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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2008

## No Middle Ground for Middle East Studies

BY GOZDE ERDENIZ '08 & KASEY LUM '11

news editor & staff writer

In the post-Cold War era, the Middle East has become the new Soviet Union, and Arabic the new Russian. The Middle East lies at the center of current affairs, making college students worldwide take a more active interest in the region. Many Connecticut College students are also interested in knowing more about the Middle East and its languages, but the college's willingness to meet their demand remains uncertain. On October 12, 2006 the Educational Planning Committee (EPC) at Conn received a petition from the SGA to offer Arabic language courses at the college. The petition was proposed by three students, Yousuf Marvi '09, Samantha McCracking '10, and Miriam Wasser '09. The students stated in their letter that Arabic language courses are not only in sufficient demand but are necessary to influence more students to learn the language at a time when Middle East has become more crucial than ever. SGA President Nick Sullivan '08, expressed his feelings about the proposal, "We have programs that focus on Europe, the Americas, East Asia, Africa, and Russia.

What's missing from this picture? I know there are classes focused on the area in separate departments, but I don't feel it's enough. Not to mention that this area of the world has had a tremendous impact on our generation (as it always has)."

Before accepting the proposal, the EPC established a committee to investigate all aspects of instituting such a program. The Committee conducted research involving 21 peer schools of Conn's and found that about half of these institutions offer Arabic. From the responses and information gained from this research, on a May 22, 2007 address to the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee (FSCC), the EPC compiled possible options and costs involved with offering Arabic or a Middle East Studies program at Conn. One option, to teach no Arabic, although brought about, seemed to be highly ruled out by the committee. The report stated, "Since the petition to have Arabic offered at the College was approved unanimously by the SGA, a categorical rejection of this request could be discouraging to students and to others who value our system of shared gover-



(Image courtesy of Daniel Bersak)

nance." Other possible avenues discussed were introducing elementary and intermediate Arabic courses and a minor or concentration in Middle East Studies. There is also the possibility of offering more courses in Middle East History and Culture if both Arabic language and

Middle East courses could not be offered. The EPC mentioned a partnership with

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## Focus the Nation: 1100 Campuses Nationwide Demand Environmental Change

BY CHRIS BUONINCONTRI & ALEX KROGH-GRABBE '08

news editor & contributing writer

On January 31, more than 1100 colleges and universities from all 50 states participated in Focus the Nation – an unprecedented teach-in on solutions to global warming that aims to simultaneously educate and energize close to 1 million young adults.

According to Dr. Eban Goodstein, founder and director of Focus the Nation and professor of economics at Lewis & Clark College in Oregon, no other generation has had to face a threat as significant as global warming. "We would be failing as educators if we did not prepare them with the tools necessary to meet this challenge," said Goodstein.

Organizers for Focus the Nation at Missouri State trucked 15 tons of coal onto their campus to demonstrate what one hour of power looks like. California

State Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo already had 125 faculty sign up who will address solutions to global warming in their classes and at campus symposiums. More than 50 members of Congress pledged to video-dialogue with campuses during the day in a carbon-zero conversation with young voters, including Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA), chair of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming.

"We are at a critical time when decisions need to be made on tackling the threats imposed by global warming," says Gus Speth, Dean of Yale's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. "Today's youth who are inheriting this crisis need serious education on the issue and Focus the Nation has created a forum for learning and interaction with law makers."

"As traditional hubs of innovation, colleges and universities have always helped our country move forward," says Kevin Coyle, Vice President of Education for the National Wildlife Federation. "Focus the Nation is providing a nationwide campus forum that brings young innovative minds together to seek solutions and demand change for a cleaner energy future."

At Connecticut College, a group of six students, led by Alex Krogh-Grabbe, a senior from Springfield, MA, formed an organizing committee that coordinated the campus' efforts for Focus the Nation. On January 31, there were a series of panel discussions that were graced by faculty members, staff and visitors. Alex has shared his impressions of the day with *The College Voice*:

"Focus the Nation went really well; many members

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**A&E: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly, page 7**

Also see a review of AC/DC's *Back in Black*, page 14



**SPORTS: Connecticut College Squash: A Growing Experience, page 9**

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## Letter From The Editors

It is still really unfortunate that off-campus students don't get a Camel Swipe Card. As I reflected last week, the logic behind the administration's decision has many flaws, but beyond that there is an issue of trust (or mistrust).

And my feelings are kind of hurt. It is hard to be seen as a liability in the eyes of a community that you are supposed to be a part of. Instead of following the "innocent until proven guilty" philosophy, the Connecticut College administration has decided that we are guilty...and now we have to prove ourselves to be innocent.

This is a striking assumption to make. Even though we were deemed "mature" and "capable" enough to live off-campus, we are not mature or responsible enough to access facilities on campus.

The chances that off-campus students might commit anything potentially liable to the dormitories are quite slim. I cannot speak for all of us, but I can assert that the off-campus students I know exemplify the values of Connecticut College. We are active, involved, and dedicated students.

Conn prides itself on giving students the freedom to make their own choices. It's called the Honor Code. Seeing off-campus students as a "liability" to the safety of the students within the dorms is essentially taking the Honor Code away from us. We aren't even given the opportunity to live by the Honor Code. We have somehow transgressed it in the eyes of the administration and our agency has been rescinded.

- Claire

I trust my best friend with my life... or my jacket. But I am questioning my respect for other students and some groups on-campus. I struggle trying to decide if I find myself frustrated because I may know more about the happenings than a regular student or if I am just better attuned to my surroundings as opposed to other years at Conn.

With or without an honor code, I imagine that everyone would fulfill his or her duties and to execute said duties well. But there is a disconnect between what individuals say they will do and what actually happens. I want people to deliver, and I am not talking about a late-night pizza.

Am I being tough? Absolutely. But is it a crime? If I were a guy, I am sure a majority would applaud my efforts; however, male I am not, so I run the risk of being called an inappropriate name. For what though? Because I want people to rise to the occasion and perform? I think this is neither selfish nor warrants foul-play or foul language. I think people are a little surprised when they see a young female assert herself, and maybe some girls feel guilty for those aggressive feelings. Good girls don't get corner offices.

Claire talks about students living off-campus viewed as a liability by the College, but I want to expand that further and say we are all accountable to each other. I do not expect a utopia, but in light of last semester and students expressing discontent regarding the restrictions on the Camel Card, if I set my expectations high, we can all work on our trust issues.

-Areti

## Letters to the Editor

In regards to Jacques Swartz's recent article "Law and Order," I would like to suggest that in the future, Mr. Swartz may want to actually make himself aware of our school's policies before proceeding to call them "asinine." Mr. Swartz incorrectly states that a 21-year-old person consuming alcohol in the presence of an underage person is subject to judicial action. This is simply not true, as long as the 21 year old is not hosting underage alcohol consumption and hasn't provided alcohol to minors, the scenario in question is not in violation of any school policies. Additionally, the notion that Housefellows are brought under greater judicial scrutiny is incorrect. There is no complaint that allows judicial action to be taken against a housefellow for failing to prevent someone from drinking underage. While they may be subject to consequences in their particular position if they knowingly allowed school policy to be violated, they certainly would not be subject to more judicial action than any other student at this school. To cite the example used in the article, a housefellow doing tequila shots with freshmen may lose their position and be subject to a complaint of hosting underage drinking, but they would not face additional, more severe penalties, simply because they are a housefellow. They would receive the same judicial sanction as any other of age student in the dorm hosting underage drinking. A look through the student handbook, which is readily available in print and on camelweb, could have easily prevented this misrepresentation.

- Maureen Durkin '08  
Judicial Board Chair, Student Government Association

Reading the article regarding the role of the housefellow on Conn College's campus, I was very disappointed but also very upset that people can misinterpret something so completely. Misinterpreting something that twenty-one other people and I have invested so much of our time and energy into really hurts. I want to set straight what it means to be a housefellow, not what a paper with a set of facts says we do.

As a housefellow, I reject the opinion that a housefellow's primary responsibility and purpose is to be the eyes of Residential Life. I think that any housefellow you talk to would not say that they wanted the job because they wanted to be Res Life's undercover agents in the houses. Every housefellow on this campus applied for a reason, and among those is a dedication to the school and a desire to make a difference. When I say that we want to make a difference that does not mean that we want to patrol the houses looking for troublemakers that we can tattle on. Housefellows don't find some twisted pleasure in calling Campus Safety on their residents. We want to be a resource; a friend, and a role model. We want to give back to the campus that has given us so much.

Many things in life require sacrifices, and being a housefellow is no exception. However, being a responsible student on campus is not a burden. Even though I often find myself thinking more than twice about my actions, I have found that I have grown significantly as a person through my experiences. I am pretty convinced

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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

### Kennedy endorses Obama

Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts on Monday proclaimed another senator, Barack Obama of Illinois, to be his choice for president and promised to campaign aggressively for him, a strong endorsement from a veteran Democratic leader that may influence some in the party's liberal base torn between Obama and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in the presidential primary elections.

"We, too, want a president who appeals to the hopes of those who still believe in the American dream and those around the world who still believe in the American ideal and who can lift our spirits and make us believe again," Kennedy said, in announcing his choice at a raucous, highly charged rally at American University in Washington. "I've found that candidate and I think you have, too."

"He understands what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called the fierce urgency of now," Kennedy said.

Clinton and her allies had pressed Edward Kennedy to remain neutral, as he traditionally has done. But aides said Kennedy had become disenchanted with the tone of the Clinton campaign and disillusioned by statements from Bill Clinton. The Clinton camp is now said to be pressing the former president to adopt a gentler tone.

## Europe

### Inflation in euro zone soars

Inflation in the euro zone rose at the fastest pace on record in January, official data showed Thursday.

Consumer prices rose at an average 3.2 percent annualized rate in the 15 countries sharing the euro, according to an initial estimate from the EU statistics agency Eurostat, accelerating from a 3.1 percent pace in December. The January increase was the fastest since the agency began tracking the data in 1997.

Inflation has become a worldwide problem, as oil prices hover above \$90 a barrel and the conversion of farmland to grow biofuel crops increases food prices. Global policy makers are being confronted by the very real danger of stagflation - anemic economic growth and upward pressure on prices.

European markets were among the world's hardest hit last month, with the pan-European DJ Euro Stoxx 50 index plunging nearly 14 percent amid concerns for the health of European financial institutions, heavily exposed to problems in the U.S. residential mortgage market

## Middle East & Asia

### Kurds' power wanes as Arab anger rises

As a minority group in Iraq, the Kurds have enjoyed disproportionate influence in the country's politics since the ouster of Saddam Hussein in 2003. But now their leverage appears to be declining as tensions rise with Iraqi Arabs, raising the specter of another fissure alongside the sectarian divide between Sunnis and Shiites.

The Kurds, who are mostly Sunni but not Arab, have steadfastly backed the government, most recently helping to keep it afloat when Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki lacked support from much of Parliament.

With their political acumen, close ties to the Americans and technical competence at running government agencies, the Kurds cemented a position of enor-



mous strength. This allowed them to all but dictate terms in Iraq's Constitution that gave them considerable regional autonomy and some significant rights in oil development.

