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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

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Positive Psychology

NORA SWENSON
STAFF WRITER

America's Dairy Industry may be pretty keen on questioning whether you've got your milk, but when it comes to Connecticut College's Psychology Department, they want to know if you've 'got happy.'

Led by clinical psychologist and professor of Psychology Jefferson Singer, some of the various aspects and dimensions of the up-and-coming field of "Positive Psychology" were discussed in the talk on November 11.

Singer began with a brief history of the field of positive psychology. "It's very rare to be able to know the exact point at which a branch of psychology started, but with positive psychology, that's the case."

In the 1980s, Martin Seligman, a psychologist, gave lectures on problems related to learned helplessness, a technical term for a condition in which humans or animals are exposed to a particularly harmful or frustrating circumstance.

"Rather than attempt to make an effort, they choose to endure the pain," resulting often from a perceived absence of control, Singer explained.

But after studying the detrimental effects associated with conditioning and learned helplessness, Seligman considered the idea of taking on an alternative view of the studies, and instead, researching some of the optimistic ways in which animals or humans can respond to difficult situations.

In one of Seligman's lectures, audience member John Templeton, intrigued by the idea of taking on a positive outlook versus simply focusing on the negatives, asked whether much work had been done on this new concept. After Seligman dejectedly responded that he had only just begun his research, Templeton generously offered grant money towards the project "much like a blank check donor," Singer explained.

"Since then, many anonymous donors have all contributed to the many clusters of positive psychology programs that are now operating around the world," making its way into *Introduction to Psychology* textbook paragraphs along the way.

"These days, we tend to like to focus on the wrongs in psychology - aggression, depression passivity - things like that," Singer mentioned.

"But focusing on positives, it's determining the aspects like virtues, pride and gratitude. What brings joy and meaning to life?"

Furthermore, what is the importance of positivity and its influence in psychology? To this question, Singer spoke of another psychologist, Barbara Frederickson, equally important in the area of positive psychology, primarily for her work on her "broaden-and-build theory". This theory stresses the idea that positive emotions enable one to expand on aspects of his or her life, like knowledge or social relationships, "making one more able to build, and taking their work one step further," quoted Singer.

Applying this theory to the typical college student, perhaps struggling with making ends meet, completing all of their work with efficacy and still staying upbeat and enjoying life, may seem like quite a challenge; therefore, Singer chose to focus on exactly how to address this concern.

"What would bring more positivity to our lives?" Singer asked, peering out among the audience of students. "I decided to make a list of things that, over the course of a week, I try to factor in to make sure that I stay 'a most happy fella,'" a running joke in Singer's family.

Singer then started listing the top seven qualities he tries to incorporate into his busy life, even after a days like this past Wednesday when he gave a three hour lecture, taught a ninety minute class, met with students for course registration and then gave a talk on the benefits of positive psychology.

"Number one is Relationships," Singer spoke. "At my age, my priorities are my wife, my parents, my family - even my two cats! Those are the kinds of relationships in which I don't feel good unless I've invested some time into them throughout the week. But what about for you college kids?"

To this one student raised her hand and commented, "I like to set aside time to have dinner with friends. No matter how busy I am, I make sure I make that one hour or so with friends meaningful."

Singer then raised the idea of mindfulness, a concept whereby one stays in the present, capturing the moment.

"Now, I'm not too ancient
SEE POSITIVE, PAGE 4



Celebrating the Fall of the Berlin Wall

German Dept. Faculty Reflect on Tumultuous Moment in History

DANIEL HARTSOE
STAFF WRITER

The 9th of November twenty years ago saw the fall of a barrier that divided the city of Berlin for twenty-eight years. From when it was erected to when it was torn down, the Berlin Wall was a symbol of the schism not just between communist East Berlin and capitalist West Berlin, but also between the communist bloc and the free market west.

The wall was more than a dangerous symbol. The death toll of those who were killed attempting to cross from East to West between 1961 and 1989 is estimated at 100 to over 1,200 people; shot by border guards, stabbed by the fence's barbed wire, or dead from jumping from the top floors of DDR high-rise apartments with the hope of landing on the other side.

Thus, November 9 was monumental - and, by some reports, highly unexpected. "My father never believed it would happen," said Tapio Sigmund, an exchange student at the college from Freiburg, Germany. While the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent collapse of the divisions between those two worlds may appear to have been inevitable from the perspective of today, the end of the East German government was in fact a surprising and somewhat bizarre event.

