even though I didn't make it. Besides, it's not as if Shibo or I are responsible for the content. This is the true face of Conn.

AS: Did you go to the meeting Harrison Wood called for in a post when this started? His post said he spoke to you and that you said the only way to get rid of the site is if administration facilitates it. I read his post to refer to the school administration, but this cannot be correct since you say you cannot be in any sort of trouble with the school. What's up?

MARCUS: Yes, I did go to that meeting. That statement is not entirely true, though. Technically the only way that the site could be disallowed from students is if the administration has it blocked at the router so that it can't be accessed on-campus. However, not only is this a bad idea because it creates a very "big-brother" feeling, but it is also ineffective, since there are many ways around that.

SEE CC CONFESSIONAL

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News Analysis: Difficult Days Ahead for Democracy in Pakistan

BY ADRIAN STOVER '08

No one is quite sure of what the future will bring for the government of Pakistan in the coming weeks before the Parliamentary elections on February 8, 2008.

While the situation was never very stable, the assassination of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto has had both a positive and negative effect for her party, the PPP. Despite the loss of their most important leader, her murder generated an immediate strong wave of sympathy for her. It was this popular sentiment that was expected to help her party make great gains in the elections that were originally scheduled for January 8th. In fact, many analysts predicted that a surge in voter turnout in the wake of the assassination would have benefited both the PPP and the PML-N, the party of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

By postponing the elections, the ruling party of President Musharref, the PML-Q, has been able to let the anger surrounding the recent turn of events subside during the weeks leading up to February 8th. However, it is still not clear to many people what the six-week delay will bring.

While the PML-Q would have liked to postpone the elections for three months, it is

contributing writer

believed that they will have gained some time to regroup and will be able to run an effective campaign. The challenge right now for the PPP is to maintain the wave of sympathy for Ms. Bhutto, and augment pressure on the PML-Q in order to achieve gains in the parliamentary elections.

However, criticism of the PPP has come from even a member of Ms. Bhutto's family. Fatima Bhutto, the 25-year-old niece of the former Prime Minister, recently stated in an interview with CNN that Pakistan party politics have supported military rule in her home country. She also claims that her aunt had a limited role in creating this environment. "At this stage, we are in a state in Pakistan where so-called democratic forces are only interested in coming into office. So ultimately, they only prop up dictatorships," she told CNN from her home in Karachi.

When asked to comment on the situation in their home countries, Connecticut College students Yousuf N. Marvi and Khawaja Abdullah Saeed, '09, each expressed their predictions on what the future has in store for the Pakistani government. Abdullah held the popular view that the wave of sympathy for Ms. Bhutto will still be present

when Pakistanis vote in February. "Benazir's death is not only shocking for all Pakistanis, it's also an attack on all moderate forces within our country. It feels like a true leader is lost forever. This brutality has no place in our religion and even if one didn't agree with her policy or was doubtful of her innocence in corruption charges, she was a brave woman and an inspiration to all. Pakistan People's Party should still take part in the elections. They will surely sweep to victory."

While Khawaja made this focused prediction, Youssuf addressed the delicate nature of Pakistan's political relationship with the army. "I think the challenges that arose from her assassination have little to do with her personality and politics, but rather more with the environment and circumstances under which she was assassinated. The suicide bombing took place in the military garrison town of Rawalpindi, which not only undermines the army, but a general safe of security for Pakistanis. If one of the most prominent political figureheads can not be protected by the establishment in their own backyard, then what is a layman Pakistani suppose to expect for himself? If anything the assassination puts forward the nature and fragility of Pakistan's political stability. The fracture in the military's control of Pakistani



Photo Credit: <http://www.harrywalker.com>

politics might hamper the relationship between the U.S. and the military, which benefits from billions of dollars of aid in both monetary and defence aid. Which, again, translates into support for military from the

people. Its bad news for Pakistani military, nothing else!"

While the results of the elections remain to be seen, the only action that is consistent is that Pakistan will face more political instability in 2008.

CC CONFSSIONAL

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AS: Dean Bengochea sent an email to the campus regarding the site before Winter Break, and he encouraged students to think of the civility clause in our handbook and the type of community potentially hurtful comments would create. He added the school does not intend to censor or try to directly tackle a web site outside the school's jurisdiction. Did you the school speak directly with you?

MARCUS: Not since my meeting with the deans [Bengochea, Jocelyn Briddell, and Patricia Carey] on the last day of school. The meeting went well, [and] they seemed interested by the idea of the site. There were no changes made because of the meeting.

AS: "Interested?" How so?

MARCUS: Well, the general gist of the conversation was that they weren't exactly opposed to the site,

and in some respects they found it to be a good thing. One interesting thing that the meeting pointed out is that the college community had been looking for some sort of place where everyone goes to hang out (since there have been failed attempts such as Coffee Grounds and Cro), and the site only furthers this point, because during the first weeks almost everyone on campus logged onto it. The site became that campus center, supporting the need for a physical center.

AS: What happened over break?

MARCUS: [It] seemed like the usage was fairly strong right up until Christmas. Christmas day there was almost 0, and it has remained fairly low since then. It's a little hard to tell because the counter on the page is broken.

AS: I noticed that some content was removed. Is this part of any administrative changes or upgrades?

MARCUS: There is a moderation panel on the way, according to Shibo, which is good because it will allow me to do some moderation and will also make the mod-

eration easier because right now it is a very crude process of simple database item deletion. What I mean by moderation panel is a page on the site, only accessible by admins, where all the flagged posts are listed and can be easily removed. Right now that process is relatively difficult

AS: Has the site picked up since being back or is it hard to tell with the counter broken? What would you like to see on the site as we begin the spring semester?

MARCUS: It seems to have picked up a bit, but it is hard to tell...I'm not totally sure. I suppose steady usage is all someone can want from a site like this. There have been a lot of requests for something along the lines of a Conn Coll forum, which would involve registering usernames and such, losing the anonymity, and I'm thinking about implementing that, but nothing is set in stone yet.

With Crap Movies and No New TV Shows, Theater is the Only Game in Town

Part I of III

BY BEN FISHER '08

staff writer

It is no secret that live theater is struggling in this country. Actually, "struggling" is a misleading term; it implies an active, defiant resistance. The truth is that most theaters are in full retreat and the others are in bunker mode. They're not "struggling" so much as they are quaking like girl scouts as the dual ogres of film and television hold them by their artistic pigtailed and gobble up the precious thin mints that are audience members.

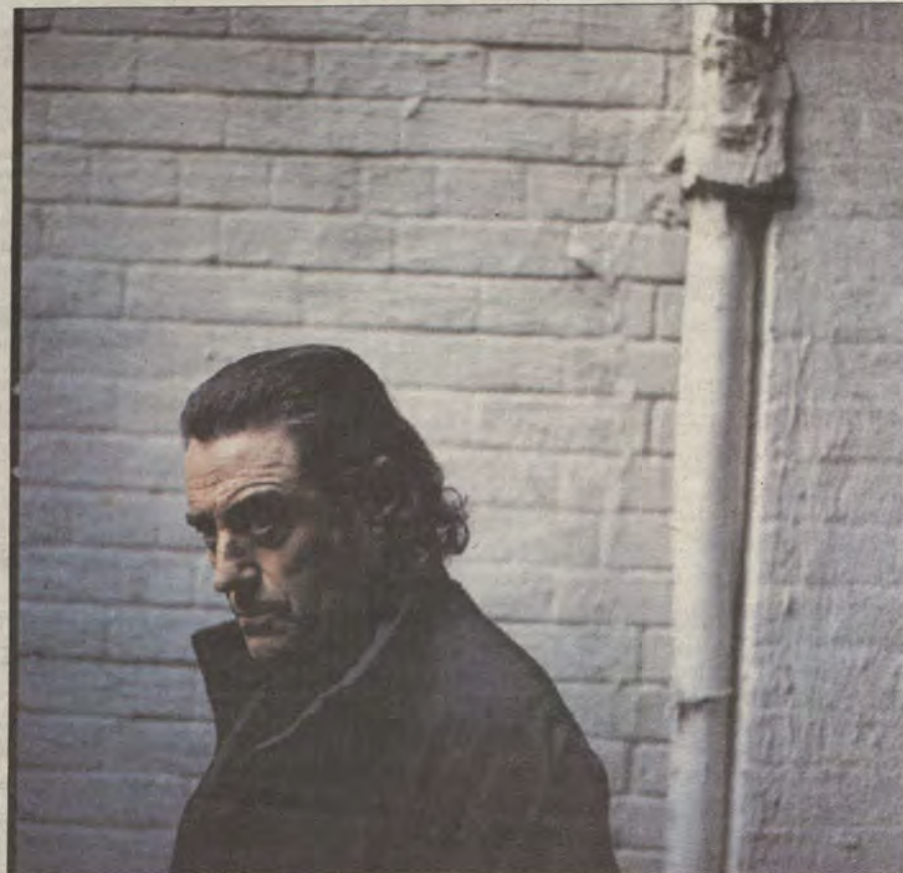
I'm not going to waste time puzzling over why that is. Not here. I'm also not going to belabor the point that we have the power to save theater, that the magic of live performances must be preserved for the betterment of blah blah blah. What I will suggest, however, is that if any of you want to be entertained this January and February, your best bet is with something live. There are no new episodes of your favorite TV show, and when *Cloverfield* is the best-looking movie out there, things are grim. For the immediate future, your best crack at decent entertainment is going to involve a bus to New York (50 bucks round trip) and a student rush ticket (26 big ones) to one of the three following performances: *The Homecoming*, *August: Osage County*, and *The Seafarer*. I bet the farm that any one of you, dear readers, theatrically inclined or otherwise, would find these three shows deeply entertaining. They are tightly written, deftly acted, gripping stories, and as hysterical as they are dramatic. They are also pieces that each suit themselves specifically to the performance sensitivities of theater, pieces a director would have difficulty adapting to film without muting their effectiveness. If you love the theater, these shows are the cream of the crop this season. If you've never set foot on Broadway, what better way to get introduced? There are a lot worse ways to spend the weekend. I'll be taking a look at each of these shows in my column over the next three issues, so you'll have some time to make up your mind.