But now the Kurds are pursuing policies that are antagonizing the other factions. The Kurds' efforts to seize control of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk and to gain a more advantageous division of national revenues are uniting most Sunnis and many Shiites with Mr. Maliki's government in opposition to the Kurdish demands.

One major Shiite group, the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, has not publicly taken sides, but powerful people within the party have been openly critical of the Kurds. Others expressing frustration are leading members of Parliament and Hussain al-Shahristani, the oil minister and a prominent Shiite politician, who calls Kurdish oil contracts with foreign companies illegal.

Humam Hamoudi, a leader of the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, said, "They are no longer the egg in the balance," using an Arabic proverb that refers to the item

that tips the scale. Mr. Hamoudi added, "The Kurds are not so powerful."

Independent analysts largely back that assertion. "There's a strong feeling that the Kurds have overreached," said Joost Hiltermann, a senior analyst for the Middle East at the International Crisis Group who is based in Istanbul.

## Latin America

### Mexican farmers protest end of corn tariffs

Tens of thousands of farmers clogged the streets of the capital on Thursday to protest the end of tariffs on corn from the United States, warning that the elimination of trade barriers could drive them out of business and lead more Mexicans to migrate north.

Stretching for more than four miles, the march was a sea of tanned faces, cowboy hats, flags and calloused hands gripping banners with slogans like "Without farms there is no country." The police said at least 50,000 people joined the protest; organizers put the number at 100,000.

"We cannot compete against this monster, the United States," said one farmer, Enrique Barrera Pérez, who is 44 and works about five acres in Yucatán. "It's not worth the trouble to plant. We don't have the subsidies. We don't have the machinery."

## Africa

### Rising tensions between Chad and Sudan

The Chadian Army waged fierce battles Friday against rebel troops who were headed for the country's capital, Ndjamena, where they seek to force the country's president, Idriss Déby, to share power or step down.

A column of 300 rebel vehicles descended toward Ndjamena from the northeast and claimed on a rebel Web site to have the capital surrounded and to have destroyed two government attack helicopters, but it was impossible to independently verify these claims.

France, the former colonial power and a deeply influential ally of Déby, said it would as a precaution move 150 troops from a base in nearby Gabon to join the 1,100 it has long had based in Chad, French military officials said Friday.

The fighting comes as tensions have risen between Chad and Sudan. The two countries share a porous frontier in the war-ravaged Sudanese region of Darfur, where rebels operate with complete freedom in the vast borderlands in Chad. Chad accuses Sudan of arming rebels seeking to overthrow Déby, who took over in a military putsch in 1990.

## FOCUS THE NATION

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of the community participated, which was nice to see. The main segment of Focus the Nation at Conn was Thursday during the day, when we had five extremely successful panel discussions. More than 175 students and community members were in attendance, and each of the panels brought enlightening discussion. In the first time slot, Art Costa of Re-New London gave a wonderful perspective on processes in our community to make the city more sustainable. Afterwards, he met with Jesse Meadow '08, of the SGA committee, for connecting Conn and New London.

The sustainable food and green building panels each elicited lively and informative interaction between their diverse panelists. The natural effects and China & India

panels provided sobering analyses of some of the problems faced in the push to solve the environmental problems associated with climate change.

Every panel benefited not only from excellent faculty, staff, and community panelists, but from the initiative and ability of a student moderator. Misha Johnson '08, Erin Brady '10, Sarah Nugent '10, Andy Irwin '10, and Alex Pressman '08 deserve much thanks for this challenging role.

On Thursday night, our Focus the Nation event concluded with an interesting lecture by Dr. Greg Cajete from the Tewa Pueblo and the University of New Mexico. Dr. Cajete spoke to the value of the indigenous ecological perspective on education and on our modern worldview. This part of the event was co-sponsored by the Education department and the Goodwin-Niering center."

## Honoring Academic Excellence: Fourteen Seniors Named Winthrop Scholars

BY GARY NG '11

staff writer

Fourteen seniors have been elected as Winthrop Scholars – the highest academic honor bestowed by Connecticut College. This academic honor was instituted in 1928 to honor members of the senior class who demonstrated exceptional scholarship, personal fitness and promise.

The honor was named after John Winthrop the Younger (1606-1676), one of the most learned and versatile men in New England who also founded the city of New London and served as the governor of Connecticut.

The selection of Winthrop Scholars is based on academic performance through the junior year, or more specifically, the cumulative GPA of all courses taken for credit over the first six semesters. The exact GPA cutoff varies from year to year, but the scholars typically rank in the top three percent of their class.

The Winthrop Scholars for the graduating class of 2008 are: Caitlin Baptiste (Behavioral Neuroscience), Stefanie Block (Behavioral Neuroscience), Katherine Buesing (Narrative Studies: Text and Performance), Keith Byrne (Economics and Hispanic Studies), Christina Comfort (Biological Sciences), Jacqueline Cousineau (Dance and French), Kate DeConinck (English and Religious Studies), Julia Griffin (Art), Laura Hoffman (Art), Lindsay Michel (Anthropology and Environmental Studies), Sally Pendergast (American Studies), Ralph Riedel (Religious

Studies), Caitlyn Turgeon (Economics and International Relations), and Samantha Wickman (Art and English).

All Winthrop Scholars are also elected early into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's preeminent academic honor society with the mission of "fostering and recognizing excellence" in the undergraduate liberal arts and sciences. Admission into the society is based on exemplary academic scholarship over four years of college and the members are typically in the top 10 percent of their graduating classes. The Delta of Connecticut Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society was installed at Connecticut College on February 13, 1935.

MaryAnn Borrelli, Associate Professor of Government and Secretary/Treasurer of Delta of Connecticut Phi Beta Kappa, feels strongly about Winthrop Scholars and Phi Beta Kappa because "they are recognition of a student's accomplishment over his entire college career and across courses in different disciplines of the liberal arts."

When asked to describe the typical Winthrop Scholar, Professor Julie Rivkin, Associate Dean of Faculty, Professor of English, and Charter Member, says that "they are not only the smart students, but they are the kind of smart students who deliver academically."

But if you think that these Winthrop Scholars do nothing but study in the library all day to maintain their astronomical GPAs, then you are sorely mistaken. Many of these scholars excel in their extracurricular activities as much as

they do in their academics.

Ralph Riedel from Wayne, PA, for example, is the co-chair of the Peggotty Investment Club that manages a portion of the Connecticut College endowment through a student-run investment portfolio. As a religious studies major, he managed to impress employers with his strong liberal arts background and went on to secure an investment consulting job offer before graduation, beating out competition from economics and finance

majors at Ivy League schools. Such is perhaps the best testimony to President Higdon's assertion that "a liberal arts education is the best preparation for life and career" in a recent op-ed in the *Hartford Courant*. Winthrop Scholarship and Phi Beta Kappa thus serve to honor these proud products of our liberal arts curriculum.



Phi Beta Kappa Delta of Connecticut College welcomed 14 new Winthrop Scholars at a ceremony Dec. 12. Top row, from left: Ralph Riedel, Julia Griffin, Christina Comfort, Sally Pendergast, Katherine Buesing and Lindsay Michel. Bottom row, from left: Stefanie Block, Laura Hoffman, Caitlin Baptiste, Samantha Wickman, Jacqueline Cousineau, Kate DeConinck, Caitlyn Turgeon and Keith Byrne. (Web)

### MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

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the Coast Guard Academy after they expressed interest in sending students to Conn to participate in Arabic courses. With the involvement of the CGA, it's expected that there would be enough students to fill a two-year program. In addition, collaboration with the CGA would boost Conn's chance of receiving government funding to teach Arabic.

Taking into account all the research and information gathered for possible routes to an Arabic and Middle East Studies program, Arang Keshavarzian, the Middle East specialist in the Government department, believes that if a Middle East Studies program is established, it should be comprehensive and well thought out. "A one-year Arabic language course would not satisfy people. There are many students who are frustrated by the limited number of courses that are being offered on the Middle East and if we really want to meet this demand, we will have to introduce a wider array of courses on the region by hiring more tenure-track faculty who can teach courses on the anthropology, history, and literature of the region."

Today, about two years after the initial proposal and research towards implementing Arabic or a Middle East program, the college seems to have lagged in their effort

to make a decision. Even with an increasing interest in Arabic among students and faculty, it seems these endeavors are put on hold. Professor Andrea Lanoux of the Slavic Studies Department is among those who actively participated in the writing of the EPC report that was presented to the FSCC last May. She explained that, after the submission of the report, she was invited to an FSCC meeting to answer questions, and she received very positive feedback about the report from the committee. However, nothing has happened regarding Arabic and Middle East Studies since then. "Given the amount of work and energy that the students and faculty on the EPC put into this report, it is frustrating that there has been no public discussion of this issue among the faculty. I think the question needs to be posed to the faculty, 'Should we be teaching Arabic at the College, and if so, what do we need to do in order to make that happen?' We should consider not only what the costs are of offering a program in Arabic and Middle East Studies, but also what the costs are of not offering these subjects. If the faculty decides that we cannot or should not offer Arabic, at least that is a considered outcome of the process that began with the submission of the student petition in October 2006. But this question needs to be answered one way or another in order to respect and preserve our system shared governance. It is

my own sense that in order to remain competitive as a leader in international education, we need to address these questions immediately."

Marvi expressed similar reactions to the response of the college. "Our proposal was accepted by SGA and forwarded to the Academic committee. The Academic committee felt a need to establish a committee to study the feasibility of the program. The committee along with the Trustees came out in favor of a need for the program. Then, the question remains, why don't we still have one? Unfortunately, any academic or institutional developments at Conn have become extremely bureaucratic. Only those programs and facilities are implemented that our President and the higher deans deem feasible and important."

While Conn students and faculty alike are questioning the delay in action, other colleges and universities are struggling with the same issue. In an article from the April 6, 2007 issue of *The Bowdoin Orient*, it was reported that Bowdoin College has also been trying to introduce Arabic language and Middle Eastern studies, still with no current outcome. Students and faculty from Bowdoin also express frustration and confusion as to

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# Meet Marc Zimmer, Connecticut Professor of the Year

BY EMILY PERRY '11

Connecticut College Professor Marc Zimmer recently received the 2007 Connecticut Teacher of the Year Award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

This annual award is given to a teacher who has shown excellence not only in the classroom, but in their chosen field of study. Professor Zimmer is known by students for his commitment to engage his students in chemistry, inside and outside of the classroom.

One of Professor Zimmer's favorite things about teaching is one of his students' favorite things about him: he enjoys learning from his students just as much as he enjoys teaching them. He hopes that through his teaching students gain a sense of inquisitiveness about science and a drive to read about new developments and discoveries in the field of chemistry.

Before he became interested in chemistry, Professor Zimmer wanted to be a game warden and look after animals in his native country of South Africa. However, his aspirations towards this profession only lasted until he entered the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa: he was mildly discouraged after failing his botany class. However, during this period Professor Zimmer discovered that he had somewhat

of a knack for biochemistry. To avoid being forced to go into the army, he decided to further his degree in chemistry at Yale University, which was when he discovered that he liked America and decided to teach here.