Two Connecticut College

faculty members, Professors McFarland and Patton, were in Germany during this tumultuous period. At the beginning of 1989, the socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe were already in the process of opening to the West. That spring, the Hungarian government decided to grant exit visas to its citizens to leave the country, creating a hole in the physical barrier between East and West Europe. In the summer, groups of East Germans began traveling to Budapest to apply for exit visas to Austria, from which they would be able to reach West Germany. After weeks of deliberation, the Hungarian government decided to grant them visas, providing an avenue of escape from East Germany into its previously unreachable sister state. Over two hundred thousand East Germans emigrated via Hungary over the summer of 1989. Instead of interfering in Hungary's travel liberalization, as it would have done in earlier decades, the government of the Soviet Union chose to let the situation take its course. The Soviet Premier, Mikhail Gorbachev, was himself committed to opening the bloc of communist countries to the rest of the world and improving relations with the Western world. Indeed, in a trip to East Germany three months before the Berlin Wall fell, Gorbachev warned, "life punishes those who come too late," signaling that the

Soviet Union would not try to prop up the East German regime. While East Germany was opening to the West, no one knew how quickly events would unfold.

"No one saw the Berlin Wall coming into the equation," said Professor P. James McFarland of the German Studies Department, who was studying in the West German city of Kiel at the time. The leaders of East Germany did not know what to do - the Soviet Union was giving them no guidance as to how they should respond to the mass emigration to West Germany through Hungary. But on November 9, 1989, the East German government made its decision.

"The policy on visas before was that, if you wanted a visa to travel to another country, you had to give the authorities a reason to grant you one," said McFarland. "The government reversed that - they had to have a reason now to deny you a visa." At the daily press conference on the evening of the 9th, the East German government's spokesman Gunter Schabowski announced the change to the media. But the written announcement he was reading mistakenly stated that the policy change would take effect immediately instead of the following morning, which is what had been decided.

SEE BERLIN WALL, PAGE 2

NEWS

"Come on Let's Go"

Learn about one of the latest clubs on campus, Yalla Bina, ("Come On Let's Go") and how their enthusiasm is sweeping campus.

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ARTS

FUSION!

Formerly Diwali and IntoxicASIAN, read a review of CCASA's first truly pan-Asian show.

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SPORTS

Winter Sports

A first look at Conn's winter sports of hockey and basketball.

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OPINIONS

Where have all the kegs gone?

SGA parliamentarian reflects on freshman year and comments on changes to Conn's social host policies over the years.

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EDITORIALS

How's your Internet speed?

Bandwidth update and reflection on what Conn students can accomplish by using their collective voice.

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NEWS

November 17, 2009 | Editors: Samantha Herndon and Jazmine Hughes | news@thecollegevoice.org

FUSION

CCASA Offers a Breathtaking Pan-Asian Experience



Bhangra, the final performance of the night, demonstrated a fusion of traditional and modern.



Choreographed by freshman Tenzin Palmo, the Bollywood Dance was a mix of several popular Bollywood songs.



Bhangra, choreographed by Wayne Ong '11.



The entire cast, crew and executive board stormed the stage for an energetic celebratory final dance.

Show Your Pride

Spectrum Celebrates LGBTQ Pride on Campus

SARAH KOSOFKY
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut College community was greeted in Cro with rainbow balloons, banners and weddings, as part of the campus' Pride Day this past Wednesday.

Pride Day was initially supposed to be Coming Out day, which is October 11, but this year the celebration was moved to November 12, allowing the celebration to coincide with the anniversary of the legalization of gay marriage in Connecticut.

To celebrate the anniversary of the legalization of marriage in Connecticut, people were encouraged to get married

at one of the tables in Cro. Wedding rings were offered and vows were exchanged frequently.

A lot of people had a great time getting married.

In Brenner Green's hour shift at Pride Day, he witnessed over fifteen "marriages."

During Pride Day, people were also encouraged to play 'Gay Jeopardy' to win prizes such as posters and bumper stickers. Topics included LGBTQ Terms, LGBTQ Politics, Queer Life at Conn and Lady Gaga. 'Gay Jeopardy' was meant to be a fun way to edu-

cate people about the LGBTQ community.

Spectrum gave out informational resources for the LGBTQ community and Allies.

Brenner Green, co-chair of Spectrum, enjoyed the success of Pride Day: "I think today was a success in that we were able to pass along the message of equality. The event was fun, and people also learned a lot about gay culture. A lot of people had a great time getting married. In fact, most of the marriages we had today were same-sex marriages!"



Featuring the beats of Korean contemporary pop, the Korean Pop Dance was choreographed by Nhung Le.

Berliner Mauer — The Berlin Wall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When asked when the policy would take effect, Schabowski therefore said, with some uncertainty, "effective immediately."

Professor McFarland had been watching a soccer game on television that evening. Suddenly, he says, the broadcast was interrupted, and a news announcer stated that the restriction on travel had been reversed.

After a few minutes, McFarland said, all the television stations began switching to coverage of Berlin, showing images of thousands of East Berliners gathering at the East Berlin side of the wall. And outside of Berlin, all across the border between East Germany

and West Germany, people were cutting the wire fences dividing the two nations.

Professor David Patton of the Government Department was in Berlin at the time. "After the announcement, people were thinking 'does this mean what I think it means?'" he said. "People began gathering at the border checkpoints, on both sides of the wall. West German T.V. was saying 'the borders are open,' and that really fueled the situation."