Let's start with the established one. The current production of Harold Pinter's masterpiece *The Homecoming* marks the 40th anniversary of the play's debut on Broadway, but time has hardly tempered the play's fierceness. *The Homecoming* takes place in a crumbling

house in North London. Inside, the patriarch Max (Ian McShane), a retired butcher who holds court over his two sons, Lenny (Raul Esparza), a small time pimp, and Joey (Gareth Saxe), an amateur boxer, and his brother, Sam (Michal McKean). Though the family has worked out a primitive pecking order, animosity and brutality is always seething just below the boiling point. Then, into this swamp comes Max's firstborn expiate son, Teddy (James Frain), now an erudite professor of philosophy, and his wife Ruth (Eve Best). Ruth's sexuality is an open flame held to a leaking gas vane, setting each character plummeting into the dark pits human nature that we'd rather not think about. As one of the ads for the current production states, "There are some things that fathers and sons should not share."

What makes *The Homecoming* so brilliant – indeed, what defines Pinter's writing style – is that the true meaning lies in what isn't being said. Frequent, loaded pauses hint at desperate lust and deep hatred. Simple, seemingly harmless phrases carry sinister and often contradictory meaning. Delivered in Ian McShane's cockney accent and savage baritone, lines like "What about a nice cuddle and kiss, eh?" are downright terrifying. Both McShane and Best are masterful in their control, endowing a single word or breath with a special emphasis so that turns it into an atom bomb. Next to these titans, Esparza's performance is disappointing. He seems intimidated by the inherent contradictions in the role and seems to draw most of his characterization from Ian Holm's portrayal in the film version of the play rather than finding his own, authentic rhythm. Rather than commanding the language, he rides roughshod over it, reducing Lenny's fierceness to impassiveness. Mirroring his difficulty understanding the nuances of the language, Esparza is also unable to remain a consistent, localized accent, and instead sounds like he is from all parts of England at once. It isn't an overtly bad performance, but a uniformed and an unadventurous one, a wasted opportunity rather than a crippling blunder.

Thankfully, everyone else is so good the audience barely notices Esparza's shortcomings. One of the personal delights for me in this production of *The Homecoming* was the attention and com-



plexity with which the more minor characters – Teddy, Sam, and Joey – were endowed. In the film version, Sam (played by Cyril Cusack) just seems slow, but McKean infuses the role with intelligence tempered by weariness. He is not a simpleton, but a defeated man, bullied and cowed by his brother into a complete nonentity. Saxe's Joey, who seems to have borne the brunt of Max's abuse, is fascinating to watch, a performance subtly enriched with qualities reminiscent of Lenny in *Of Mice and Men*. Frain's Teddy, a character whose impassiveness is puzzled over extensively by critics, is likewise given more depth than most other treatments. He is no longer a stoic observer, but someone desperately holding on to self control, struggling to reconcile his past life with his family with his new status as a professor, even if it means detaching himself from his wife. For all his polish, Teddy still has the bite of the rest of the family – he just doesn't choose to bare his teeth until it is absolutely necessary. A tremendous amount of credit should be paid to the director, Daniel Sullivan, for devoting equal attention to all characters, regardless of how much they speak. Indeed, since there is so much

Ian McShane of The Homecoming (web) meaning in silence, it seems simplistic to anoint a "main character" simply on the virtue of how many lines they have.

I am a big fan of the 1973 film version of the play, which uses many actors from the original British stage production, but seeing the play live underscores why Pinter's work cannot be nearly as effective outside a theater. All the action of the play takes place in the same room and, with breaks between the scenes blazingly short, there is no opportunity for the audience to cut away, to catch their breath, to avoid the intensity. A film, also, would have to narrow the focus, to do a close up on a character as they speak, to cut from one face to another. During the performance, I found myself watching the characters that stood listening as much as I did the ones who were speaking. If so much significance lies in silence, in pauses, in a moment when a character chooses not to say something but says something else, in the brush of a hand, the ways a cigar is smoked, a glass of water is drunk, how the hell is a film director going to know where to point the camera? In the theater, you, the audience, decide and, in this production, your eyes will constantly be moving.

GIANT ROBOT INVASION

A Robot-Themed Art Gallery Opening at The Bean & Leaf
February 8th @ 8:00 pm
Featuring live music by Incognito Sofa Love



Don't Believe the Hype, But Enjoy Yourself Anyway

BY RACINE OXTOBY '11

staff writer

Two or so weeks before winter break ended, I contacted my friends on Facebook and announced my latest diabolical scheme: the first night back on campus, we'd all go see the movie *Cloverfield*. This was a movie we'd all been looking forward to since the first mysterious, nameless trailer surfaced online. We asked ourselves the same questions: "What would the monster look like?" "What exactly was Slusho?" "Would this movie really be as epic as we thought it might be?" We absorbed the Internet brouhaha like water to a sponge, and with our little hands clasped together and our grins stretched from ear to ear, we directed ourselves through the looming maze that is Groton to the movie theater and we feasted our eyes upon *Cloverfield*. We then learned something: hype doesn't always equal masterpiece, not that we ever expected it to, but maybe we were expecting a little more.

The movie follows a group of attractive twenty-somethings living in Manhattan, enjoying a going-away party. They are dishing out gossip and dealing with relationship problems when what first appears to be an earthquake knocks out the power and causes a reasonable amount of chaos. The characters – Rob (who this party was meant for), Jason (Rob's brother), Lily (Jason's girlfriend), Hud (Rob's best friend), and Marlena (Hud's crush) – soon discover, as the characters in any good monster movie should, that this is not an average earthquake; it is a monster attacking the city.

What sets this movie apart from films like *Godzilla* or *King Kong* is the fact that we are seeing the attack of the city from the perspective of these characters, filmed through Hud's camcorder, a la *Blair Witch Project*. While this gimmick gives the movie a sense of urgency and claustropho-

bia (no scientists working away in a lab trying to find away to rid the world of this beast here, folks), this limits the movie quite a bit. We never find out where the monster came from or why it is attacking New York because Rob and company never find out. When the video camera is finally turned off, we never see what happens to the remaining characters or New York in general, leaving the viewer feeling frustrated. The home video gimmick does cause the movie to bounce, swivel, and jump cut to footage at a queasy rate, though, and if it were any smoother, the movie wouldn't be as believable.

I will commend the movie for inventing a truly frightening monster. I gasped a few times in the movie theater, something I rarely do when seeing monster movies (although maybe that has something to do with the fact that I don't see as many monster movies as others might). The highly evolved, super pissed-off whale may surprise you with its ability to cause chaos, especially the "parasites" that cling to the side of the whale monster and fall to the ground, only to devour those who were able to avoid the footsteps of the monster. What happens when these parasites take a chomp out of you is even more frightening, but I'll save that surprise for viewing.

The movie is entertaining, but I feel like years down the road it will be better remembered for its viral campaign than for the movie itself. I'm going to have to rent the movie when it comes out on DVD after missing a subtle ending in the last seconds of the movie, supposedly a key to the origin of the monster and possibly a gateway to a sequel. If you don't expect Oscar-worthy performances but love watching a monster tear a city apart, I highly recommend *Cloverfield*. It was a fun experience, and while it wasn't worth the hype, it was definitely worth the wait.