Professor Zimmer's main goal when teaching his chemistry classes is to "relate chemistry to real things." He approaches this in a number of ways: for example, by using liquid crystal displays in his lessons, or incorporating real life applications to help illustrate how chemistry works outside of the lab. Professor Zimmer believes that "good teaching often involves good performance," and because of this he often uses pop culture references, humor, and visual props to draw every type of learner into the subject matter.

"He does a lot of experiments in class, and the demonstrations are very interesting to look at," said Caroline Barone, a freshman and former student of Professor Zimmer's general chemistry class. "He also always tries to incorporate chemistry jokes to keep us interested in what we're learning."

Whenever he encounters students who do not enjoy chemistry, Professor Zimmer tries to get them to stick with the subject. He relates it to learning a language; "It gets more interesting as you go on. It's like a lan-

guage, in that as you do more you can enjoy it more, because you learn the boring things in the beginning and later on you learn more vocabulary and can better appreciate what you are learning."

He relates time in chemistry labs to spending a year abroad, due to the fact that it is during these lab sessions that you are able to fully experience and apply what you have learned. Without the labs you can't fully appreciate the subject, just like without living in a country that speaks the language you studied, you can't fully experience a language.

While Professor Zimmer has a lesson plan for every class (because in chemistry you need to know certain concrete concepts) he throws it away after each lesson. Professor Zimmer said: "I throw it away because I never want to repeat the same lesson...it will get boring." Because of this, his classes are much more flexible, and he is able to bring in recent events to further connect students with chemistry. He also creates one test question following each class so that he is able to remember what he taught in the last class, and so that his tests cover the widest range of material possible (though he doesn't use every question he writes).

One of Professor Zimmer's favorite experiences with a class was during the summer with one of his classes at a magnet school in Hartford, Connecticut. Instead of writing a goodbye sign on paper, the kids wrote



(Kaminsky '09)

their note in a huge petri dish with glowing bacteria that they had been studying with Professor Zimmer.

Professor Zimmer's research focuses on green fluorescent protein, and he tries as often as possible to incorporate his research into his classes. In his office are numerous examples of his research including a tank of

green, red, and yellow fluorescent fish. While Professor Zimmer loves being a professor at Connecticut College, in the future he would like to write more things for a general audience and try to get more people interested in chemistry.

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why no solid decision has been initiated. In an opinion section written by *The Orient's* editors, the editors expressed much the same sentiment present at Connecticut College. "If the College is to remain competitive with other top institutions, it should prioritize the acquisition of an Arabic specialist".

The addition of an Arabic studies program would not only add to Conn's appeal but also show the College's commitment to adhere to its mission statement. In its report to the FSCC, the EPC affirmed that "failing to offer Arabic in the current political climate could make the College appear out of step with the times, and potentially harm the College's reputation as a leader in international education." Indeed, one of the main arguments students and faculty have voiced in bringing Arabic and Middle East Studies to Conn is the college's commitment to educating global citizens. The college's mission statement declares the college "pre-

pares students to be responsible citizens, creative problem-solvers, and thoughtful leaders in a global society". If Conn desires students to emerge as worldly leaders, instituting Arabic and Middle East Studies would add to its mission as more modern careers and opportunities involve relations with the Middle East. If Conn cannot adhere to its own mission of educating students to be intellectually aware global citizens, what will become of its integrity as an institution? As argued by Marvi, "Without adapting and attending to the present day intellectual needs, we might as well become a college of classical studies. The choke in Arabic studies program is a result of bureaucratic stifling from the President and the Provost's office."

As the SGA proposal stated, an Arabic language program is "unquestionably another way to promote diversity in the school. With more students learning Arabic, there comes more travel abroad opportunities, and thus, more cultural experiences to be shared on campus." Although the initiative to bring about this new program

has begun, how can we make sure something results from these efforts? Sullivan noted, "I believe the college should continue to look at the work that's been done researching it. Then move into actually implementing a feasible program as soon as possible." However, how soon will the move for a feasible program be? Whether it takes days, months or even years to complete this endeavor in a way that meets Conn's academic standards, the effort is a necessary one—one whose long-term benefits will carry the College forward towards achieving the goals of its mission statement.

*News Editor's Note: This is an issue, we, the student journalists of Connecticut College, feel very strongly about and it is our goal to inspire a campus-wide debate on the subject. In order to give everyone concerned a chance to explain their point of view, we will be having a follow up article where the administration informs the community of the reasons that slow down the decision-making process. Letters to the Editor on this issue, from students, faculty, and staff would also be appreciated.*



## I'd Rather Eat at 99 A Review of Olio

BY BEN EAGLE '09

sports editor

A good restaurant has the ability to transport you somewhere else. Whether you're at Medieval Times, gnawing on a turkey leg while knights joust for you (not that Medieval Times is a good restaurant, but you can't beat that ambience, can you?), or you're sitting in Les Halles, eating pommes frites while visions of the Montmartre dance in your head, the point is the same. Food, unlike anything else, has the ability to take you somewhere else.

Such was the case last Monday. My father and I were sitting in the sleek black and white dining room of Olio. On the walls around us were crisp white canvases, offset by the glossy black tables they seat you at. Even the divider separating the bar and the dining room was as an opaque white screen.

It did not feel like the quaint seaside town we knew we were dining in.

The menu also feels like it is from somewhere else. In opposition to the seaside fare that is so fresh and abundant around New London County, Olio spans the globe with its menu, opting for dishes from the Mediterranean, the Southwest, and French cuisine.

The appetizers specifically focus on dishes from the four corners of the US. Dishes like the stuffed avocado with lobster and chipotle pepper and the corn salsa are particularly effective. The silkiness of the lobster meshes perfectly with the creaminess of the avocado,

but the salsa lacks any particular punch. If you're going to call it chipotle salsa, I need to taste the smokiness.

Borrowing from yet another tradition are the crab ragoon spring rolls over grilled pineapple with a fiery mango salsa. The flavor of the crab is quite defined and delicious. And again, the chef proves himself to be well-versed in flavor profiles: the crispiness of the spring roll taste delicious with the caramelized sugars of grilled pineapple. The salsa however, was not fiery and didn't bring anything to the dish.

The success of such a worldly menu is its ability to please everyone. No matter what you're in the mood for, Olio most likely has it. The menu has pizza, pastas, salads, and large meat entrees for those carnivores among us.

And, if you somehow cannot find something you want on the menu, check the blackboard of specials directly to your right when you walk in. It is one of the largest special selections I have ever seen. On the evening we went, it consisted of eight dishes.

Unfortunately, these dishes have the same strengths and weaknesses that the appetizers do: good knowledge of flavor, but poor execution that results in a lack of pop.

The veal saltimbocca was an exercise in the former. On a bed of haricot vert (a French green bean that is longer and thinner) and cheddared sweet potatoes, the veal was moist and tender. A mouthful of all three (the veal, the beans, and

the potatoes) dances on your tongue and then settles in your stomach where it will continue to warm your bones late into the evening.

The parmesan steak risotto, another special, was not as successful. Risotto is a dish that takes care and attention. One minute too soon or too late and the dish ultimately fails. My plate of risotto was dried out, and on a quiet Monday, there are no excuses for neglect. Further, the dish lacked any pop. The parmesan should have imbued the dish with a salty sharpness that was just not present.

Desert was really a microcosm of our meal. I had the Mango Cheesecake, which was a education in texture in flavor. A bite of all three layers (the graham cracker crust, the cheesecake, and the mango gelatin) is enough to make even a desert naysayer like me shake at the knees. The dish was creative and successful.

On the other side of the table, my dad had Olio's fancy version of a Fig Newton. The flavors were there (the macerated figs complimented the smokiness of the dish), but the dish was sloppy and tried to do too much.

With its expansive menu, Olio suffers the same fate as this Fig Newton dish. The flavors may be good, but if you try to do too much, it might just fall apart on you. I give it two stars out of four.

*Dinner for two without tip: \$110.00  
Includes: Two glasses of wine; two appetizers; two main course; two deserts.*

## Who's Got the Crack? The Oddball Oscar Nominees

BY JACOB TISHER '08

staff writer

As you may be aware, the Academy of Motion Pictures released their nominations list last week. Normally I don't concern myself with such trifles, because nothing I watch is usually nominated, and because I'm a snob. But this year the Oscars are different for several reasons. The first and most obvious is the writer's strike. The Oscars have rapidly deteriorated into nothing more than a financial catalyst. And the film industry is desperate for just such a catalyst. Gone are the days when films like *Annie Hall*, *Rebecca*, *The Godfather*, and *West Side Story* would merit the film world's top honors. Ever since *Dances with Wolves* won best picture in 1990, the legitimate cinema has been relegated to festivals and the Best Foreign Language Film category. It's becoming increasingly obvious that the Oscars are not only about what's popular, but what's popular during award season. Therefore the only films that win are the ones that are made and released with the intention of winning awards. And are we really to believe that studios would invest millions of dollars on the mere hope that they will win? The studios *know* they're going to win. The academy is financially dependant on the studios.

This year a few acceptable films earned nominations, most notably *Juno* and *No Country for Old Men*. An odd pick altogether, *Juno* is a good film but not stellar; it has nothing in common with the typical nominees. *No Country for Old Men* is odd because it lacks the run-you-over-with-a-bus subtlety and moral grounding of most nominees. *Juno* is intolerably hip, incredibly deadpan and sickeningly nostalgic. From the previous work of Judd Apatow you would imagine that this girl's massively distended belly would generate gobs of comic relief, but it just doesn't. The film's protagonist is too restrained for her own good. *Juno* MacGuff knows about everything but maturity. She takes a bold step in deciding not to terminate the pregnancy, but is unable to make any other such bold moves. Why she decides to turn herself into an incubation chamber for two uber-yuppies is lost on me. *Juno* is both extremely likable, strangely unappealing, and the best argument in favor of abortion to date. Much has been made over the destruction of the teen pregnancy taboo, but I'm not worried. What makes this film interesting is its lack of any genuine humor in the situation. The humor comes from the characters around *Juno*, her best friend's teacher fetish, her dog-loving but not dog-owning step-mom, and her track short wearing baby-daddy, ably played by *Arrested Development*'s Michael Cera (if you're the last person to the party and therefore unaware of whom Michael Cera is, please visit [clarkandmichael.com](http://clarkandmichael.com)).

The film saves itself by not addressing any of the larger issues at work and concentrating on the social stigma attached to *Juno*, her relationship with the father of her child, and her bizarre relationship with the child's adoptive parents. The ending is anticlimactic and unsatisfying. But the film manages maintain some dignity with a duet between *Juno* and Paulie Bleeker singing the Moldy Peaches' "Anyone Else But You." If only it they were singing "Whose Got the Crack," it would be a great film.

## 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**



# The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: Best and Worst Albums of 2007

BY CAROLYN SEBASKY '09

a&e editor

With the end of every year comes a tidal wave of stress. Not stress about final exams, the New Year, and resolutions; no, I stress over compiling my "Best Albums of the Year" list. The last two weeks of December are usually spent frantically listening to all of the year's new releases that I never quite got around to listening to (because, at least in the case of this past year, I refused to turn off Third Eye Blind for about half of the year). This process consists of playing about 30 seconds of each song, plunking an iTunes star rating beside them as I go, resulting in a grand total of about six minutes per album. Obviously this is not the most accurate way to pass judgment on an album, but there is only so much time in a day.