When he went to the border checkpoint at the Brandenburg Gate the next morning, he said, "There were people all around the wall, and on top of it. It had the atmosphere of a party. East Germans were pouring across the border. The West Berlin department stores were filled

with East Germans buying Western goods or just looking at them — they had only seen them on television before. They had no idea where everything was in West Berlin, though; the East German maps of Berlin only showed East Berlin. So the West Berlin newspapers printed maps of West Berlin on the front pages for the East Berliners coming over."

With East and West Germany no longer separated by physical barriers, it was clear that the country would be unified within the next decade or two. But again, the speed at which events transpired shocked the world. East Germany held the first free elections in its history on the 18th of March, 1990, and the Socialist Party was

voted out of power in favor of the Christian Democrat Union (CDU). The CDU had campaigned on a platform of unification with West Germany, and it proceeded to negotiate with the West German government for that purpose. On the 18th of May, 1990, the two nations agreed to a common currency and the adoption by East Germany of West Germany's code of laws.

November 9 was a national day of celebration this year, but it has not been codified as a regularly occurring holiday. There was hesitation at marking this date on the national calendar — November 9 is also the anniversary of several other events in German history, some dark, including *kristallnacht*, a program against

Jewish Germans in 1939, the founding of the SS in 1925, as well as Kaiser Wilhelm II's abdication in 1918.

In 1990, nearly a year after the fall of the Wall, on the 3rd of October, Germany officially became a unified nation. This date is now commemorated as the national reunification festival.

But "the fall of the Berlin Wall wasn't really about unification," said Patton. "It was about the demand by the East Germans for basic rights. They demanded the right to travel, so eventually their government had to listen and grant them that right. That's why the wall fell."

Additional reporting by
Samantha Herndon.

Coffee and Minuets

Caffeinated CG Busy this Semester

MEGAN REBACK
STAFF WRITER

Follow the aroma of delicious fair-trade, organic coffee, baked goods and the sound of jazz music as you enter Katharine Blunt House. Welcome to Coffee Grounds.

Coffee Grounds has become one of the most popular student spots on campus. Co-manager sophomore Eliza Bryant attests that CG has a strong "sense of community" and is "not only a business, but very much a student space."

Bryant's co-manager and fellow sophomore Catherine Monahan attributes CG's popularity to the "affordable goods, especially since they're fair trade and organic, which is very rare."

Sophomore Zoe Diaz-Martin frequents Coffee Grounds for the "well-priced coffee and treats" and the "delightful ambiance."

Coffee Grounds is appealing to students and faculty alike; Monahan says that CG attracts a diverse clientele including "people doing homework, teachers who meet with students, study groups and artists who display their work."

Recently, CG debuted a community art project that students add to every day. As of last Tuesday, about

ten people had contributed. The red walls were repainted last year, and a new espresso machine gleams from behind the counter.

CG has been improving its space and event offerings since it opened several years ago, when it began as an all unpaid volunteer-staffed labor of caffeinated love. Now, three sophomores manage Coffee Grounds: Bryant, Monahan and Ileana Mar, and baristas are paid a salary, not only the tips they used to earn.

Bryant said that the coffeehouse "used to be run by the administration, but this year it has expanded its horizons and is solely a product of Catherine, Ileana, me and our staff... we have shaped the space to be what we want it to be and what our clientele want it to be."

Barista Mollie Doherty calls CG "really one of the best atmospheres on campus." While some miss the slightly shabbier, more chaotic and very homey Coffee Grounds of years past, others herald the changes as welcome, much-needed and fun.

The staff is very receptive to student ideas and student participation. Every Tuesday is acoustic night and every Wednesday is jazz night. These nights

bring student talent into the space and add even more to the already relaxing, soothing atmosphere that is equally conducive to studying and writing papers and to hanging out and taking a java break.

Soon, there will be even more to look forward to at CG: after Thanksgiving Break, Coffee Grounds will host Holiday Week and a bevy of study-break events. There will be cookie-decorating, storytelling and a special "treat yourself" holiday visit from Ms. Sexuality Speaker and safe sex educator Megan Andeloux, who, with Feminist Majority, puts on a yearly sex toy and masturbation workshop in CG. There will also be a Spring-fest before Floralia, a Rock-fest and many other ideas that students and the staff come up with.

Bryant summed up with something that resembles the Coffee Grounds philosophy.

"While we are a business," she said, "and we want to serve quality drinks and are dedicated to fair-trade, we also want to pay equal amount of attention to CG as a hub for campus community. We more than welcome faculty, staff and students to the space."

Conn Top Producer of Fulbright Scholars

Scholars in Germany Weigh in Experience

KATHERINE SARTIANO
STAFF WRITER

In recent years, Connecticut College has been one of the top producers of Fulbright Scholars among liberal arts institutions, leaving some students at Conn wondering what exactly a Fulbright scholarship is, how people get them, and what Fulbright winners do once they leave Conn.