Charlie Wilson's War gives '80s Politics a Fresh Spin

BY JACOB MEADE '08

staff writer

If you haven't seen *Charlie Wilson's War*, you might think it looks like the kind of classy late-year release that'll clean up at the Oscars. Boasting a cast of A-list talent, a politically charged premise, an acclaimed director (Mike Nichols, whose last film was *Closer*), and a screenplay based on a nonfiction bestseller, it has all the elements that make the Academy swoon. But it turns out that this new movie, with Tom Hanks in the title role, comes off more as an enjoyable summer flick than an award-season major contender.

Charlie Wilson's War is light, breezy, and off-handedly funny, which is an odd tone for a movie about the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan in the '80s. The personal story of Charlie Wilson, the congressman who helped Afghani rebels defeat the Soviets by getting the U.S. to covertly arm them, is an inspiring one. After witnessing the grievances of the Afghans first-hand, his efforts saved thousands of innocent lives and contributed to the end of the Cold War.

Julia Roberts stars as Joanne Herring, one of Charlie's many love interests, and the one who first convinced him to look into the issue. The two are helped by a disgruntled CIA official, played by Philip Seymour Hoffman. Most of the

movie consists of interactions between these three people, who speak in the kind of sly, smooth, constant-insult style that really only exists in Hollywood movies. The witty banter makes the weighty politics go down easier, but creates an odd distance from the sobering issues at hand.

Charlie Wilson's War defies easy classification. Some are calling it a war movie, but very little of it actually takes place on the battlefield. You could call it a comedy, but that ignores the larger political and humanist issues that drive the plot. Whatever genre you tack onto it, it's clear that the producers were looking to avoid *Syriana*-esque density and struggling to come up with something that would guarantee them an easy audience. Scantly-clad women fill out the background of most scenes (an infamous womanizer, Charlie staffed his offices exclusively with them), and each actor exudes the same persona that initially earned them success (Hanks's generic likeability, Roberts's aloof glamour, Hoffman's blunt gruffness). It's a little like *Ocean's 11* in that nobody looks like they're straining, but everyone looks like they're having a good time.

The result is a fun, interesting popcorn flick that's a nice alternative to the self-consciously "important" movies that seem to have dominated the holiday season

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Meet at the couches in Cro at 8 PM TONIGHT (Wednesday)

Write for any section, take photos, or copy edit!

A Statement-Making Weekend for the Surging Camels



BY MATT FAYA '09

Men's Basketball completing a layup drill (Gardner)

staff writer

Connecticut College's Men's basketball program has been drawing a significant amount of attention throughout the NESCAC, and even around the nation. Currently 1-0 in conference play, Conn are ranked 4th in the NESCAC behind Amherst, Middlebury, and Trinity. This weekend is, by far, the biggest weekend of the '07-'08 season to date. If the Camels can pull off victories against Bowdoin and Colby, they will be ranked within the top three in the NESCAC and will demand some attention from the Top 25 voters on the national scale.

The team was 5-1 just before the winter break, but the Camels have been phenomenal over the past month. Now, they have a record of 13-2— their best start since the '98-'99 Final Four season.

The Camels beat Salve Regina and Springfield, but suffered a very disappointing loss at MIT in their first game back from break. The Camels went up by 16 at the half, but the Engineers surprised them in the second half by attacking inside early and spreading the defense with a perimeter attack later. Conn would eventually lose this game in overtime (73-79); while MIT's comeback demoralized the team, this defeat reminded the Camels that they must play at a high level for all 40 minutes.

They have now won six straight games against Eastern Nazarene, Hunter College, Johnson and Wales, Coast Guard, Wesleyan, and John Jay. The matches against Eastern, Hunter, and John Jay became blowouts, as Conn dominated at both ends of the floor. The games against Johnson and Wales, Coast Guard Academy, and Wesleyan were much tighter contests.

Conn found itself behind Johnson and Wales at

halftime, but the Camels captured the lead in the second half. Although J&W never folded, Conn managed to win by three points (60-57).

The team established an early lead against the Coast Guard Academy. The Camels held an 11 point lead at the half, but the Bears battled back. Near the end of the game, the Coast Guard center grabbed Charles Stone's ('08) jersey and pulled him down to the floor. The referees tagged Stone with a traveling violation and ignored the flagrant foul which drew many jeers and red faces from the home crowd and bench. This questionable call gave Coast Guard another chance to tie the game, or even take the lead with less than ten seconds remaining. Connecting on a circus shot in the lane, the game was forced to overtime. The Camels, however, stayed focused and dominated the extra session, 11-4, to come out with a crucial seven-point victory.

In their first NESCAC contest of the year, Conn found itself in another close game against Wesleyan. After exploding to a 44-27 lead at halftime, the Camels had to fight to the very end; the Cardinals rallied from a 19 point deficit to trail by only two. The Camels ultimately preserved their home-unbeaten streak and came out victorious— 71-65.

Looking to remain unbeaten at Luce Field House, the Camels take on Bowdoin (13-3) on Friday at 7:00 p.m. and Colby (9-7) on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. This weekend could truly set Conn on the right path for a great year, and the team hopes to see the entire college community at these games.

CAMEL RECORDS

Women's Basketball
10-6

Women's Hockey
6-6-3

Women's Squash
3-9

Men's Basketball
13-3

Men's Hockey
3-9-3

Men's Squash
6-9

Player of the Week: Hockey Captain Robert Campbell '08

BY STEVE BLOOM '10

staff writer

Robert Campbell '08, from Reading, Massachusetts was named player of the week. Rob is tri-captain of the men's hockey team and recently scored his 34th career goal.

Steve Bloom: How long have you been playing hockey?

Rob Campbell: I have been playing hockey since I was 4 years old. I grew up playing Reading Youth hockey and other select teams. Then I played four years for Reading Memorial High School's varsity, where I was elected captain my senior year. Before Conn, I did a post graduate year at Proctor Academy in Andover, New Hampshire where I continued my hockey career.

SB: As a captain, how do you feel the Conn Men's team has been doing so far this season?

RC: So far, we have been doing just alright. We started our season very strong against #1 Middlebury and Williams and then let up. Thus far, it has been an up and down ride, but I believe that we are coming together as a group. It really doesn't matter how you start, it is how you finish. NESCAC is such a strong, competitive league; any night could be an upset.



Campbell in action on the ice (Gardner)

SB: What was practice like over winter break? How do you feel about having to spend most of the break on campus?

RC: Over winter break we have a lot of double sessions and game tape watching. At times it does get overwhelming, but we keep our focus and make the best of it. Unfortunately, we did have a lot of home games where we wish students were back, but local support and family kept the rink filled.

SB: Does the team spend a lot of time together during this time?

RC: We have team building activities and motivational speakers, which helps tighten our team's connection.

SB: Recently you scored your 34th Connecticut College goal. What does this accomplishment mean to you?

RC: Scoring my 34th goal was a great achievement. I have been able to play with very skilled line mates, which has allowed me to accomplish this. Besides personal goals and points, I would like to lead our team further than we did last year, which was a first round playoff birth.

SB: As a senior, what are plans for the future, in terms of hockey?

RC: For my future, I will continue playing hockey overseas. I believe it will be in Germany in one of their pro leagues, but it could also be in Italy or France. I am extremely happy with this opportunity and believe it is a once in a life time chance.

Got a suggestion for
Player of the Week?

E-mail ccvoice@conncoll.edu

Women's Basketball: A Presence On and Off the Court

BY ABIGAIL MAYER '10

staff writer

With a 10-5 record, the women's basketball team remains self-assured in the face of the competition that lies ahead. This weekend, the team heads up to Maine to face both Bowdoin and Colby.

In her seventh season, head coach Laura Hungerford considers the team chemistry as one of this squad's strongest assets. While many teams were back at Conn over break, the girls traveled to Daytona, Florida. The trip did not just provide an opportunity to practice their skills, but it also allowed the team to bond with and welcome the three incoming freshman—Hayley O'Neil, Cindy Roseen, and Victoria Verrengia.

Beating a competitive Wellesley College team in the Daytona Disney Classic foreshadowed the many successes that would follow. Hungerford laughed and said, "President Higdon came down to our practice to wish us well, and he said not to come home unless we beat Wellesley."

This season, the team has strong senior leadership from its three captains, Maegan Hoover, Lindsay Michel, and Katy Serafin. Hoover noted that "[i]t is hard to have leadership when all of the girls are the same age. It has made a huge difference to have seniors to lead the team."

Hungerford says the team's defensive work matches that of its NESCAC opponents. Offensively, however, the team struggles with consistency on free throws. Despite their troubles at the stripe, Hungerford is confident the team will compete aggressively. Serafin recently achieved the honor of becoming a 1000-point scorer which reflects the amount of talent and depth that this team possesses. "We have many people playing multiple roles," said Hungerford.