As a result of my poor time-management skills and addiction to nostalgic '90s rock, my top albums each year tend to consist of the ones that strike me immediately—the ones that I just can't seem to resist playing every time I start up my car. This, of course, means that

most of my yearly favorites are catchy pop albums; however, this also includes extremely impressive pieces of music.

All of this is just a preface to the beginning of possibly my most embarrassing "Album of the Year" to date: Mandy Moore's *Wild Hope*.

I struggled for weeks with myself, trying to figure out if I could retain any dignity after giving this former teen bubblegum star any musical credibility. Then I realized: *Wild Hope* is a huge leap from her previous work; the lyrics are moving, the tracks are catchy, yet sophisticated by Moore's collaboration with The Weepies, and that most of all, I enjoy listening to



the album. These are all qualities that made up my other favorite albums, so why lie to myself? The indie hipster in me is horrified by this selection, but really, the album is just too damn good.

Fortunately, many bands in the indie world boasted rousing albums last year. The National's *Boxer* topped many pretentious reviewers' lists, but the band has every right to that top position. The collection of dark, Joy Division-esque tracks feels like a damp basement (in the best possible way), and finally gave the band the recognition they have



been looking for after three previous releases.

Aereogramme's fourth release, *My Heart Has A Wish That You Would Not Go*, a haunting, progressive rock album, made a large dent in my play count this year, as did a few other lesser-known bands like The Winterpills and Australia's Art of Fighting. I, like almost anyone, could not resist Feist's *The Reminder*, even after hearing "1,2,3,4" far too many times on that damn iPod commercial. Radiohead's *In Rainbows* rekindled my love for the band but I expected nothing less.

Naturally, 2007 delivered some extremely disappointing albums from some of my favorite bands with anticipated releases failing to live up to my expectations. Perhaps my most anticipated release of 2007 was Rilo Kiley's *Under The Black Light*, which after just one play I knew would never become part of my regular rotation. I never really jumped onto the whole "dance synth-



pop" bandwagon, and Rilo's newest work, though a departure from their previous work, did not sway me. Call me a sucker, but I prefer the cohesiveness of *More Adventurous* with its acoustic gems and upbeat electric guitars to their new spastic disco record.

Anyone who knows me (and my AIM screen name) knew I was anxiously



awaiting the follow up to *The Receiving End of Sirens' Between the Heart and the Synapse*. The

band's 2005 debut is one of the only recent "harder" rock albums I can appreciate. It is full of energy without being forced, the lyrics are mature (read: nothing about self-inflicted wounds), and their sound is experimental, which is something hard to come by in the genre. Fortunately for me, I was too caught up in Mandy Moore to completely fall apart when I heard TREOS' *The Earth Sings Mi Fa Mi*. I listened to the album only once, and not even one song stuck with me—despite their evident ability to write incredibly catchy hooks. With most albums that don't quite hit me the first time, there is always at least one track that makes me want to dig it up after a few months, but I can't even remember the name of any of the tracks on the album, let alone what any of the songs sound like.

My imaginative list indicates I may have the strangest taste in music of all time, but music can be a democratizing force, allowing me to actually accept a fondness for Mandy Moore and unabashedly admit that some of my favorite bands put out absolutely dull and disappointing albums. Each year promises continued growth and the opportunity to nurse wounds, and my 2007 round-up was an exhausting roller-coaster ride of some soaring highs and plunging drops.

## Check These Out Underrated Tracks from 2007

BY RACINE OXTOBY '11

staff writer

In a music year dominated by an overblown hip-hop feud, songs about umbrellas and beautiful girls, and one notoriously beehived beauty singing about how she won't go to rehab (and then decided to go anyway), there was a good number of excellent yet underplayed songs that I grew attached to in 2007. Some of these bands have already reached their height of fame; others may reach it within the next year. A few are nestled comfortably in that zone of obscurity where all they need to get through a show is their loyal fan base and a round of drinks. Here are my personal recommendations for 2007 songs, in no particular order:

1. "Apartment Story" by **The National** This is probably my favorite song of 2007. The lovely, fuzzy guitar beats hook you in instantly, and then the lyrics, about a couple realizing that they've lost the romantic spark they once had, swim like poetry into your brain.

Not only addictive, but also meaningful.

2. "Don't You Evah" by **Spoon** Over in Japan, a robot which resembles a yellow snowman named Keeton has been created to interact with humans in simple terms, which includes dancing if it hears a beat. Someone has taken the time to tie footage of Keeton with this song. It's a match made in heaven. The song is funky, with one of the grooviest bass lines this year.

3. "You! Me! Dancing!" by **Los Campesinos!** It's only fitting that the best song about dancing is one of the hardest songs to dance to. But maybe that's what makes it so perfect. The opening notes set the mood, with its sleepy, beautiful strums, but soon the tempo picks up and you realize just where the song is taking you.

4. "Double Vision" by **The Ponys** The Ponys belong to that category of bands who you know are stuck where they are in terms of popularity, and it's unfortunate, especially with this hard rocking song from the beginning of the year. Featuring a heavy bass line, a crunching guitar intro, and yelping choruses, the song ends on a screeching guitar solo that should make any air guitarist content.

5. "Navy Nurse" by **the Fiery Furnaces** Six-and-a-half minutes of funk, flutes, organs, and all-around

weirdness make up this ditty from the brother-sister duo of the current era of indie. It's the "Paranoid Android" of this decade, only loads happier.

6. "Sister Rosetta (Capture the Spirit)" by **the Noisettes** It may be short, but it's nothing but sweet. Don't let lead singer Shingai Shoniwa's appearance fool you; the girl can belt it out. A female empowerment song that features a zigzagging guitar riff, the song might just be the rock anthem of 2007.

7. "Emily Jean Stock" by **Clap Your Hands Say Yeah** A lyrically straightforward love song; a man pining for his girl, pledging to do whatever it takes to be with her; the music is so interesting and complex that the band deserves its comparisons to the Flaming Lips.

8. "(Antichrist Television Blues)" by **the Arcade Fire** This was the Arcade Fire's year: after a jaw-dropping performance on SNL, their latest album, *Neon Bible*, hit number 2 on the charts, a rarity in the indie music scene. This song is one of their strongest, a searing attack on parents who exploit their children's talents for their own goals. The song is intense on its own, and the last stanza hits you so hard it almost hurts.



# Full Speed Ahead For Camel Hoops

BY MATT FAVA '09

staff writer

The Men's Basketball team had quite the week: they faced Bowdoin (15-3) last Friday and played Colby (10-8) on Saturday. As Conn entered the weekend, both games appeared to be winnable; depending on their offensive execution, defensive effort, and mental toughness, the Camels had a chance to be 15-2.

Friday's match up against Bowdoin turned out to be true test of mental and physical endurance. Bowdoin had just come off an emotional win against a dominant Williams team as well as an equally taxing 16-point loss to Middlebury. A lively crowd had assembled in Luce Field House to greet the Camels—a group of fans this large and loud had not been seen at Conn for years.

After trailing Bowdoin by 16 at half time, the Camels bounced back with some timely baskets from Shavar Bernier '10, Billy Karis '09, and even the big man, Charles Stone '08, got in on the outside action. The crowd erupted as the Camels had cut the lead to six with less than ten minutes to play. As Bowdoin called a time out, Conn's assistant coach Chris Oroszko rushed into the huddle and gassed the Camels even more. "We are going to win this game," he told them.

The Camels could sense that this was a comeback in the making, and they were ready to take the lead. Despite all of this excitement, however, the Polar Bears proved to be the better team that night: Bowdoin made fewer mental errors and came out with a 56-68 victory. Although it was a disappointing loss, Conn still stood strong at 13-3 and were already looking ahead to their match up with Colby the next day.

Colby was victorious at home against the Camels in the '06-'07 season, but this time, Conn jumped out to an early lead. The Mules stayed in the game by hitting several three-pointers in the first half, but they still found themselves trailing by 11. Determined to put the game away, the Camels came out of halftime fired up and were fueled by the return of their past teammates visiting for alumni weekend.

The game ball undeniably went to captain Christian Mosley '08 who as he battled back from a back injury he sustained against Bowdoin after contesting a shot under the basket and coming down hard. Refusing to let this setback affect his senior season, Mosley displayed his toughness and knocked down a few key shots in the second half. He emerged as the go-to-guy by the end of the game—connecting on 10 out of 10 free throw attempts and scoring a game-high and career-high 24 points.

Now sitting at 14-3 overall and 2-1 in NESCAC play, the Camels have already won more games than they have in the last five years. They travel to Tufts and Bates this weekend and look for conference victories four and five. Currently ranked fourth in the NESCAC, plenty of eyes will be on the Camels this weekend to see if they can keep their spectacular season rolling



Men's Basketball hitting the hardwood (Gardner '10)

## NESCAC Scoreboard

MEN'S BASKETBALL				
	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Amherst	4	0	16	2
Bates	1	2	11	5
Bowdoin	3	1	15	3
Colby	1	3	10	8
<b>CONN</b>	2	1	14	3
Hamilton				
Middlebury	2	2	14	4
Trinity	3	1	14	4
Tufts	0	3	10	7
Wesleyan	0	3	6	11

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL				
	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Amherst	3	1	18	1
Bates	1	2	11	6
Bowdoin	3	1	13	5
Colby	1	3	5	11
<b>CONN</b>	0	3	10	7
Hamilton				
Middlebury	2	2	10	8
Trinity	0	4	9	7
Tufts	2	1	16	1
Wesleyan	3	0	13	5

MEN'S HOCKEY						
	NESCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Amherst	8	3	2	13	3	2
Bates						
Bowdoin	9	4	0	13	4	0
Colby	9	3	1	10	6	1
<b>CONN</b>	4	7	2	4	11	3
Hamilton	2	10	1	3	14	1
Middlebury	9	2	2	13	3	2
Trinity	9	3	1	10	6	1
Tufts	4	8	1	6	11	1
Wesleyan	4	5	3	6	7	3

WOMEN'S HOCKEY						
	NESCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Amherst	8	0	3	12	3	3
Bates						
Bowdoin	2	5	3	5	7	3
Colby	4	4	3	9	7	3
<b>CONN</b>	4	3	3	6	8	4
Hamilton	2	5	3	4	10	3
Middlebury	8	0	2	13	1	2
Trinity	6	2	2	13	3	2
Tufts						
Wesleyan	1	8	0	5	10	0

# Connecticut College Squash: A Growing Experience

BY SOPHIE SMITH '10

staff writer

Conn's men's and women's squash teams experienced exciting seasons thus far. Lead by coach Bill McNally, in his seventh year, Conn squash has traveled throughout the NESCAC and established itself as a formidable opponent. The men's co-captains are John Evans '08 and Will Moger '10. Five freshmen, Blay Bradley '11, Ian Cohen-Shapiro '11, Charles Lonaeus '11, Tyler Stilwell '11, and A. J. Warren '11, joined the squad this year. The team is extremely fortunate to have them because five seniors will graduate this spring.