The Fulbright program is an international exchange program run by the US government that aims at increasing understanding between the people of America and those of other countries, awarding around 7,500 grants each year, both in America and abroad. Students can either propose a large project on which they will spend all of their time focusing, or apply for a Teaching Fulbright, which involves teaching while also doing research on a smaller scholarly project. Those who receive the grants take the opportunity to study, teach, and research all while being immersed in a different culture.

In 2009, three graduating seniors, Jessamyn Cox, Lucy McAllister and Julia Norton, were awarded with Fulbright Fellowships.

Additionally, one student from the class of 2007, Soren Gabrielsen, was also awarded with his second Fulbright. All of these Conn alum are currently teaching English throughout Germany.

Both McAllister and Norton believe that there are many reasons why Conn students, especially students from the German department, are so often

awarded these prestigious fellowships.

McAllister, who was a German and environmental studies major, credited the success of those who apply to the fact that the college's "high caliber" liberal arts education provides students with critical thinking and writing skills that improve their applications.

She also attributed the success of Conn students to the "exceptional German department", as well as the year- and semester-long study away programs at the universities of the Baden-Württemberg in Germany which German students are encouraged to attend.

Additionally, she added that within the German department, "the support of the professors, the small class sizes, the active German advisory board, the Knowlton German table, and the high academic quality of the German courses... everything engaged my passion for the German language and culture, and further motivated me to investigate opportunities to live, learn and teach in Germany."

Norton, a double major in German and international relations, accredited the success of Conn students applying to the scholarship to similar reasons, remarking that the German department is very supportive and pushes students to apply, while year-long study abroad opportunities make it so that students are "well prepared with language and foreign travel experience."

Norton is currently living in Rheinfelden, in Southwestern Germany, and works in a high school

assisting with English classes, as well as teaching some of her own lesson plans and starting an English theater group.

McAllister works in Hamburg helping students with various levels of English, often leading discussions about current issues such as President Obama, climate change and health care. Both have also started an English table at lunch, which have been inspired by the Knowlton tables here.

Thus far both Norton and McAllister have enjoyed their time teaching abroad. McAllister said that the experience has been amazing.

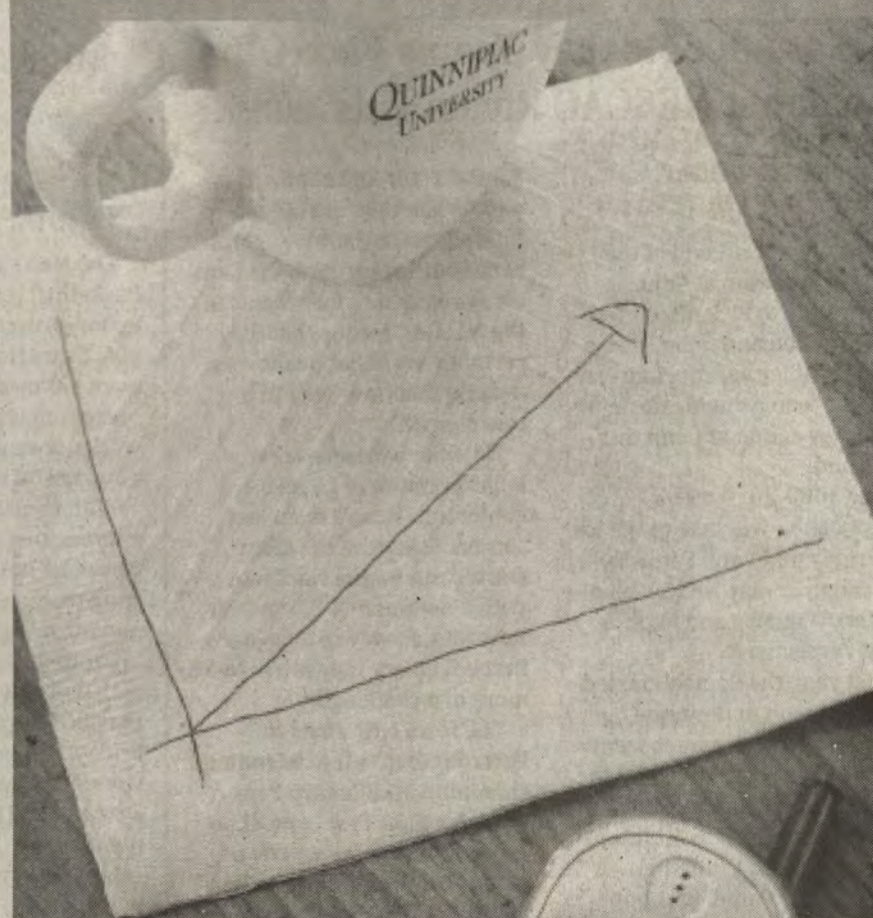
"I am so happy and grateful for the opportunity to be living and working in Germany...I have already learned so much and I am both enjoying and motivated by the challenges that my work presents me with on a day-to-day basis... not to mention that I am also having a lot of fun."