The team's work ethic extends beyond the court: the girls received an impressive 13th place ranking in team overall GPA. This year, Michel was honored with a Winthrop Scholarship, which demonstrates that student athletes are not just celebrated for their excellence in sports at Conn.

The team has set many goals for itself—both on and off the court. In order to achieve them, the girls must maintain a high level of intensity during practice. They



Courtside to Seaside (Web)

must also make an effort to have team events off the court. Like many other teams, the chemistry necessary to perform on the court derives from a spirit found elsewhere. Hungerford notes that the returning sophomore players best embody this spirit. "The girls returned with confidence from their first year. They now know what it means to compete at this level."

When the team hosts The Coast Guard Academy on February 5th, the girls will participate in the "Think Pink" initiative which was founded by the Women's Basketball Coaches' Association for breast cancer awareness. Not only will the ladies be donning pink apparel for warm ups, but donations will be collected to go towards the effort.

RORY & CRAIG

continued from page 14

CR: Oh yes! I do editing... I edit at mtvU, so I edit a bunch of shows at mtvU, including some shows *Stand In*, *Backstage Pass*, *Mute or Delete*, and luckily, actually, it was really awesome. Patrick edited the first episode of *Lessons Learned*, but I got to edit the second one with "Good Luck Chuck" and I'm going to be doing future ones as well, which is a great thing because I'm kinda used to editing our stuff for our website and it's fun just to get to work on our comedic timing with editing.

RP: Actually for the stuff for the website, I'm assistant editor—

CR: Rory's definitely assistant editor.

RP: But that's not a paying position at mtvU. So, I do not.

CR: But it's great, it's nice, it's kinda cool to be able to say that for my job I'm able to edit something that we're really apart of. It's really nice, because, you know, in our off time we do videos that are kinda similar to *Lessons Learned* and it's great to say that for a job I get to do something that I really love.

AS: How much control do you guys have over the content of your show and who chooses the films?

CR: I think it kinda varies

RP: Uh...Patrick sorta, so far, has done the original scripts, and then we sorta go over them and make a couple of changes.

CR: And when we're filming sometimes we come up with variations, and sometimes those get in on the edit. When I was editing our "Good Luck Chuck" episode, it was great, I got to choose which takes I thought were the funniest to use, but things needs to get

the go-ahead from executive producers, not just Patrick and myself. So sometimes certain things you think are funny, they don't think are funny, they don't fit in, it's just a matter of point-of-view, so except for stuff taken out for time, but I think nothing, you know, except for stuff that was cut for time, I don't think it's really that I thought was taken out that we've ever been really upset about.

CR: Yeah, mtvU is approached by film companies who want their movie to be put under the Rory and Craig stamp of—

RP: Stamp of—

CR: Stamp of approval.

RP: Well, not approval.

RP: Stamp of display?

CR: I wouldn't even say that. Stamp of—

RP: Stamp of exposition.

CR: Yeah.

AS: What is the creative process like for the show and for your web videos? What inspires you?

CR: I think Rory and I have a pretty similar sensibility, in terms of comedy of humor.

RP: Mm hmm, I would agree.

CR: So what inspires us, I don't know, just hanging around and joking around.

RP: I feel like both of us have had pretty fun or just interesting upbringings or, like, family life, so that, sorta inherently informs your sense of humor.

CR: Yeah, yeah. I think we just grew up, you know, making light of... I think there's nothing I really enjoy more than spending time with friends and joking around, and I think when you can find somebody who creatively you can somehow make that work into a product, uh not a product to sell, but a product that other people can view, it's really a fun thing. That's what I think is great about YouTube

and putting stuff up on our website. Immediately after creating something, I have a way to show friends what I've been up to... Just the fact that it makes people laugh is really a great thing. And, I think Rory and I have been getting pretty involved with the New York comedy, comedy in New York, not just our videos, getting involved with the Upright Citizens Brigade Theater, which has great people, so it's good to meet new people in comedy to kinda expand, and it's great, this is like, for the most part, I think that's why both Rory and I are in New York now.

RP: Yeah, don't tell my mom that though. [laughter]

CR: But it's to get, like I'd love to do comedy for a living. It's like what inspires me is just having fun...

RP: It's not about, in the entertainment industry, you can make a lot of money, but I feel like, I'd say, it's more important, for me, and probably for Craig as well, to be doing something that's enjoyable outright, rather than like, even if it means not making as much money.

CR: Right, even doing the stuff that we do for mtvU, it's not like, "Oh, here's a huge sum of money to do this." It'd be great, but that's just not the reality of it... So, it's great, Rory and I are just starting to perform in New York City pretty often...

AS: Are there any perks to working for mtvU or MTV?

CR: Hell yuck!

RP: Heck one!

CR: Yeah, definitely there are. It's fun, I mean we got to go to an awards show two weeks ago, mtvU's Woodie Awards, which was awesome.

RP: It's really fun to see how an event like that plays out, like, while you're there.

CR: I wrote a blog about

it on our website...but working for MTV is great! They have a soda machine—

RP: Free soda...

CR: I don't usually drink soda, when I'm editing, sometimes when three o'clock hits, and I'm really tired...

RP: If you don't like soda you can get water.

CR: Oh, that's usually what I drink.

RP: And there's piles and piles of mediocre cds.

CR: Yes, I'm actually holding one in my hands, this isn't actually mediocre, though, it's—

RP: No, sometimes there's gems...

CR: Any other perks? I think just the people there, they're really nice.

RP: I mean, you watch MTV when you're a kid, it's, you know--

CR: I think mtvU's a little different because it still shows a lot of videos and they're trying to get new artists kinda exposure

RP: It's kinda like working at MTV in the eighties. Or I assume. [laughter]

CR: Which we have no idea. I think, probably, less drugs but, all the people that work there are really young... It's great to be surrounded by talented people.

AS: How has the transition from Conn to professional life been?

RP: This is a pretty heavy question...I had a pretty long transition into, like, getting where I want to be...I moved home for awhile, and had a couple different jobs in my hometown substitute teaching in schools that I used to go to, which was a lotta fun...Saving up money to move to New York, which was what I wanted to do. And now I'm finally here, and working in graphic design, which is what I majored in at Connecticut College. So, it took about a year or so, but it was not too bad.

CR: The transition was pretty quick for me, I grew up just outside of New York City, and I spent the last summer, between junior and senior year, interning in the city, living in the city, so when I graduated I just immediately jumped into living in the city, staying in a friend's apartment, looking for jobs and for apartments, which happened really quick, you know by August after may graduation... one of the real reasons I wanted to be in New York was I wanted to do comedy here and that also started pretty quickly...I had been taking classes at Upright Citizens Brigade, which I don't know if we really explained the improv theater in New York City, probably, I think one of the best ones out there is, I met people there, joined a couple improv groups, joined a group at the theater as well, so I perform pretty regularly at the theater, and the transition took maybe a little while to get settled, but I kinda ran out of school, knew what I wanted to do, just focused to get that done, and luckily with a little bit persistence, fit into place. You know, Rory and I, we're not exactly where we wanted to be, we're definitely on the way to doing stuff the way we want to. We do stuff outside of work that we enjoy...

AS: Any advice for students who want to get into the entertainment industry?

RP: Well I think, sorta similar to what we said: if you wanna do something, like, stick to it. Like, it doesn't, you don't necessarily have to be the most talented person or the best person in your classes, but whatever, but the tenacity and the stick-to-it-ness are, like, the important things, you know?

CR: One of my favorite comedians, Ian Roberts, who's a big improviser, I read an interview with him, and he just said that make sure when you're stating off, you say yes to everything. You know, if somebody asks you, can you help on the weekend on this short film, and someone asks you can you work on this short film over the weekend, do it there's no reason, if you really are interested in something, if you really want to meet the type of people that you want to work with and the only way to do that is to really be active immediately, there's no point in saying you want to break into something and then not actually making the full strides to do that.

RP: Nothing is gonna fall into your lap, you have to go out and get it...it's like that t-shirt that says, "I always feel like I have the best luck when I work the hardest."

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BY JASON STARR '09

sports editor



The New England Patriots did not play their best against the Chargers, but you have to be crazy not to pick them to win the Super Bowl. I don't want to take anything away from the New York Giants who have been phenomenal over the past four weeks—especially after they stunned the sports world by winning in Tampa Bay, Dallas, and Green Bay—but the Pats are in a league of their own.

Some believe that the Giants will keep the game close or even win because they nearly beat the Pats during the regular season. Even though the Pats only won by three points (38-35), this rematch will not be nearly as close. Although Eli was spectacular, that game was only close for two reasons—neither of which will present problems for the Super Bowl.