The men's team has a commendable record of 6-8. While many other students were enjoying their winter breaks at home, on the beach, or on the slopes, the squash teams practiced twice a day at Conn. Moger said that this was one of the most challenging aspects of the season for him. The team is extremely busy traveling all over the East Coast.

Moger recalls that "[their] toughest match was against Wesleyan. It was a huge match." Conn put forth a strong effort but lost the match 4-5. The men's team has worked very hard this season, and they are currently ranked #24 in the country.

With so many new members, the women's team is in the midst of what co-captain Laura Robertson '08 calls a "start-up season." Their record does not reflect their skills or abilities; Robertson explains that their losses were competitive and well-played matches. With each win or loss, the team learns important lessons and greatly improves their skills. The new members of the women's squad include freshmen Victoria Leeds '11 and Sarah Roberston '11. The team also features a few experienced sophomores: Christy Clothier '10, Lizzie Bailey '10, and Casey Corn '10.

When asked what their most difficult match was, co-captain Chrissie Parsons '09 revealed that no one match is harder than another. "The tough matches are the matches that require each player to display her skills and determination. Squash is a



Coach McNally and the team (Robertson '08)

very mentally challenging sport (as well as physically), and the girls have become much more experienced mentally as the season has progressed." The team has gotten much closer this season; the bonding comes not only from long bus rides and team dinners but also from overcoming on and off court challenges together.

Although the women's squad has a record of 4-12, Robertson stresses how much team spirit the girls possess. "[There is] so much enthusiasm and smiles all around. We are loud, ferocious, funny squash playing women."

Both teams have their NESCAC matches this weekend at Trinity: the men will face Middlebury and Trinity, and the women will play against Tufts and Trinity.

## Player of the Week: Hockey Captain Kristen Van Slyke '08

BY STEVE BLOOM '10

staff writer

Kristen Van Slyke from Phoenix, Arizona has been named Player of the Week. Kristen is a tri-captain for the Conn College Women's Hockey team. Steve Bloom got an inside look into her hockey career:

**Steve Bloom:** Is hockey a popular sport in Phoenix?

**Kristen Van Slyke:** Surprisingly, hockey is a popular sport in Phoenix. I grew up playing hockey in Minnesota, and when my family moved to Arizona, I was able to continue playing hockey there. There are not as many rinks in Phoenix as there are in Minnesota, but many people are involved in the sport. I played on both a boy's team and a girl's team there for three years. For my junior and senior year of high school, I decided to attend a prep school in Minnesota for both my academics and for hockey.

**SB:** How long have you been playing hockey, and what is your favorite aspect of the game?

**KVS:** I have been skating since I was 3 and playing hockey since I was 7. My favorite aspect of the game is its competitiveness. I love going out on the ice for a game and battling with the other team for the puck.

**SB:** Has it always been this?

**KVS:** Yeah, I've always loved this part of the game.

**SB:** In a game versus Bowdoin College recently you had a great third period, scoring two goals. What is your greatest achievement to date as a hockey player?



Van Slyke '08 on the ice (Web)

**KVS:** Personally, I do not know if I have a greatest achievement in hockey. But, I am very proud of our team as a whole, and what we have come together to do this season. Sweeping Bowdoin and beating Williams for the first time in program history means a lot to me and to the girls on the team. We have a great team dynamic and it has been a great season.

**SB:** As a senior, what are your plans for next year in terms of hockey?

**KVS:** Next year, I plan to attend law school. I hope to keep playing hockey for fun in a women's league, if there is time. I also plan to coach youth hockey in the future.

**SB:** What does your job as captain of the team entail?

**KVS:** Emily, Jill, and I prepare and lead pre-season training and team-building activities. We also assist coaches with facilitation of team functions and the coordination of team fundraisers. Overall, we try maintain team cohesion and push our teammates to get better everyday.

**SB:** Who has been the most influential person for you in your career as a player?

**KVS:** My dad has been the most influential person on me as a player. He played college hockey and also is a hockey coach in Minnesota. He has always been there to support me and to help me improve. His determination and drive in life are inspirational to me on and off the ice.

**SB:** How do you feel the team has done so far this year?

**KVS:** I feel the team have done very well in NESCAC play this year. Going into the weekend against Wesleyan and Hamilton, we are placed in fourth in the league. We have significantly improved from last year, and we are currently focused on keeping our playoff spot and hopefully hosting the first round here at Connecticut College.

# A Convenient Truth: The Role of China and India in the Fight Against Global Warming

BY STANISLAV ANDREEV '11

contributing writer

The facts seem simple: with a population of 1.3 billion and an economic rate growth of close to 12 per cent, China is a country where the standard of living is rising in proportion to the global warming pollution created. Disputably, China is the second largest oil importer. Furthermore, as Professor Tian, of the Government Department, pointed out, 75 per cent of the energy China consumes is produced domestically from "dirty" coal. India, with a population of 1.12 billion and a rate of economic growth of about 9 per cent, also undergoes dramatic development associated with an enormous consumption of non-renewable energy. These facts are largely known and constitute a truth that is often cited during global warming debates... a convenient truth.

After openly expressing his satisfaction with the US resistance of the Kyoto Treaty (because of the agreement's exemption of China), Professor William Frasure, also of the Government Department, was categorical in his belief that any US commitment to carbon emission cuts is not going to happen *unless* China is committed to making similar restrictions (at least "in principle"). He quoted Bill Clinton, stating that the United States should "slow down economy in order to cut [greenhouse] emissions," by elaborating on the fact

that sacrificing economic growth for fighting global warming is a high cost that US should not pay unless China is ready to pay a similar one. Later in his exposé, Frasure expressed his confidence that once the major powers agree on a cooperative fight against global warming, the United States is much more likely to follow its moral obligation than China, because "[Americans] are much more democratic than they are." The Government professor elaborated on the fact that China is much less likely to initiate a global warming fight because of the lack of social pressure on the Chinese government for such a commitment.

While listening to Frasure's speech, numerous questions came to my head. First, if, as Prof. Frasure said, China is unlikely to initiate a real global warming fight, then is it desirable for the United States to wait for the Chinese commitment before starting to solve the problem? If, hypothetically, China and the United States agree on similar cooperative commitments, wouldn't it be possible that they will point their fingers at India or some other country and request its pledge before making any policy changes? Isn't such a transfer of responsibility just a convenient way of justifying the lack of action against global warming?

As Professor Lopez from the Economics Department pointed out, what Frasure was describing was a typical "Game Theory" situation where the desirable outcome is not achieved because nobody is willing to sacrifice first. Unfortunately, what the science behind global warming and the voice of thousands of college students during Power Shift 2007 are both indicating is that we have no time for "games" (i.e. the conventional approach of waiting and pointing fingers is simply not acceptable). If American democracy makes the US more likely to follow its moral obligation once an agreement is signed, then maybe it is the US's moral obligation to accept carbon emission cuts and give an example to developing nations, instead of waiting for them to act (which, as the battle against ozone depletion showed, could be quite effective). To use *another* quote from Bill Clinton, "There's way more economic opportunity than cost here, and I think unless we take the lead in the United States, we'll never get the Indians and the Chinese to do it."

Actually, the moral obligation of the United States does not only originate from the leadership role that the country takes in international relations, but also from its

role in the actual creation of the problem. There is no question that the US and China are the main greenhouse polluters, and they have to cooperate to reduce their emissions. However, as Prof. Tian pointed out, the greenhouse pollution per capita in the United States is about 40 times more than the one of China, and even greater than the one of India. According to Prof. Frasure, the moral issue should "be put to the side" because "the environment doesn't care who is polluting – a ton of carbon is a ton of carbon." The truth is, however, that a ton of carbon is *not simply* a ton of carbon. Therefore, the pollution per capita matters in terms of the obligation associated with necessary reductions and measures to be taken.

Going back to the argument about the necessity of waiting for China to sign an agreement before making any reductions: Is it desirable *and plausible* for us to wait for Chinese people to stop feeding their children and heat their houses, who primarily use coal stoves, before we start driving more efficient cars, use the convenient public transportation more or use less electricity by simply turning air conditions a little down or switching off appliances when we're not using them?

When asked some of the questions mentioned above, Prof. Frasure answered that it is highly unlikely for China to initiate the fight against Global Warming, but he expressed his confidence that the problem will eventually get solved when the "important" countries gather in small groups and initiate bilateral, not-in-the-spotlight conversations and reach cooperative agreements, which would be internationally enforced and soon become effective policies. Such a prediction is very optimistic, but it has a small problem: timing. Global warming has only recently taken a place on the international political agenda, but we do not know how much longer we can wait until truly devastating effects take place. As Power Shift 2007 and Focus the Nation showed, people from our generation realize the importance of the problem and are ready to take the necessary measures to solve it. However, when the present-day activists become leaders who can make such decisions, it might be too late. Therefore, we no longer want convenient explanations, but the answers to the inconvenient questions. *Now.*

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### Life after Football

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### King of Queens

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### Of Fruit Flies and Booze

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### NYC Fashion Week

<http://www.style.com>

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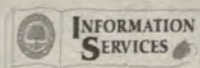
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# Life after Football

BY JASON STARR '09

sports editor



Have you seen the latest "Priceless Pep Talk with Peyton Manning" MasterCard commercial? If you aren't familiar with these commercials, they feature the Indianapolis Colts' quarterback delivering a 30 second motivational speech on various subjects such as improving your social life with a few new dance moves, developing "rock-hard abs," and driving minivans. This most recent installment, however, has a slightly more somber tone.

This commercial aired shortly after the Colts were defeated at home by the Chargers. It presents a dejected Peyton Manning who can barely look at the camera. Peyton fails to deliver a motivational speech and abandons his cocky demeanor entirely.



A humbled Peyton could only say: "[b]ummed about football season coming to an end? Well cheer up, there is plenty to look forward to like... well, there's always... you know what? I'm bummed too. I guess I'll see ya next fall."

Oh, it's so sad for Peyton! I took a lot of pleasure in seeing the Chargers upset the Colts and eliminate them from the playoffs. I also relished watching a typically smug Peyton who now appeared to be genuinely distraught.

While I found a significant amount of pleasure in Peyton's sadness, he does raise some very important questions: now that the football season is over, what are we going to do with ourselves? How are we going to spend our Sundays (and Monday nights and occasionally Thursdays and Saturdays?) Unlike Peyton, I can provide you with a few short-term fixes as well as a long-term solution that will keep you entertained until football season picks up again next fall.

On Sunday, February 10th at 5 PM, the NFL Pro Bowl will take place in

Hawaii, and the game will be on FOX. It will feature big stars on both sides of the ball: Trufant, Bailey, Peterson, Tomlinson, Brady, Moss, Romo, Owens, and our favorite motivational guru, Peyton Manning. While this game will be fun to watch, it has virtually no significance. Neither defense will be playing very hard, so expect to see some incredible offensive performances.