Norton agreed with that she is enjoying her time, and emphasized how important it is to take on new responsibilities and taking the initiative.

The application for Fulbright Scholarships takes place throughout senior year, and according to Norton is a long, but manageable process.

She assures, "the reward is huge: a year to basically hang out in a foreign country with reasonable pay, tons of free time and more often than not a school that is thrilled to have you and incorporate your interests and skills. As a fresh graduate, there is not much more you can ask for."

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Sneak Peek Into Camel Winter Sports

Conn Ice Hockey Teams Face Off Against NESCAC Rivals This Week

NICK WOOLF
STAFF WRITER

With the recent end of the fall sports season at Conn, it is now time to kick off winter sports action and there seems to be no other appropriate way to do so than a double dose of hockey action at Conn this weekend.

The 2009-2010 men's hockey team will take to the ice on Friday night and Saturday afternoon to play NESCAC challengers Williams and Middlebury, respectively.

Last year, the Camels started off the season in the same fashion, and both games went down to the wire. Conn had to stomach two close losses to these schools (4-3 to Middlebury and 3-2 to Williams), but this year Camel fans hope things will be different.

Coach Jim Ward helms a team that looks to improve on the 9-7-3 conference record of last year's Camels. Seven senior players will lead this year's team with the experience and demonstrated ability to play at a competitive level in the NESCAC league. It goes without saying that there will be many adoring, rowdy fans at Dayton Arena for their games this winter.

Sure to attract an equal amount of supporters is the women's ice hockey team, which starts its 2009-2010 season away at Middlebury on Friday November 20 and at Williams on Saturday November 21.

Last year's team turned in a great effort in the NESCAC playoffs, where, as the sixth seed, they upset third-seeded

Trinity 2-1 in the quarterfinals. While they did fall 6-1 to Amherst in their inaugural semifinal appearance, the Camels showed the other teams in the NESCAC league that they certainly were not pushovers, despite their low seed in the tournament.

Now the women's team looks to improve on its 6-8-2 conference record from last season. Last year, the team started out on the right foot with a dominant 4-2 win over Bowdoin; however, this year's first adversary may prove to be more of a challenge.

The team will travel to Vermont to face the defending-champion Middlebury Panthers for their first contest. A win in this game will by no means come easy for the Camels; each player will have to perform at her highest ability if the team is to earn an opening triumph over Middlebury.

Can the Camels, coached by Kristin Steele, exceed last year's performance and make their way to the NESCAC finals? They've already proven that a low seed means little in the tournament, and despite losing four seniors from last year's team, anything is possible for the women's team this season.

The action on the ice will be intense this winter. Head down to Dayton Arena this Friday, November 20 at 7 PM for the men's home opener against Williams and, if you're around during Thanksgiving break, come cheer on the women's team during their home opener at 3 PM on November 28 against Trinity.

Head Coach Promotes Discipline and Trust as Keys to Success



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

"even when we are asked to return to the baseline and sprint," said Amy Towne.

As head coach, Brian Wilson hopes to instill discipline in the Camel program "both mentally and physically." He said the team "will be disciplined in the way we approach academics, fitness, practice and games."

While improving the team's overall skill and competitiveness is Wilson's directive, his primary goal for this season is building trust with his players. He realizes the challenge his players will go through as they are asked to "transition from something known to something unknown," but believes the key to success is a strong relationship between players and coach.

"I am most excited about forging meaningful relationships with the young women who comprise this team and hopefully having a positive

impact on their lives that goes far beyond simply basketball," he said.

Head coach Brian Wilson holds the ability to revive the women's basketball program with his strong passion for the game of basketball and those who play it.

"I love thinking about our team, ways to motivate individual players, how we can play to our strengths and address our weaknesses. I've already had a number of nights where I couldn't sleep because I was thinking about a practice drill or out of bounds play or something like that."

Wilson's devotion to the team will undoubtedly bring increased success for the Camels this season.

The Camels will begin their season at the two-day UMass Dartmouth Tip Off Tournament in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts this Saturday, November 21 and Sunday, November 22

Men's and Women's Basketball Look to Start Strong to Improve Upon Last Seasons' Standings

EMILY WEBB
STAFF WRITER

The Men's and Women's Basketball teams are gearing up for an exciting season of play. Since November 1, each team has faced a grueling preseason with a focus on the work necessary to bring about a successful season.

With their first games fast approaching this coming weekend, both teams are finalizing their short preseason and moving into game mode.

For their season opener, the men will play in the Manhattanville Tournament starting Friday, November 20, while the women will play in the UMass Dartmouth Tip Off Tournament.