The Patriots took the lead at the start of the second quarter when Tom Brady threw a four yard touchdown pass to Randy Moss, and it appeared that the Pats had gained all the momentum. But the Pats were penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct immediately following the score. The referees considered Moss' touchdown celebration to be excessive, and the Pats had to kick off from 15 yards further back.

This penalty was rather questionable because it did not appear that Moss had acted inappropriately, and it had an immediate and drastic consequence: Domenik Hixon returned the short kick for a touchdown. The Pats had lost both the lead as well as their momentum because of that penalty, and they would have won in a more convincing fashion if it hadn't been called—which it shouldn't have been.

This first factor was rather circum-

stantial, but the second reason is much more substantive. The Pats were playing without their starting right guard, Stephen Neal, as well as their right tackle, Nick Kazur. Although Brady was only sacked once, the Giants defense harassed him throughout the game.

The absence of Neal and Kazur allowed Osi Umenyiora and Fred Robbins to put pressure on Brady and wreak havoc in the backfield on nearly every play. Brady normally completes a high percentage of his passes because his offensive line usually provides him with enough time to make perfect throws. The Patriots were stopped three times in Giant territory and were forced to kick field goals. If Neal and Kazur were healthy, Brady would have had more time in the pocket, and those three field goals could have easily been three touchdowns.

Neal and Kazur have recovered from their injuries, and they made key contributions in the games against Jacksonville and San Diego. The offensive line enabled the Pats to advance to the Super Bowl. Brady got excellent protection against Jacksonville, and he completed 26 of his 28 passes. Although Brady did not play very well against San Diego, the offensive line created many holes for running back Lawrence Maroney who ran for 122 yards.

Unlike last time, the offensive line will be healthy, and the Pats simply have too many weapons for any defense to handle. The Giants could not contain Randy Moss or Wes Welker during the regular season, and they won't be able to stop them in the Super Bowl. If the Giants double Moss, either Welker, Donte' Stallworth, or Jabar Gaffeny will be open. Maroney or Kevin Faulk will make several big plays out of the backfield as well.

An 18-1 record will be still be historic, but a loss is absolutely unacceptable. If the Patriots win the Super Bowl, they will undoubtedly be the greatest team ever. It won't be a blow out, but it is not going to be close.



Giants: 1,000,000 - Patriots: 0

BY BEN EAGLE '09

sports editor



It is third and long. On the scoreboard, the Giants are down by a considerable amount. No one in the crowd seems surprised though; the opposing team is heavily favored. The quarterback lines up behind center with a look in his eyes that says, "I know something no one else does." And what is this moment of clarity the quarterback is experiencing? Despite the odds being largely stacked against the Giants' quarterback, his team will win the game.

While the aforementioned scene may sound like the fantasies of a Giants fan during upcoming Super Bowl Sunday, it is actually a scene from one of the greatest upsets in sports history; a little upset known as *Little Giants*.

For those of you unfamiliar with the best Pee-Wee Football flick to ever grace the silver screen, here is a quick synopsis. Danny O'Shea (played brilliantly by Rick Moranis in his best role since *Bosom Buddies*) is a gas station attendant in the small town of Urbana, Ohio. When Danny's daughter, Becky "Icebox" O'Shea is cut from the local Pee-Wee team because she is a girl, Danny is convinced to coach a rival team made up of misfits and castoffs. Though the odds are heavily stacked against them, the team of misfits (known as the Giants) win the game using a trick play called "The Annexation of Puerto Rico."

Now what can the Big Giants learn from these Little Giants. While it certainly will take more than childish, illegal antics to beat the juggernaut that is the Patriots, the Giants can use these antics as a model for victory.

In the first quarter, with the Giants on defense, Rudy Zoletock, a defensive tackle, passes gas, which incapacitates the rival team's entire offensive line. Though flatulence won't be a part of the Big Giants' game plan, if they are going to have any chance against the Patriots their pass rush must be spot on. Led by Michael Strahan (nine sacks) and Osi Umenyiora (thirteen sacks), the Giants' pass rush has helped this defense compensate for a secondary that has been both banged up and ineffective. The Patriots' Tom Brady set the single season record for passing touchdowns (50), and they will not be afraid to throw against the Giants. If the Giants can find a way to put Brady on his back, they may have a chance.

In the second quarter, after dropping multiple passes throughout the game, the

Giants' wide-out known only as Hanon, puts stick-em on his hands to better secure balls. While stick-em would certainly be illegal in the NFL, the principal is the same: You can't drop passes and win a football game. For the big Giants and their stellar receiver, Plaxico Buresss, this does not seem to be a problem. Plaxico proved he could be the go-to-guy when it mattered with a recent eleven catch, 151 yards performance in the NFC Championship game. If Burress can use his size advantage against cornerback Asante Samuel to break a couple big plays, it would perfectly compliment the last weapon the Giants have against the Patriots: their running game.



"You can't pitch to Johnny," halfback Johnny Vennaro says. "I'm Johnny!" Despite his protests, Vennaro receives the ball on a halfback sweep and promptly takes into the back of the end zone for six. Hopefully, the larger Giants will not receive similar protests when they call on their backs, Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw, to carry the load. These two have been carrying the Giants through the playoffs. Bradshaw leads the team in rushing with 163 yards, and Jacobs is not far behind with 155 yards. More important than these statistics, however, is the effect a solid running game has on the pace of a game. If your team can consistently run the ball, it can wear down an opposing team's defense as well as keep their offense off the field. So far this post season, the Giants have won the clock battle—outpacing their opponents with a 32:20 time of possession versus 28:31 for their opponents. One of the best ways to stop a great offense is to keep them off the field.

While the *Little Giants* won on a prayer known as the "Annexation of Puerto Rico," I'm not sure the Larger Giants will be so lucky. The talent is there, however, and if they keep to the dictums listed above they may have a chance.

Photos: Web.

Big Events for Climate Change

By Alex Krogh-Grabbe '08



Focus the Nation is this Thursday! In case you haven't heard yet, Focus the Nation is a national day of discussion about climate change solutions happening at approximately 1500 colleges and universities around the country. It's going to be a wonderful event, and all the events are free. Here's the schedule:

On Wednesday at 7:45 pm, we're screening the live webcast "The 2% Solution" in Bill 106. In order to achieve the "80% by 2050" targets for reducing carbon emissions, we need to make approximately 2% reductions each year. The webcast is going to be *amazing* with a bunch of really cool climate experts (including Van Jones) and Edward Norton. There will even be text-message voting.

The main bulk of our events are during the day on Thursday. In each of the five standard class blocks from 9am - 4pm, there will be a panel discussion with faculty and some outside speakers. The topics and panelists are on the Focus the Nation Facebook event, but essentially (and in order) they are: Sustainable Cities, Sustainable Food, Climate Effects on Nature, Green Building, and China & India. There are great panelists and dedicated student moderators, as well. Come learn some really interesting facts and support your classmates!

The final segment of the event is a talk co-sponsored by the Education department and the Goodwin-Niering Center at 7:00 pm Thursday night. The speaker is Dr. Greg Cajete, Director of the Native American Studies program at the University of New Mexico. He'll be speaking on ecological education from an indigenous perspective. This event is located in Blaustein (refer to the Facebook event for more details).

There are a number of other initiatives that are part of the national event which we aren't hosting here, involving a project called Choose Your Future, where you can vote on the solutions you think are best for solving the climate crisis. The results of that will be used to influence the political discussion on environmental issues.

Finally, remember to vote in your state's primary if you still can (and if you aren't registered then GET GOING) or send in your absentee ballot. This is a crucial presidential election, and the primary is a very big deal, in which the course of both parties' future will be influenced one way or another. Get active! Make your voice heard! Shuffle off the apathetic coil! By shedding our generation's apathy and influencing this election, we can really gain a lot of respect.

More information about Focus the Nation can be found at <http://www.focusthenation.org>, and this and all other environmental news from Conn is online at <http://conncollgreen.wordpress.com>.

Why I Support Barack Obama

By Adrian Stover '08



American politics are often defined by the voter choosing the perceived lesser of two evils. It is always a compromise and it is never a clear vision as to who should lead this nation of 300 million people. While it would be easy to sink into a relative state of apathy about the election process, as many of us choose to do, there

are those who have become excited about it simply because of one man: Barack Obama. The fanatical devotion that a person can develop towards a celebrated figure of public life arouses within me certain *unpleasant* emotions. It is as if I fear that this hysteria will somehow infect my treasured and rational cognitive faculties. Yet, I too can sense the excitement surrounding this man from deep within the dark confines of the college "bubble." While there are many qualities about him that I like, there is one that I particularly admire. It has to do with an issue almost every candidate so far has shied away from in the debates: the Iraq War.