The following weekend (February 15-17) is the NBA All-Star Weekend in New Orleans. This weekend will contain various competitions and events, but the ones I highly recommend—aside from the All-Star game itself—is the NBA All-Star Celebrity Game and the Slam Dunk contest. On Friday night, actors Seth Gilliam and James Kyson Lee as well as rappers Common and Master P will play in the celebrity game. Former NFL (and MLB) superstar Deion Sanders, along with many other celebrities will participate in this event as well.

The dunk contest will take place at 8 PM on Saturday night, and it will feature defending champion Gerald Green of the Minnesota Timberwolves, Rudy Gay of the Memphis Grizzlies, Dwight Howard of the Orlando Magic, and Jamario Moon of the Toronto Raptors. This event, as well as the Celebrity Game will be highly entertaining, and you will not need to invest a significant amount of your time in them.

That Sunday will be the All-Star game, and the biggest names in basketball (Carmelo, Duncan, Garnett, Howard, Iverson, Kidd, Kobe, LeBron, Wade, and Yao) will take the court at 8 PM. Similarly to the Pro Bowl, don't expect either side play much defense. Each team could score more than 130 points

The Pro Bowl and the NBA All-Star weekend will keep you entertained for the next two weekends, but these events have no real importance and are merely short-term solutions. But baseball season is actually right around the corner: pitchers and catchers can report to spring training as early as February 14th and other position players are expected to arrive after the 19th. Opening day is March 30th— just 46 days away. Cheer up, Peyton!



# King of Queens

BY BEN EAGLE '09

sports editor



Christmas came a bit late in Queens this year—36 days late to be exact. On January 30th, Mets' fans ran downstairs to find a savior under their proverbial Christmas tree. That savior, of course, was two-time Cy Young award winner, Johan Santana.

Before this week, Mets fans' stockings had been filled with coal. After a trip to the National League Championship series in 2006, expectations were high. The Mets, however, proved to be the lovable losers of 2007 when they did the impossible: lost 11 of their last 16 games to become the first team in MLB history to blow a lead of seven or more games with only 17 games left to play.



Fans cried. A friend of mine, a die-hard Mets fan who brings his Mets jersey with him whenever he goes on vacation, didn't speak for a week. When he finally mustered up the strength to speak again, he said: "I can't believe this happened. They're gonna blow up the whole team."

I thought he was right. As a general manager, you can't watch a team implode on you like this and have confidence that they will be able to get it done next year. In scientific terms, if the formula yielded this result, how could the outcome be different when you are working with the same pieces?

Apparently, Omar Minaya thought differently. The Mets' general manager, who grew up in Queens, was quiet all off-season. He traded the hot-headed, but talented Lastings Milledge to the Nationals for catcher Brian Schneider and outfielder Ryan Church. Minaya's other off-season moves weren't worthy of much attention either. He re-signed an aging Luis Castillo to a four-year deal and traded notable steroid user Guillermo Mota to the Brewers for catcher Johnny Estrada.

This did not appear to be the off-season that Mets' fans or players were hoped for. While the fans lamented this fact in

bars across Queens, some players were displaying it publicly. Mets' closer, Billy Wagner, expressed his discontent with the team when he ranked both the Braves and the Phillies above the Mets in the NL East on SNY's "Hot Stove Report."

Oh, how the times have changed. The *New York Post* reports that following the Santana trade, sports books in Las Vegas dropped the Mets' chances of winning the World Series from 6-1 down to 3-1—a move that made them co-favorites with the Red Sox.

How can one player warrant such a jump you may wonder? If you have to ask, you clearly don't know very much about Johan Santana.

Over the last three years, he has arguably been the best pitcher in baseball. In 2004, Santana completed one of the most dominant second halves in MLB history. Over the last three months of the season, Santana was 13-0 with a 1.21 ERA and gave up four or fewer hits in ten straight starts. 2005 was considered a down year for the ace, but he still posted a 16-7 record, struck out 238 batters, and posted a 2.87 ERA. In 2006, he won the pitching Triple Crown—the first pitcher to lead the league in strikeouts, wins, and ERA since Dwight Gooden, a former Met, did it in 1985.

Imagine, for a second, if it had been Santana starting the last game of the season and not Tom Glavine? Would Queens have cried all summer? I guess we'll just have to wait until the 2008 season to see.



All images: Web

## Voting For a Clinton, For All the Right Reasons

By Adrian Stover '08



Who among us remembers the 1990s? I certainly do. Back then, life was good. The economy was doing very well after businesses had fully embraced the Internet, the music of the Spice Girls made us feel good about ourselves after Nirvana made us depressed, baggy pants and long straight hair were in and Bill Clinton was subtly teaching 12 year old girls and boys about something called /oral sex/. The latter was very confusing because the only other time I had ever heard the word "oral" used was in the dentist's office. Compared to the last seven years, the '90s seem like a relatively stable period of American life. With Hillary Clinton currently running for the office of President of the United States, this kind of nostalgia is always present

among her supporters who are determined to see her husband Bill return to the White House. In short, some are voting for Hillary CLINTON.

While I do admire Hillary Clinton for everything that she has accomplished and wish her the best of luck on the campaign trail, I would like to extirpate this euphoric nostalgia about everything that the Clintons did during the 1990s. While there were a lot of good things that happened, here is a short list of bad things that happened: America's involvement in Somalia that produced the photograph of an American GI being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu, the Clintons' failure to bring reform to the healthcare system and to mediate a successful long-term peace agreement to Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the shutting down of the government after disagreements about the national budget, and the controversial "Whitewater" dealings of both Bill and Hillary Clinton. One has to remember

that much of Bill's presidency was spent fending off special prosecutors, congressional committees, and news organizations. On top of that, he was being investigated regarding whether or not he had obstructed justice in order to cover up an affair with the most infamous White House intern of all time - Monica Lewinsky.

Hillary Clinton's campaign has been able to effectively skirt many of these former episodes during the past year for a good reason - she did not sleep around during all those years in the White House. In fact, I'm not quite sure what it was she was doing besides planning her Senate campaign. What the Democrats have effectively done for both Bill and Hillary is to organize this nostalgia into a vision of the 1990s that never existed. Hillary's campaign has done this by claiming the best parts of Bill's presidency, while keeping their distance from the less successful ones. A clear example of

this is that the former First Lady touts being responsible for creating 22 million jobs and forging peace in Northern Ireland. However, she repudiates the North American Free Trade Agreement that Bill signed in his first term, which is unpopular with labor organizers.

If you believe that Hillary Clinton is the best presidential candidate that the Democratic Party has to offer, you have every right to vote for her. However, I would strongly urge you to vote for Hillary herself based upon her own accomplishments and values. But don't take my word for it, read what former President Bill Clinton said about her on December 17th in South Carolina, "She's got a good vision for the future, she's got good plans to implement that vision, and she knows how to turn the vision and those plans into specific concrete changes in people's lives."

Well, gosh, Bill. Anything for you.

## Of Fruit Flies and Booze

By Andrew Margenot '10



They come out of seemingly nowhere. No, not your gas problems—I'm talking about fruit flies! Where do these little buggers come from? After all, if the creationists get a whiff of a possible example of spontaneous generation who knows what ridiculous lawsuits we'll be seeing in our courts: "Evalushion and the cell theory of life is wrong! Just look at the fruit flies!" And before you know it, our 'biology' textbooks will include a chapter along the lines of "Creationism: the Story of the Creator's Humble Fruit Fly."

Anyway, enough of poking fun at creationism—it's time to talk about actual science (zing!), beginning with our protagonist, the fruit fly. Antagonist would be a better description, though. Google "fruit fly" and you'll be amazed at the amount of human resources funneled into perpetrating fruit fly genocide throughout Suburbia. To make things worse, serious fruit fly rights violations occur in science labs across the world. As it turns out, the common fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, is one of biology's select few 'model' organisms of study. More like torture. Much of what we know about human genes, for example, comes from studies on our fruit fly counterparts. These studies range from the effects of alcohol on male sexuality to extreme longevity.

Before delving into the use of fruit flies to explore our own DNA, we would do best to return to the press-

ing question of where *Drosophila* come from. If there's fruit that's a little too ripe, suddenly fruit flies appear. Since fruit flies don't stalk fruit buyers in supermarket aisles and then track down customers' vehicles on the way home, the winged insects do not come from the supermarket—as adults, that is. While adult fruit flies themselves aren't stowed away in your grocery bags, their kids are; i.e., the fruit you buy already is home to a clutch of eggs.

But even this isn't how most fruit flies find their way to your kitchen counter. The majority of fruit flies live outside of your home in the great outdoors. However, they have an incredible sense of smell. Combine this with their miniscule size, 0.2 mm, and the fruit fly becomes the perfect search-and-destroy machine, if what you want to destroy is an overripe peach. One study found that fruit flies travel up to one mile to a source of fruitiness. But is it really "fruitiness" that these red-eyed beasts seek out (they really have enormous red ocular devices)? Not quite. Like many college students, fruit flies subsist on the fermentation products of fruits. If your bananas look like they just received the beating of their lives, or if your peaches have soft pink cold sores all over them, it's a fair bet that *Drosophila* will show up.

Fruit flies, then, are just tiny insects that bum some booze off of you, entering your house through any tiny opening with the aid of their olfactory glands. Fruit flies really can live off of booze and cigarettes, minus the cigarettes. Gram for gram, they can drink any

human under the table. Not surprisingly, *Drosophila* is the subject of intense studies on alcohol's biochemical effects. Back in the '90s, a group of researchers isolated a gene, fittingly named *amnesiac*, that allows fruit flies to drink at their glory without submitting to the inhibitory effects of alcohol. The proof? Fruit flies that had their *amnesiac* gene "knocked-out" (removed) displayed an incredibly heightened sensitivity to ethanol. For the first time, nature saw fruit flies become drunk. And yes, the scientists actually used hard liquor in the experiment.

Perhaps the solution to drinking on college campuses could be solved with a little gene therapy. Say, for instance, that in the future, Blackstone takes over Conn. They might make it college policy that all Conn students must have the *amnesiac* gene inserted into their DNA. Drinking on campus would surely stop, since it would be impossible to get smashed regardless of how many Jager Bombs you put down. And it would cost far too much to buy all the booze needed to get even the slightest hint of a buzz. Yes, forcing college students to become genetically modified in this way would definitely dry up any campus. But it would probably trigger the largest rise of cocaine demand in history. And unfortunately for a future coup d'état by Blackstone, there does not exist a fruit fly with a cocaine-resistant gene.

Special thanks to General Eric Tam for his knowledge on the strategic possibilities of a future Blackstone takeover.

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## Letter to the Editor, continued

that if people were given stricter sanctions or sanctions closer to that of other college and university campuses, I don't think people would see it as such a challenge or deviation from normal student life. Since people at Conn don't often think twice about getting written up, when you suddenly have to avoid it there is some unbelievable challenge involved. Truthfully, I've never been written up and I don't really see it as sheer luck. Our school is based on an honor code system that asks its students to be responsible and accountable for each other, so every student should be striving to live up to the standards placed on housefellows.

We are normal people too and we aren't asked to be perfect. But I can say that on more than one occasion, if I am hanging out in my room on a typical "going out" night, I have multiple residents coming into my room looking for some sober company. Not to say that it happens every night, but being available to my residents is my number one concern and if that means staying in a couple Saturday nights, I don't see that as a huge loss on my part.