Last season, Men's Basketball went 13-12 overall, 2-7 in NESCAC. This season they are hoping to push past that record, with a special emphasis on NESCAC games. Head Coach Tom Satran is returning for his eighth season with the Camels and is assisted by recent alumnus Matt Fava '09.

The team is a very young team this season, with only one senior on the squad. Shavar Bernier '10 has earned the role of captain and will be a stand-out player this season. Returning sophomore, Demetrius

Porter was named NESCAC Basketball Rookie of the Year and is hoping to leave another lasting impression at the end of this season. He averaged 13.9 points per game, and can be expected to tally points for the Camels again this season.

As for most Connecticut College teams, the men have set a goal to make the NESCAC Tournament at the end of the season. As they have qualified for the past two consecutive seasons, the Tournament should be an attainable goal.

Last winter, the Women's team was 8-16, 0-9 in NESCAC. This year, however, a new coach, Brian Wilson, is leading the team.

Wilson, who was the former associate head coach at Holy Cross, joins the Camels with the hopes of rejuvenating the program. He ultimately wants to bring the team to a level of high competition in NESCAC.

Christie Herbst, who is in her second season as the Camels assistant coach, will help Wilson improve the program. While last season had some less-than-ideal results for the Camels, the team hopes that with a new coach and the same intense work ethic that they have consistently portrayed, they will walk away with more

wins this year.

Several standout returners are expected to continue to make an impact on the court for the Camels. Jennifer and Jacqueline Shinall, who caught the attention of the school last season as freshman starters, are returning guards for the team.

Last January, Jennifer Shinall was named to the New England Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) Weekly Honor Roll for her role in leading the team to victories over Pine Manor College, Johnson and Wales and Eastern Nazarene.

Additionally, seniors Rita Holak and Emily Cummings are expected to continue to help the Camels succeed on the court. Like the men's team, the women's team goal is making the NESCAC tournament for postseason play.

The men host their first home game against Eastern Connecticut State University on Sunday, November 29 at 3 PM. The women's first home game is Tuesday, December 1, against Western Connecticut State University at 7 PM.

For a full schedule, go to www.conncoll.edu/athletics.

Camel Equestrian Hopes To Finish Strong In Final Competition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The CCET competes against various other schools in New England including fellow NESCAC members Wesleyan and Trinity.

Competition in Region 1 also includes Central Connecticut State University, UConn, Rhode Island, Post University, Brown University, Johnson & Wales, Rhode Island College and Roger Williams University.

Each school roughly hosts one show a year and most teams attend the shows each weekend if offered.

Equestrian competition works similarly to the way belts work in martial arts. All freshmen start at the first level and accumulate points at shows by competing against other Level 1 riders. Once a

Level 1 rider reaches thirty points, they move onto the next level and the cycle starts over again until they get enough points to move on to the third level.

According to Luckhardt, it typically takes about a year and a half to advance to the second level, but with so many talented freshmen this year, the achievement could come much sooner.

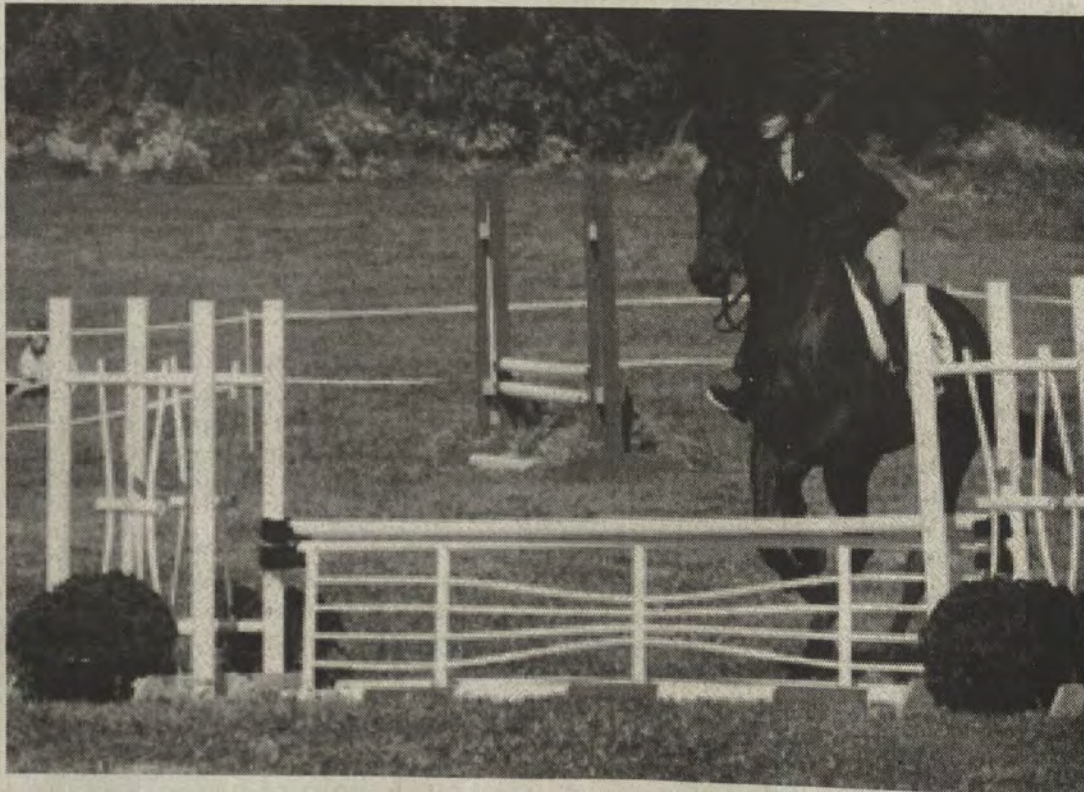
During competitions, the riders take part in both flat riding and jumping competitions. Riders do not use their own horses at shows, but are provided with an unfamiliar horse, as judging, like that of gymnastics or diving, is based on style and form, called equitation.