Whether one believes it was just to invade Iraq in 2003, the general consensus of the public seems to be that it has been badly managed and that it is not beneficial for relations with the rest of the world. Candidates refuse to discuss it because it is a fine line to walk if one wants to appear firm on national security, but, at the same time, also acknowledge that the war needs to end. It is the candidates' intentions to straddle the fence and winning as many voters as possible. The parallels between the political environment surrounding the ongoing wars in 1968 and 2008 are one interesting aspect of this election. During the former, one recalls that Richard Nixon promised to end America's unpleasant war in Vietnam. However, many important historians will say Nixon kept the war going, with the help of Henry Kissinger, in order to appease moderate and conservative voters and win the next election of 1972. "Tricky Dick" was very tricky indeed. What the American people have to fear most in the aftermath of the election this year is that the person elected to power will employ a strategy similar to one previously mentioned. This would be a candidate who would ruthlessly keep the war going in an attempt to stay in power. I would not put it past Clinton, Edwards, Romney, Huckabee, Giuliani, Thompson, or McCain (who seems to love war more than life itself) to carry a plan as devious as this. However, with his strong anti-war voting record, Obama seems like the least likely candidate to do this.

Within this platform is a quality that some of the greatest American presidents have shared. This is the willingness to support a cause that is morally just, despite the range of popular opinion. There are historic examples of American presidents who have recognized their responsibility to their people to implement what is morally correct, namely Abraham Lincoln's opposition of the Mexican War during his first term in the senate and Franklin Roosevelt introduction of a kind of socialism to save our democracy during the Great Depression. Obama possesses this quality and is the candidate who can end our five year-long nightmare in Iraq.

Right Strokes For Conn Folks

By John Swig '08



Does it mean anything if a guy falls asleep during sex?
—Mandy

It doesn't mean anything. Many girls think that a guy falling asleep during sex is indicative of something bad. The truth is that sometimes you get tired and want to sleep regardless of the task at

hand. Unlike what most people believe, brain function does not always control the penis. Likewise, the penis doesn't always control the brain; they work in a parallel circuit which results in a common phenomenon known as "morning wood."

What is the best pick up line to use?

Many advocate that something like, "Hi, what is your name?" is an extremely effective line. The truth is that it lacks the panache of something like, "Are you tired? Because you've been running through my mind all day." While bakery and deli-themed pick up lines are popular, the oven/bun/ham/meat/dad connection is too easy and usually leaves the recipient wanting something more.

Lines like, "Is there a mirror in your pants? Because I can see myself in them!" have strength in their directness, but can also be their faults. It is also possible to punch up the sauciness and success of the line by ask-

ing if they have a compound array mirror in their pants and then stating that you ask because you can see yourself in them multiple times. But lines like "The only thing your eyes haven't told me is your name," aren't the only effective ones.

Science based ones like "If I were an enzyme, I would be a DNA helicase so I could unzip your genes" or "The second law of thermodynamics states you are meant to share your hotness with me," also work well.

What are "hungry eyes"?

Hungry eyes are similar to game face. At the basics, both involve a look given that states "I would like to ravage you." Game face leaves no question what the person's intent is, whereas hungry eyes mean that they actually look hungry; possibly for a cake or possibly for...

Does it really happen to every guy? - Robby

So I've been told, but I haven't been able to get the hard facts. Some girls report yes and some report no. There is also the question of how many men are actually just faking an erection to make the girl happy.

It's Not a Brand Name, it's an Onomatopoeia

By Ian Barnes '09



I often wonder if I'm going to die alone and if so, when. I recently discovered the answer to both these questions. Yes and soon. Our world is in peril and I seem to be the only one who notices the dire threat we face.

Every single day of my life, I walk around waiting for the light in the universe to go out. It won't be long before the four horsemen show up and start doing whatever it is they do. I'm not talking about global warming or another plague. I'm talking about Uggs - the greatest danger to civilization since Sonny met Cher.

We live in constant fear of nuclear or chemical attacks, but not once have we stopped to consider the potential social devastation that a horde of idiotic women with an aberrant sense of fashion could inflict.

The words "Mass Extinction Event" come to mind.

Now, I'm aware that I'm not exactly the poster child for fashion - steel-toed boots aren't really a yardstick of elegance. However, the difference lies in the fact that my boots don't sow hopelessness and despair wherever I go. If the Uggs epidemic continues to spread, we will face two severe consequences.

Firstly, the nightmare children spawned by the wearers of Uggs will be irreparably damaged and unable to contribute to society because it's hard to raise children properly when you're stupid. Secondly, I may eventually kill myself because I'll be too depressed to do anything else.

Why am I talking about Uggs? Because the fate of the human race may be at stake and I'm scared.

To put it simply, this is all about evolution. We don't need fossil records or any fancy science to prove its validity. Uggs are all the evidence needed to successful-

ly show that some of us have reached a higher plane of existence than others. Or perhaps rather it's that some of you have simply evolved at a slower rate and the portion of your brain that controls how you perceive the world is not fully developed.

If this seems marginally arrogant, you're looking at it too pessimistically. It's not that some of us are better or somehow superior. Who do you think I am, Hitler? No one is superior because we're all failures; that's what happens when you die. You fail. Rather, some of us just suck less than others on the way to that inevitable failure.

I guess I should admit the real source of my terror isn't the existence and popularity of Uggs, it's the implications put forth by them. What does it say about the state of the human race when we're failing at boots?

Law & Order

By Jacques Swartz '09

This past week, the '09 Class President sent out an email saying, among other things, that "there has been discussion about the lack of interest in the housefellow position which might result in allowing juniors to be housefellows." He then went on to say "TO PREVENT THIS, I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPLY for housefellow if you are or have been considering the position."

First thing to note here is of course there's a lack of interest in becoming a Housefellow. Being a Housefellow is a virtually thankless job. That they manage to get 20 or so kids to do it every year is a miracle by itself. Firstly, you're placed under considerably greater judicial scrutiny, particularly with respect to our school's asinine substance abuse regulations - e.g. if you, a 21-year old, are sitting in your room drinking a beer in the company of a person under 21, you are, legally-speaking, liable for punitive measures. Beyond even that, then you as a Housefellow are charged with enforcing and subjecting others to these same asinine regulations, otherwise you get in trouble! In other words, you get the esteemed privilege of having to monitor, regulate and take responsibility for the legal choices of others. Worst still is when you're "Doing Rounds," i.e. when you're commanded to patrol the campus as a *de facto* campus safety officer and look for rule-breakers. Is anybody jumping up to apply yet?

I'm sure ResLife and many of the Housefellows themselves would tell you that the job also entails taking an active role in the cohesion of the House, in the wellbeing of your residents and in the

general acclimation of all to the ups and downs of collegiate living. I don't disagree, and this is clearly the most positive aspect of the position. However it should be noted that there are certainly no punitive measures to be leveled if you do none of these things. When was the last time a HF was fired because their residents didn't value them as an asset to the unity and right functioning of the House? Hell, when was the last time you, as a resident, were even offered the opportunity to provide any feedback at all to any administrative body about how your Housefellow was doing? As a HF, you can fail utterly at everything positive your job entails and STILL get to keep it, provided you're not caught in the act doing tequila shooters with the freshmen. There are even rumors that the Laz Housefellow tried to resign and ResLife wouldn't let him. I guess that's an upside - solid job security.

Now, just so we're all clear, I respect and admire every Housefellow who's managed being put under duress by the school to baby-sit its students and can still forge productive, meaningful relationships with residents. Two examples that come to mind are the current Housefellows of JA and Harkness, both of whom monitor notoriously problematic dorms, and both of whom seem to be loved and trusted by many of their residents. This is obviously the model. Though I only know one of them personally, and casually at that, it strikes me that they've been successful at achieving this because they've earned the respect of those they're charged with monitoring. This stands in sharp contrast to those Housefellows who use their positions to

level threats via mass email, or whom enjoy self-righteous moralizing when concerns are raised about judicial proceedings.

This brings me to the second problem with this issue. What's so bad, I ask, about juniors being Housefellows? No junior is any more or less likely to become power-hungry and arbitrary, nor more or less likely to be well-organized and nurturing, than any senior. Friends I've discussed this with say nobody would listen to a junior. Does that mean people listen to the seniors who are Housefellows now? Surely not - at least, not always. In the end, as above, it comes down to whether you've earned the trust of the people you're governing, or if you've alienated them all by being an asshole. Class year doesn't dictate which side of this equation a given candidate will fall on. Now, I'm not saying that juniors *should* be Housefellows, I'm just saying that it wouldn't necessarily be catastrophic if they were. After all, if nobody else wants to do it, why shouldn't they be allowed to try?