Referring to the comment about the relationship with residents when we are looked at as disciplinarians, I think it is completely unfounded. Doing "rounds" is more of an opportunity for us to get to know our residents and to make us visible rather than marching through the halls looking for trouble. The activities, the rounds, the e-mails, are all a way to reach our residents and make sure they know that we are there and that we care. We aren't paid to care. If we were, we are greatly under-paid. There are always those residents that never come to meetings, never come to study breaks, and never have his door open. Sometimes you use what you can to reach even those most secluded students.

I touched on pay in a split second, but it is something that should be properly examined. I think if you

spoke to most housefellows, we use our paychecks to fund study breaks or extra activities that go on in the house. Often times, house budgets fall short of the ambitions of housefellows since not nearly enough students pay dorm dues, so I know I dig into my own pocket weekly. It's not because we have to, but because we truly care about each and every resident in our houses, even those residents that don't show up to events. Investing in candy for my room has been my best house-bonding effort and is what brings most people in to see me. If paying a little more for candy a month is what I have to do, then I'll do it. I think the housefellows calculated what we get paid and it amounts to less than ten cents an hour. It really is a labor of love.

The other day I was in my room and a bunch of my student advisers came in with some of their other friends. We were laughing, making jokes and having a great time. I wasn't just the housefellow, but a friend. They didn't see me as the senior authoritarian figure, but a peer. It's those moments where the wall is broken down between the housefellow and the resident that really are the best. There's a pride that comes in being able to build that trust with a person you previously didn't know.

It is true that the job of the housefellow is the most difficult thing I have ever done. I face challenges daily and some are significantly more serious than others, but I find that I have come out a better person than I could have been doing anything else. I don't regret my decision to apply or become a housefellow. The number one reason that being a housefellow is the best job on campus is that you get to know the most incredible people. I didn't know about seventy-five percent of the other housefellows prior to training and by the end of our training we were all asking each other: "Where have you been all my life?" I have met people that are so intelligent and have such passion that I would have otherwise not had the privilege of getting to know. If you

have not gotten to know your housefellow yet this semester, no matter what house you're in, take advantage of having some of the most incredible individuals leading your house and being available to you.

Besides the other housefellows, I have gotten to know so many more students on campus that I didn't know before. Students who are my own year all the way down to the incredibly energetic freshmen class have really made this experience so valuable and genuinely fun.

Lastly, whatever your feelings towards the Residential Life staff may be, they are simply incredible. Few people would be able to deal with the stress and anxiety not only of their job, but also deal with all of the housefellows coming in each and every day to vent and find support for their own problems. They are invaluable to this campus and they get even less recognition than the housefellows. Next time you have to make a room change or you have to get a keg approved, take a moment to just say: "Thank you for everything." That's the least they deserve.

For anyone who says that the housefellow position isn't worth applying to, I would defend my job with everything I have. It's not meant for everyone, but I do believe that it's a calling and shouldn't be ignored because of superficial things like low pay. Every housefellow has their own reasons for applying, but in the end, we all have a passion for wanting to help our fellow students as well set an example and a standard for underclassmen to maintain for the college's future. Individual people can make a difference, and housefellows are a testament to that potential. These individuals are prepared to contribute in a major way to their communities, cities, states and country. Being a housefellow is a privilege, and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

- Lauren Brug '08

Housefellow of Larrabee

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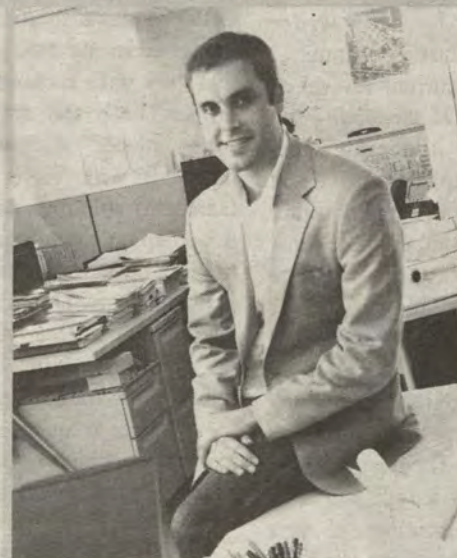
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## The Classics Revisited

### AC/DC's Back in Black

BY JACOB MEADE '08

staff writer

"Rock and roll is just rock and roll!" declaims lead singer Brian Johnson in the last seconds of AC/DC's *Back in Black*. And that basically captures everything that made the band's 1980 record one of the hugest hard rock albums ever. From start to finish, *Back in Black* was a ridiculously simple and direct statement of rock music at its hardest, most depraved, and (simply put) best. This fact wasn't lost on the band's fans, 42 million of whom have bought the record in the 28 years since its release, making it one of the best selling albums of all time.

Even if *Back in Black* had been a fifth as good and sold a fifth as many copies, it'd still make for one of the most remarkable comebacks ever pulled off by a high-profile band. In February of 1980, then-lead singer Bon Scott was found dead at the end of a fatally epic drinking spree. It was a sad but not entirely shocking end to the guy who used to chug half a bottle of whiskey to prepare for recording sessions. His death was an especially harsh blow to the band since he'd also written their songs and given them their hard-partying public image. The other four members considered disbanding, but wisely decided to head back into the studio with a new singer/lyricist and cut what

would end up an absolute beast of an album, a monument to the basest pleasures of rock and roll. It's the kind of record that every raucous bar needs in its jukebox, because simply no amount of drunken belligerence could drown out a song as thunderous as "Shoot to Thrill."

Of no small importance to AC/DC's resurgence was producer Robert "Mutt" Lange, who'd helmed the band's last album, 1979's *Highway to Hell*. Lange knew how to make the guys' sound polished and palatable to radio, but not at the expense of its intensity. Avoiding overdubs and instead focusing on the band's strength as a live unit, he managed to capture textures and details that only enhance the songs' assault.

*Back in Black* is a paramount of consistency. Every song rocks, every song sticks in your head, every song has a mind-boggling guitar solo that sounds bent on destroying your speakers. The brain-bludgeon rhythm section of bassist Cliff Williams and drummer Phil Rudd gives anthems like "Hells Bells" a chugging, parading quality that was a big influence on all '80s metal to follow. In the meantime, guitarist brothers Angus and Malcolm Young deploy catchy riffs and manic solos that never lose step with the relentless beat below. And Johnson's screech is a sustained state of Led Zep's Robert Plant at his highest



and most hysterical.

But despite all the awesomeness, *Back in Black* isn't quite perfect. The band's crassness and immaturity toward women might have come off funny (plenty of other male-oriented bands have pulled it off) but ends up verging on offensive. This doesn't technically make the guitar riffs any less great, but it's still hard to hear a line like "She's using her head again/ I'm just a giving the dog a bone" without thinking, Come on, guys. Also, it's a little hard to listen to this album all the way through its 10 songs, since it's such a constant barrage

of noise cranked to 11. It's great for a few songs at a time, but you end up just tired if you try to enjoy all 42 minutes of it at once.

*Back in Black* was the unlikely peak of AC/DC's career. They've had numerous other releases and to this day still play gigs, but they'd never again come up with a sound as rock-solid as they did here. *Back in Black* is about as no-frills and straightforward as rock gets, and for that reason it'll probably never stop being discovered by each generation's crop of young people looking for something to bang their heads to.

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

### Part II of III

BY BEN FISHER '08

staff writer

In my last column, I reviewed the current revival of Pinter's *The Homecoming* on Broadway. If it doesn't seem like your cup of tea, don't worry. There are many other fine plays about dysfunctional families. *August: Osage County*, a new play by Tracy Letts (author of, among other things, the terrific horror play then horror movie *Bug*) imported from Chicago's prestigious Steppenwolf Theater is over three hours in length, but it is worth every minute. If you thought things were bad in North London, clearly you've never been to Tulsa.

In the fashion of O'Neill's *Long Days Journey into Night*, the play centers around the self destruction of the Weston family. In the first scene, the patriarch Beverly Weston (played by

the playwright's father Dennis Letts) explains to Johanna, the housekeeper he has just hired that "my wife takes pills and I drink. That's the arrangement we've made." A few minutes later, his wife Violet (Deanna Donagan) stumbles downstairs, doped up on enough pain killers to kill a buffalo. In her first seconds onstage, Donagan establishes Violet is clearly a force to be reckoned with — defiant, uninhibited, monomaniacal and (despite her frequent self medication) deceptively perceptive. Mary Tyrone meets Atila the Hun.

The next day, Beverly disappears and, one by one the rest of the family — Violet's three daughters: Barbara (Amy Morton), Ivy (Sally Murphy), and Karen (Mariann Mayberry) and her younger sister, Mattie Fae (Rondi Reed) — return with husbands, fiancés, and a kid or two in tow. Lett's ability to han-

dle this onslaught of characters is impressive. In many plays with large ensemble casts, some characters invariably get pushed into the background. In *August: Osage County*, each character contributes. Indeed, the mire of squabbles, feuds, resentments, secrets, and other bits of familial unhappiness becomes all the more putrid when it is fed by so many streams. As the house overcrowds and becomes more and more unbearable, Violet and Barbara, the eldest child, become the main players in the battle, but each member is essential.

Letts' construction of the play is truly incredible. We know from the outset that things are going to get bad, but cannot prepare ourselves for how bad they do get. I kept thinking the play had reached resolution, only to be blindsided by another horrific discovery. Each new revelation is shocking, but never

feels like a cheap twist. Looking back on the play, the audience can see the clues along the way. When we can anticipate trouble coming, the result always exceeds our expectations. Both the actors and playwright pace themselves as they chisel down past rock bottom, sustaining a terrific amount of dramatic tension without rushing to the end. The audience is always kept in the moment and rarely, if ever, do we become expectant or impatient (as is so often the case with these types of plays).

*August: Osage County* is also as hysterical as it is fearless, but again Letts strikes an excellent balance that does not overshadow the weight of the drama but which prevents the audience from being overburdened by gloom. Anna D. Shapiro's skill as a director is evident here, especially in scenes when humor is introduced alongside a horrific dis-

covery. The play never feels like it is switching into a comedy, but the audience is nonetheless free to laugh.

After the success of *Bug*, maybe some studio will take a crack at creating a film of *August: Osage County* but, like *The Homecoming*, the drama truly lends itself to the stage. The set of the play is a cut out of the entire house, and even in the most intimate scenes, someone is always rattling around, listening when they shouldn't. Like other effective family dramas, the sense that privacy is being invaded is essential. As the house empties and fills, the audience is made acutely aware that isolation and suffocation are two faces of the same monster. The place itself becomes a monument to the misery of the Weston clan.

## The Jokerman

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08

editor-in-chief



The way the media operates makes the average person, a.k.a. someone who is *not* famous, feel connected to a celebrity in a way that is difficult to explain. Of course, the relationship isn't real by any conventional standards. No words have been exchanged, you don't actually know the celebrity personally, and he definitely does not know you. But, nonetheless, you feel a certain affinity for a particular actor or musician because his work affects you. You understand the characters he plays, you feel emotionally connected to a song he wrote. Your abstract, detached relationship with images on a screen or words through a speaker manages to create a personal investment, on your side. And with the help of paparazzi, you can see this celebrity operating in his personal life. You can see snapshots of him getting a coffee with his wife.