Each rider starts with a perfect score but loses points for each fault and or deduction

they receive. There are roughly 6-10 competitors in each class (level) with roughly one to two of those being members of CCET. The top six spots score at the competitions.

The captains for the team this year are Jessica Klebanoff '10, Sarah Day '10 and Maggie Rogers '11. The team is doing quite well this year with first place finishes by Katie McCarthy '11, Melissa Groher '12, Katie Karlson '13, Katie Lynch '13, Kim Klepacki '13, Alice Cooper '13, and Amanda Jones '13.

The Camels hope to continue their success in upcoming weekend with a show at Wesleyan on November 21 before taking a break after Thanksgiving until the start of the spring season in February.



Member of Conn Equestrian preparing for a jump during a recent competition.

DEVON MCLAUGHIN/PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR



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Positive Psychology

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not to know how big texting can be these days, but I do feel like it takes away from the quality of relationships," Singer observed. "That's perfect that you hold yourself to making time for your friends at dinner."

"Point two," Singer continued, narrating his points with chalk on the black board, "is almost opposite of Relationships: Creativity and Individuality. Now I'm going to tell you a bit of a ridiculous story." Singer then recounted of his lifelong infatuation with the Dots gummy candy.

"One small way that I choose to be unique is that every time I go to a movie theater, I look for this candy. If the theater carries it, I praise them for doing so. If not though," he paused, "I thoroughly question them."

He defended this seemingly strange story by saying that even if the people find him crazy, it's a small behavior that he can truly be unique and an individual.

"Really, guys," he said, "some day, just go to class with a sock on your hand, and wait for people to ask why you're wearing it. Have fun! Don't allow the machine of society weigh you down."

The third and fourth characteristics that Singer tried to include in every week are Exercise and Humor.

"They both serve as healthy buffers, improving strength, circulation... you know that feeling you get after laughing really hard for a few minutes?"

Singer brought in biological factors, noting that bodies were

previously used for much more than they are these days – like fishing and hunting – all before computers factored so heavily into the average lifestyle. Singer then encouraged each student to try to incorporate some more exercise into their day, whether that means signing up for classes in South when living in North, or making an earnest effort to make it down to the beautifully refurbished fitness center.

Tasks five and six, Philanthropy and Gratitude are quite necessary, according to Singer, to truly get the most out of life. When it comes to giving and philanthropy, specifically, there seem to be holes in one's life if giving is not an active behavior.

"As a clinical psychologist, I work with a lot of couples struggling to make their relationship work," Singer said. "And it really is the case that the smallest, gentle acts of kindness make the biggest difference."

He then recalled one couple who incorporated a "Fun Box" into their relationship, depositing small acts of kindness for the other to fulfill on the occasion to give and contribute to the relationship.

"Receiving, however, is likewise important," he declared. "Gratitude, and asking yourself, 'What do I have good?' Not having H1N1 might be good, perhaps..." joked Singer.

Again, he noted the idea of mindfulness, and being sure to thank those around you whether doing so through letters, Twittering or anything that makes it easy yet still meaningful.

The last point Singer signified as being quite pertinent to his life, in terms of living a typical week to the fullest, are one's sense of Virtues.

"Connecticut College has an honor code, and you can laugh at it if you'd like, because we all know that in the 'real world,' people cheat and cut corners to get ahead," Singer recognized. "But I like to tell people about the 'Pillow Test,' which is basically that when you lie down to go to sleep and your head hits that pillow, will you be able to say, 'I lived my life virtuously, and the best I could,' and be able to fall asleep, or will you have to deal with knowing you've lied, or deceived?"

These, Singer reminded, are all concepts that heavily support the foundation of positive psychology, and have substantiated the field since its birth nearly twenty years ago.

After concluding with his own seven points, Singer asked if any students had any further ideas on possible contributions to the list.

One student suggested having a sense of Spontaneity, to which other students contributed their own stories of spontaneity, ranging from sky diving to skinny-dipping, to driving around with friends with no purpose at all.