And why do people become Housefellows, anyways? Given that you are basically required by the school to "be the bad guy" on a pretty regular basis, and given that it's not only conceivable but demonstrably possible to be at the cohesive core of a given House without being its Housefellow - for example, a dorm's Governor - one has to conclude that a pretty strong incentive must be the fact that you're lodged for free in an enormous room and paid better than anyone else on campus. Now, I don't mean to imply that *all* Housefellows are in it for the money. And, what's more, it's totally fair to be compensated monetarily for giving substantial weekly hours in service of the office of Student Life. But when you get Housefellows whose singular involve-

ment in governing the House is to act as a disciplinarian, then there doesn't seem to be much evidence that they're in it to be a helpful and supportive resource for the community, is there? What then?

Ok, ResLife, you want more people to apply to be Housefellows? Then the time has come to change the job description. As it stands, the school calls on the HFs to take an unreasonable and totally counterproductive amount of responsibility for the actions of the residents. Policing the students *hasn't* been proven to prevent trips to the hospitals, more regulations *haven't* reduced binge drinking or dorm damages. If a freshman in the basement takes a pint of Captain Morgan's to the face, then *he* is an idiot, and the blame should rest on *him*, not anybody else. It's a matter between him and the Law, not the Housefellows. Commanding the Housefellows to act as disciplinarians is divisive between student and student. It causes discord within houses and irrevocably distances the HF from those they are supposed to support and foster a sense of trust with. A Housefellow's first responsibility should be to the residents, not to the administration. If you were told that Person X would lose their livelihood and housing if they failed to report to the authorities that you were doing something completely harmless but technically illegal, would you trust them? Apparently ResLife also thinks "there is not enough leadership, programming, and student 'staff' within each house". If Leadership and Programming is missing from the Houses, it's because its been replaced by Law and Order (or something like it). Loose the Housefellows of their burdensome responsibilities to enforcement, and they'll be freed to program and lead, unfettered. Maybe then someone will actually want the job.

From Conn to mtvU

An Interview with Rory & Craig from *Lessons Learned*

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief

Areti Sakellaris: How did lessons learn start? Whose idea was it?

Rory Panatagopoulos '06: Well, it's kinda a long back-story. I don't know if we should go into that.

Craig Rowin '06: Yeah, I guess... Rory and I started making videos our senior year of college--

RP: Yep. We bought a web domain--

CR: We bought a website, www.roryandcraig.com, and the only way to we could justify actually spending any money on it was to make videos, to put them up, this is about when we found out about YouTube--

RP: Which was really convenient--

CR: Which was really good for us. So we started making short videos, some with just us, some with some friends from Scuds, which was the improv group we were both in, that still exists on campus, and eh, so we put those up online. After senior year, we still have the website up, we're still making some silly videos--

RP: Well, no, cause Craig was able to move New York after graduation, where I was living at home for awhile--

CR: In Boston.

RP: In Boston. So it was sorta the doldrums.

CR: Yeah, so we actually weren't making videos that often, but luckily this great guy, Steve Schitzmen, from mtvU, his job is basically to search for talent online, and he found our website--

RP: Which is a bereft of--bereft? No that means "without"

CR: A bereft?

RP: No, bereft means "without." So it was like, engorged with talent.

CR: Yeah, our website was engorged with talent, us. So, he found our stuff on YouTube and on our site, and he got in contact with us, and he asked to put up a little video, that I had made, on the show called *Fresh Produce*, which featured short videos from college students. So I obviously jumped at that chance, and that video went up on that TV show, and it aired on mtvU, which, you know, plays on college campuses and on the Internet. That happened. I was working in New York, and Rory was still in Boston, or outside Boston, living at home. Lame... We put that up, you know, just kinda forgot about. Then around November, December last year--

RP: Yeah, I was still doing my internship at the Museum of Science in Boston, which ended in the end of December.

CR: That was Rory working in the museum in Boston. We got a call from Steve again, and he asked if we would be

interested in creating a sketch, a video sketch with a couple of producers from mtvU. He asked if we were interested in doing a comedy sketch for a specific show, it was basically like a little, what they call integration, so it was kinda like an advertisement sketch.

RP: And Craig found out about this, and was going to meet with the people and he called me and I was in Costco with my mom at the time.

CR: Yeah, it was crazy. I had a day job that I didn't really like, and I was just freaking out, but you know, looking back it isn't the biggest deal, but it's like really, really exciting to be asked by a, you know, like TV channel to create a sketch with some producers. Sorta freaking out, I was at work, like hiding in the back, like calling Rory, like calling back and forth with the producers. So this was like on a Thursday or Friday

RP: Yeah, cause I didn't work Thursday or Fridays.

CR: Yeah, right. And then Rory, so they wanted us to film on Monday. So I was like Rory, we have to do this, this is something that we have to do. So, Rory came down that Sunday to New York, and the next day, we produced the sketch.

RP: Wait, I think this is getting a little off-track here, but I think it was a Thursday, that I came, I think we shot on a Friday--

CR: No.

RP: Oh maybe I just came down on Thursday night cause I skipped trivia night, which was like my big Thursday night.

CR: Rory loves trivia night, put that in there if you can. So, anyways, we filmed this sketch, and it was like a little video that can still be seen, there's a link on our website of Rory, we're college friends, and Rory's trying to find me and he uses his phone to find me, and I turn into, we were like great friends and I end up being like a goth guy, a guy with thick makeup and it surprises Rory. So it was really fun to shoot.

RP: Yeah, we don't have anything against goth--

CR: We love goth--

RP: Culture or anything.

CR: Yeah, we love Marilyn Manson's first four albums [they] are really good. The key part to this whole thing, which gets to the heart of the question, which is kinda a long answer to the first question--

CR: But basically, this guy the production for mtvU, basically a production assistant and they basically do all the work for themselves for these specific shows, so this guy, who is a production assistant at the time named Patrick, we really got along with him, he's a great



Check out Rory & Craig's online video projects
at www.roryandcraig.com

guy, and basically after this sketch, I quit my job and started freelance, freelance editing for mtvU, so I'm an editor for mtvU now and I've been going on and off doing editing since last year, since like May. So I'm friends with this guy Patrick, and Rory and I had wanted to do another show for mtvU

RP: Yeah, and in the mean time, eventually, last summer I was able to move to New York.

CR: Rory moved to New York, which was a big move, and probably one of the reasons so we could work together... We had even pitched, this is still last summer, we had even pitched an idea for a show to mtvU, it was a show different from *Lessons Learned*--

RP: It was sorta like a *Dirty Jobs* type thing.

CR: Where we go to different campuses, and try to do a different job on campus, like work with physical plant...

RP: They didn't immediately reject our idea...

CR: And then the next week, my-- Patrick gives us a call, calls me, he goes, "Craig, I've just been given," he had been given a promotion, and says "Craig, I'm in charge of this new show, *Lessons Learned*, we talk about new movies coming out, and I said the way I do it is if Rory and Craig host it." Guess what? We were pretty excited about that.

RP: We were pretty excited about that.

CR: We pretty much freaked out, Rory and I. We danced.

RP: And hugged

CR: We danced and hugged in an apartment, in our friend's apartment, where

we were. This is not a joke, Rory was living at my friend's apartment where we were, and we were just freaking out. Really excited, I called my parents way too late to tell them.

RP: Well, cause see I know my parents are a little bit wild and would probably be up, it was like 11 o'clock, so I called them, and they were like "Wow, that's great. Eeh thanks. And Craig was like, "Yeah, I should call my parents too" and--

CR: It was not as successful, my mom was asleep and she's like "What?" But she's really excited, but it was hard for her to go back to sleep. So that's how we started the show. So we got to work with Patrick. Patrick has written most of the episodes.

RP: He's a really talented guy. It was great.

CR: He's a really talented guy... It wasn't originally our idea...

RP: It was Patrick's but--

CR: But Rory had also thought of another idea really similar, so it sorta meshed with our sensibility.

AS: Do you travel to different campuses or do you focus on NYC?

CR: So far, NYC.

RP: Yeah, and I think that's sorta the general mood for mtvU.

AS: Do you do any of your own editing?

CR: Yes.

RP: HURRAH! [laughter]

SEE RORY & CRAIG

continued on page 10

TV Is Good For Me

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08

editor-in-chief



Some people took advantage of our five week-long winter break to do some traveling or something remarkably productive with their free time. I didn't. When asked about my break, I can only say one thing, "It was incredibly boring."

But, I discovered something about myself that I had been denying for so long because in the liberal arts atmosphere, it is generally frowned upon by those who are intellectual and progressive.

I really like television. I love being entertained. This is considered by most to be lazy and unmotivated because many see it as sitting blankly in front of the TV for an unspecified amount of time. This is not *entirely* true. In my case, it also involved making deliberate choices, like deciding what kind of mood I am in and organizing my time productively so I can go to the video store to rent a television show and catch all my favorite Food Network programs.