You can find out the exact time of his unexpected death, and can see the outline of his arm in the black body bag as his corpse is removed from his apartment. This is too much information to process, but the media makes you feel it is okay to know. If *The New York Times* publishes it, then it is not an invasion of privacy...

And when you find this out, you feel sad. When I found out Heath Ledger died last week, I was shocked, and then, the more I thought about it, the more frustrated I was with my reaction. I don't know this man. I know the characters he plays, but I certainly wouldn't say that I am an avid fan. Yet his death

felt important to me.

Maybe because it was untimely and unexpected. Maybe it was because he left behind a two-year-old daughter who will never know him. Maybe it was because I was really looking forward to seeing his portrayal of The Joker in *The Dark Knight*. Whatever the reasoning behind my feelings is, I think his death is huge, tragic news because we, America, have not had a celebrity of his magnitude die so suddenly in quite some time. And we, as Americans, feed on that kind of drama and sensationalism.

I will not pass judgment on how perverse that fact is – I am just as much a part of it as anyone. But, it's true. The glamour of what being famous *looks* like has never gone away. Hollywood has a multi-billion dollar industry built on appearing extraordinary.

And a tragic, untimely death is completely extraordinary. Marilyn Monroe is still idolized and her premature death cemented her place in Hollywood history. John Lennon is martyred because he died suddenly and too young. James Dean, John Belushi, Janis Joplin, Kurt Cobain. They will all be remembered for their accomplishments, but also for their sudden deaths.

Now we are left to memorialize a man we don't know, talking about it amongst our friends and picking up magazines with his portrait on the cover. I think we, the other half of the Hollywood equation, have a much more difficult task at hand because it forces us to face the detached, media-saturated reality we live in, filled with images and footage of people we know by name and face, yet not by person.

## NYC Fashion Week Stomps Winter Blues

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief



Who I am excited to see this time around:

**Jonathan Saunders:** I remember seeing the Englishman in *Vogue*'s "View" pages about six months ago, and he is bringing the show to NYC. Fall 2007 featured a graphic, techno look with lots of color and unlike the black-white collections from other avant-garde designers from neighboring Northern countries. Spring 2008 was athletic-inspired. I do not know what fabrics he used, but it reminds me of wet-suits and synthetics with funky color-blocking. Barely-there colors paired with black and white, and subtle silhouettes seem like a very American perspective regarding fashion—in the most Puritanical kind of way. Minimalist makeup and slightly undone hair evoke tenderness that more dramatic makeup or hair would render the overall look severe. However, Saunders is not echoing the aesthetic of Calvin Klein, which is the first American house coming to mind working in the minimalist tradition.

**Rodarte:** I love Kate and Laura Mulleavy since I covered their Spring 2007 collection, and they are making such great strides to keep Rodarte artsy while increasingly wearable for those with a strapping bank account. Critics had issues with their too-abstract, conceptual approach, but the sisters are making the necessary adjustments to their young firm. Previous pieces are on-view at The Met's "Blog.Mode: Addressing Fashion" exhibit.

**Christian Cota:** Amongst the ten editors' picks at style.com, Cota is "poised to swoop in and make fast fans of New York's young socials with his pretty, technically advanced collection." A world citizen from Mexico City, of British and Spanish parentage, his modernist approach to fashion ought to resonate with many young professionals. He will be doing a GAP capsule

collection in the future, I can see it now.

**Peter Som:** Conn alum and recent appointee as creative director at Bill Blass, Som's American sportswear is refreshing and neither costume-y as a particular major American powerhouse designer nor showy like a certain designer moonlighting as a judge on cable television.

**Marc Jacobs:** Always and forever creating buzz, Jacobs the man makes as many headlines as his designs do. With his finger on the pulse of our generation, he is one of the tastemakers simultaneously "in" and trying to be a little on the fringe. If he is a little rebellious or disrespectful in staging his shows two hours late, it speaks to a disregard for authority perhaps we wish was demonstrated more often.

**Rogan:** Rogan Gregory was crowned winner of the CFDA/*Vogue* Fashion Fund, and even if he weren't designing for his eponymous line, Loomstate or Edun, his down-to-earth countenance and eco-attuned approach to fashion suffice to propel him from his underground status to fashion's darling.

**Ohne Titel:** Friends Flora Gill and Alexa Adams graduated from Parsons, tried their hands at other firms, and in 2005 got together to start the line mixing earthy influences with the modernist in natural fabrics like cashmere with synthetics like nylon. Using a handful of colors—black, red, yellow, cream—and one batik print in the Spring 2008 show, the pair's masterful command of utilitarian styling is sensational.

**Erin Fetherston:** Representing a delicate approach to dressing, Fetherston was a nominee for the CFDA/*Vogue* Fashion Fund and she is raved about in the fashion press. I am interested to see if she does something different than her usual and how she handles the mounting pressure of recognition without having fully "arrived."

## Streetlight Manifesto: Progressive, Ska or Somewhere in the Between?

BY RICH ABATE '10

staff writer

I was first introduced to Streetlight Manifesto in the summer of 2006 when I caught them opening for Reel Big Fish and MxPx at the Chance Theater in Poughkeepsie, New York. I really hadn't listened to much ska music prior to this point but figured I'd check out the show anyways. Yet when Streetlight hit the stage, their talent alone was enough to convince me that this was a band that would do great things in the years to come. Now, with the release of the highly acclaimed *Somewhere in the Between*, Streetlight Manifesto has been able to make a name for themselves by creating a sound all their own.

Hailing from East Brunswick Township, New Jersey, Streetlight Manifesto revolves around singer/guitarist Tomas Kalnoky, formerly of another

Jersey based ska band, Catch-22. Yet rather than sticking to the punk/ska roots that are essential to the music of Catch-22, Kalnoky has been able to create a sound with Streetlight that can only be described as more mature than what most mainstream ska bands have to offer. Nothing exemplifies this better than the band's newest single "We Will Fall Together" off of *Somewhere in the Between*. Rather than relying on catchy horn riffs over simple chord progressions, the song begins with a minute long instrumental build up that easily demonstrates the ability of Streetlight's horn section. The introduction provides a perfect segue into the fast-paced vocal styling of Kalnoky, whose lyrics seem to harness the overall energy of the song. Add all this to a soulful sax solo and some heavily distorted guitar tones, and you've got a song that seems to journey through a variety of genres while still managing to have a consistency that makes it just plain fun to listen to.

However, where the album truly deviates from its ska roots is through its lyrics. Kalnoky deals greatly with the issues of life and death throughout the majority of the songs, including "Watch it Crash" which both musically and lyrically has sinister moments not regularly heard in mainstream ska. Kalnoky's words themselves are a testament to his break from not only his beginnings in Catch-22 but traditional ska in general, as he takes a more progressive approach on the genre with this album.

That being said, Streetlight Manifesto is a difficult band to categorize. While still considering themselves a ska/punk group, they have also moved past the norms of mainstream ska, both musically and lyrically. So in terms of genre, where does that leave them? I'd say that the best answer would be *Somewhere in the Between*.



# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 6 - FEBRUARY 12

### WEDNESDAY

#### EXHIBIT

**Bridging East and West: The Search for Japan in the Midst of Modernization, Shain, on-going**

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

**Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel, noon**

**Ash Wednesday Roman Catholic Mass with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes, Chapel, 5 p.m.**

#### EVENT

**ACDFA New England Conference Opening Night Dance Performance, Palmer, 8 p.m.**

### FRIDAY

#### EVENT

**"Cambiando Vidas: Changing Lives - a Cross-Cultural, Educational Experience in the Dominican Republic," Holleran, noon**

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

**Shabbat Dinner, Freeman, 6 p.m.**

#### SPORTS

**Men's Hockey vs. Wesleyan, Dayton, 7 p.m.**

**Men's Basketball vs. Amherst, Luce Field House, 7 p.m.**

### THURSDAY

#### FITNESS

**Personal Trainer, Fitness Center, noon**

#### EVENT

**Black History Month Brown Bag Lunch, Haines Rm., Shain, noon**

**Student Poetry reading, Chu Rm, Shain, 7 p.m.**

**Norma Rae Film Screening, Women's Center, 9 p.m.**

### SATURDAY

#### EVENT

**New York Bus Trip, 8 a.m.**

#### SPORTS

**Swimming and Diving vs. Wellesley and Bates, Lott Natatorium, 1 p.m.**

**Men's Hockey vs. Trinity, Dayton, 3 p.m.**

**Men's Basketball vs. Trinity, Luce Field House, 3 p.m.**

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

**Roman Catholic Mass, Chapel, 5 p.m.**



Kaminsky '09

### SUNDAY

#### EVENT

**Cels Recruitment: Eaton Vance, Cels, All Day**

#### CONCERT

**Prism Trio Concert, Evans, 2 p.m.**

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

**Protestant Worship and Fellowship, Chapel, 5 p.m.**

**Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry, Chapel, 6 p.m.**

### MONDAY

#### FITNESS

**Personal Trainer, noon, Fitness Center**

#### EVENT

**Black History Month Soul Food Night, Harris, 7 p.m.**

### TUESDAY

#### LECTURE

**"Running Forward, Looking Back: Yu Miri's The Ends of August," Blaustein 211, 4 p.m.**

#### FITNESS

**Community Yoga Class, 1941 Rm., 5 p.m.**

#### EVENT

**Following in the footsteps of Dinosaurs: The Age of Dinosaurs in the Connecticut Valley, New London Hall 110, 7 p.m.**

## Study in Paris! Register for SATA Paris by Friday

A new Study Away Teach Away (SATA) program in Paris gives students an opportunity to study French contemporary political issues and explore the rich Parisian culture. SATA Paris is scheduled for the fall semester of 2008, and the deadline for registering is Friday, Feb. 8.

The program is open to students who have taken FRH 203, or who have an intermediate-level grasp of the language. "Language barriers should not be an issue with this program. All of the students have an opportunity to take part in a two-week intensive French language class prior to beginning their studies," said Catherine Benoit, professor of anthropology, who will lead the SATA.

The goal of SATA Paris is to expose students to an understanding of France as a country currently debating and struggling over issues of ethnicity, immigration, colonialism, and the memory of slavery.

The program will include fieldtrips every

other week within the city of Paris and several other excursions outside Paris. Some of these will include:

- Fieldtrips to the cities of the Atlantic façade that participated in the development of the slave trade and have lately developed heritage sites, museums and memorials about their past involvement in the slave trade (Nantes, Bordeaux).

- La route des abolitions de l'esclavage (The abolition of slavery road) in Eastern France, a network of the following sites: House of négritude, Victor Sch?lcher's house, Castle of Joux (Toussaint Louverture's jail), and the Abbé Grégoire's museum.

This program is offered in conjunction with the Center for University Programs Abroad (CUPA) in Paris. For more information, please contact Professor Catherine Benoit at x5303, or cben@conncoll.edu, or visit <http://www.conncoll.edu/academics/departments/nip/sata/SATA-Paris/>