The merits of television are great if you see it as an artistic medium. To create a show that can span as many as ten seasons of original content is very difficult. I cannot imagine the first thing that goes into creating a good television show, but I know which shows are very good. It is important to have characters that develop over time, and that each character has a continual, progressing story arc. It is vastly more complicated to create an excellent television show than it is to make a great movie *because* the time from the beginning to the end of the series is indefinite, so things have to constantly develop and change. Bottom line, you have to keep it inter-

esting.

This theory applies to your general fictional TV show, and there are only a few of those shows that I really appreciate. Over winter break, I watched the entire series of *Arrested Development*, *Freaks and Geeks*, *Undeclared*, and *30 Rock*. What all these shows have are episodes that are both thematically innovative and creative, and they are character-driven. The people in these shows are the most important aspect; each character is well-developed and essential to the overall success of the show. Obviously, I value humor, and these shows are exceptionally funny – characters, plot, jokes, setting, dialogue, everything.

It may look like most of my time is eaten up by these shows, but I had plenty of time for the other side of television: the reality realm. No, I did not watch the season premiere of *Rock of Love II*. It was all about *Project Runway* and my cooking shows. The Food Network is a remarkable channel because watching people cook *seems* boring, but it really isn't. If you enjoy food, then seeing how it's made is equally enjoyable. Watching *The Food Network* is a great way to unwind because most of the hosts have a very soothing presence, aside from Rachael Ray, and it's comforting to listen and watch them do their thing in the kitchen.

People have already written about the wonderful creativity and drama of *Project Runway*, so I won't reiterate. The show is so interesting to me because, like *The Food Network*, it is all about the process. I love seeing how things get made, and how a piece of cloth can be turned into an extravagant, creative garment. And speaking of soothing voices, Tim Gunn is like an angel sent from heaven to sing me lullabies.

Dude, Where's my Couture?

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief



Before the hype and hoopla of New York Fashion Week erupts and flows to London, Milan, and Paris, there is couture—glorious gowns floating like ethereal creations. The couture season is not geared to major celebrities sitting front row and rubbing up with designers at after-parties. Rather, couture allows master artisans to demonstrate the height of fashion as an art form. It retains a mystique because though the shows are extravagant, couture is about flourishes and a designer's finesse. According to Karl Lagerfeld, creative director of Chanel, regular couture clients do not even feel the need to attend the shows. Moreover, he adds, if they spot a couture gown on the red carpet, they will likely cancel their private commission of the same outfit.

Couture is the big leagues. Tiny and trim, the newest couture clients are women in their 20s and 30s from Russia and the Middle East. With swiftly emerging luxury markets and increasing wealth, these regions may significantly help keep couture alive.

Fashion great Valentino Garavani took his final bow after a 45-year career. On the heels of his marvelous celebration in July, Valentino's couture show was an extended presentation of 74 ensembles. Instead of a retrospective, the show featured both classic looks and of-the-moment ones. The unmistakable Valentino red, chiffon gowns, sassy bows, floral, lace, and ruffles were included. Valentino ended the show with a standing ovation in front of personal friends and ones in the industry with tears in his eyes, but

the sentiment was not trite. Alessandra Facchinetti, formerly of Gucci, will carry the torch for the house of Valentino.

John Galliano's presentation for Christian Dior couture was an invitation to participate in the art of seduction. Galliano's starting point was the legendary *Madame X* portrait by John Singer Sargent. Galliano evoked her black gown with the velvet and chiffon dressing the set and the dark water trickling down pyramids mirrored her graceful pose. The show was anything but a presentation of black dresses, as Galliano's first mademoiselle stepped out in an embroidered lime green kimono-sleeve jacket and nipped skirt. With her black magic, she was a serpent beckoning with glitter-covered eyes to enter Galliano's garden of temptresses in teal, canary yellow, and cranberry satin and silk organza.

Lagerfeld marked his 25th anniversary at Chanel by sweeping the audience out to sea. Models emerged from within an enormous mock-coat in the center of the stage, looking like the nymphs of Greek mythology. The classic bouclé coats featured buttons like shells, but a body skimming silhouette mimicking gliding water was featured instead of the boxy coats the house is known for. The swept coils and neutral colors of the chiffons and wools emulated Coco Chanel's easy style.

Riccardo Tisci, still new at the helm of Givenchy, is moving towards a so-called "Gothic Ballerina" look. The young designer means to conflate the complicated with the simple, the graphic with the fitted, and exotic feathers with tulle. With his simple palette of barely-there colors, black, and white, Tisci is coming into his own at Givenchy with a personal vision for the couture house.

Guitar Hero: For the Passionate Or the Lazy?

BY GABRIELLA GEISINGER '11

staff writer

Video games are the great connector between most males across a wide age range. *Guitar Hero* seems to be the bridge between gender and age, bringing people together through something they love-- music. But is the game inspiring love for music? Or is it replacing the desire to really learn to play guitar with a remote control?

Guitar Hero involves matching a certain colored "fret" on the controller with the corresponding notes on the screen - but most people know this already. The third and latest incarnation of the game has a decent selection of music, ranging from songs by Metallica, Dragonforce, and Slip Knot, to more classic rock with Alice Cooper, Heart, and Foghat - and the Red Hot Chili Peppers thrown in for good measure.

The game itself is enjoyable for almost everyone,

whether they have musical talent or not. Yet it raises the possibility of a new age of music through video games that might someday replace the passion for playing real music with real instruments.

My personal experience with *Guitar Hero* started while I was playing my electric guitar, watching my brother play the game. I was quickly sucked into the video game, but when I'd successfully mastered the "easy" level, I felt the urge to make real music. The game didn't feel like a substitute for actual creativity, just a fun way to enjoy music with friends and family. For those who are disinclined to play real music, the game is "mindlessly fun to do" (says a Conn freshman), and just so happens to be set to an awesome soundtrack.

However, for younger children it holds the same danger that many believe violent war video games present-- the ability to shape and change children's beliefs and passions. Coupled with the recent decline

of music programs in most public schools, the ability for a child to begin playing a musical instrument is waning. The growing presence of video games in the day-to-day life of young teenagers doesn't help engage them in creative or physical activity. Either *Guitar Hero* is an attempt to bring music into the lives of kids who wouldn't have it, or it is really just another mindless game that is purely meant to get you hooked. Unfortunately, the latter seems like the more plausible option.

Therefore, is the game really worth it? If the money going into making it could be put towards music programs in public urban schools, wouldn't the benefits be much greater? Of course. But is it likely to happen? I think you can answer that for yourselves.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5

WEDNESDAY

MEETING
SATA Paris Fall '08 Information Session
4:30 PM Faculty Lounge, Blaustein

EVENT
Focus the Nation
7:30 PM Crozier-Williams Student Center

THURSDAY

LECTURE
"Tea and Sympathy of Word and Image:
Rengetsu's Intermedia Art-Texts"
A talk and discussion will be presented by
Sayumi Takahashi in Blaustein 211. 5-6
p.m.

FRIDAY

EVENT
Black History Month Photo Exhibit
4:00 PM Unity House

SPORTS
Women's Basketball - Tufts University
AT 7:00 PM Luce Fieldhouse

Women's Ice Hockey - Wesleyan University
AT 7:00 PM Dayton Arena

CONCERT
Matt Nathanson and Ingrid Michaelson at
Toad's Place in New Haven
Doors: 8:00
Show: 9:15

Neko Case and Eric Bachmann at Lupo's in
Providence
Doors at 8, show at 9

SATURDAY

SPORTS
Women's Basketball - Bates College
AT 3:00 PM Luce Fieldhouse

Women's Ice Hockey - Hamilton College
AT 3:30 PM Dayton Arena

CONCERT
9:30P
Total Bolsheviks and Robot Dick
@ The Oasis in New London

EVENT
WINTER FORMAL
10:00 PM Crozier-Williams Student Center



Don't miss Women's Hockey at Dayton Arena this week (Schuerhoff '10)

SUNDAY

RELIGIOUS SERVICE
Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry
P 6:00 PM Harkness Chapel, Room 12

MONDAY

FITNESS
Personal Trainer
12:00 PM Fitness Center

EVENT
Black History Month Convocation
4:00 PM Harkness Chapel

LECTURE
Anticipating the Tsunami: Selecting the
2008 Presidential Nominees ...In February
4:30 PM Ernst Common Room

TUESDAY

LECTURE
A Survivor of Sexual Assault Speaks Out
11:45 AM Olin Hall, Room 113

FITNESS
Community Yoga Class
5:30 PM 1941 Room

LECTURE
Following in the footsteps of Dinosaurs: The
Age of Dinosaurs in the Connecticut Valley
7:00 PM New London Hall, Room 110



Women's Hockey gearing up for a double-header this week (Schuerhoff '10)