Another student proposed Education and Learning, extending beyond the classroom learning, and challenging one's self with a new word or crossword puzzle each day to make sure not to lose the innate love that should be found in learning.

New Club Yalla Bina Brings Arabic Culture to Campus

TANAHA SIMON
CONTRIBUTOR

Yalla Bina, the new Arabic cultural and language club on campus, is putting a lot of effort into bringing awareness of Arabic culture and language to the campus community.

After only its fourth week as an official SGA-approved club, Yalla Bina already has sixteen active members, only six of which are students in the current Arabic classes offered on campus.

According to Erik Brownsword '10, secretary of the club, attendance continues to increase with each meeting.

The club's strong student participation is coupled with a growth in Middle Eastern focused course offerings.

Next semester the two classes being offered are a six-credit Intensive Elementary Arabic and Arabic Literature and Culture From the Qu'ran to Mafouz and Beyond taught in English. Professor Wang is in his first year of teaching with Connecticut College and is the instructor for both Arabic classes.

He expressed that the club is "beyond my imagination" and "is doing very good things."

The two Arabic language fellows Katherine Shabb '12 and

Razan Khabour '10, international students from Lebanon and Jordan respectively, also expressed their pleasure in the formation of Yalla Bina: "it makes us happy to see new faces [involved in the Arabic program]."

An international student from Tunisia, Ikram Lakhdhar '13, was one of the co-founders of the club and exclaimed that she was "very happy to see it happening."

Brownsword said that the new Arabic club is "what our school needs." Brownsword continued to express how happy he was to see the freshmen taking initiative to start the club and become involved in the fight for a strong Arabic program. According to Brownsword, they are "building for the future."

The club's origins were a collaborative process. Professor Andrea Lanoux, chair of the Slavic Studies department, expressed the need for an Arabic club to Professor Wang, who in turn mentioned the possibility to his Elementary Arabic class. According to Professor Wang, the students immediately began work on a constitution for a club that would come to be called Yalla Bina.

Lakhdhar explains that the

club's purpose is to "build an understanding of our culture and promote diversity."

By working closely with the club, Lakhdhar feels that she can become a better ambassador for her country.

Brownsword believes that the club will be "filling a void people may not have known existed." Furthermore, the club will promote Arabic language study by being a support system for those learning or interested in learning the language.

The Arabic Language Fellows are supporters of the club and the club, in turn, supports the language fellows. By working together, progress can be made. Although language is very important, and Arabic is a first language of over 250,000,000 people, the culture of the Arabic people is also valuable to understand.

As Khabour explained, "there are a lot of misperceptions about the Arabic culture, and I want the club to help the campus understand." Professor Wang supported this statement by explaining the ignorance the American people had of the Arabic culture before 2001.

Another purpose of the club is to help in the process of developing an academic depart-

ment for Arabic, the Middle East and/or Islamic Studies. Surprisingly, classes in the Arabic language and culture began only last year as a pilot program. Shabb has said that she understands that developing a strong department is a long process. But once a department is implemented at Connecticut College, it is a very strong program, according to Professor Wang.

The club has already been an active participant in campus life.

Some exciting events coming up for the club, according to Yalla Bina member D'larys Rivera, are an evening event (to be named soon), which will be held on November 20 and will consist of teaching basic phrases in Arabic, enjoying music and watching a PowerPoint presentation highlighting student involvement in the Arab world. There will also be delicious food served for only \$5. Following this event, a trip to New York City will be made on December 4. On this trip, the group wants to visit Arabic exhibitions and restaurants to get a better feel for the culture. Last but definitely not least, the club intends to do community service projects with a group or groups associated

with the Arabic culture and language. Some of the organizations being considered are: We Refuse to be Enemies, Middle East Children's Alliance and CAIR.

The future goals of the club as explained by club president Wendy Catalina Ogando '13 are to host a large annual event held in the early spring which will focus on the coexistence of all cultures and nations, not just Arabic. Also, with the proper funding from alums, faculty and students, the club would like to form a scholarship, which would help students advance their knowledge of the culture and language by going to study elsewhere. The Middlebury Summer Language Program inspires the idea of this scholarship.

By bringing cultural awareness to the campus through fun yet informational events, Yalla Bina hopes to increase the desire for an Arabic/Middle Eastern/Islamic Studies academic program. Over time, the language fellows wish to see the Arabic program become as strong as the other language departments in the school.

Every Tuesday night, Yalla Bina holds its meetings in Unity House at 9 PM.

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

November 17, 2009 | Editors: Racine Oxtoby and Kris Fleming | arts@thecollegevoice.org

FUSION: A Review

A Night of Asian Dance, Food and Culture is Well-Received by (Almost) All

KIMMIE BRAUNTHAL
STAFF WRITER

Formerly known as IntoxicAsian (and Diwali the year before that), Fusion: The Pan-Asian Experience, is a night full of Asian culture, dance and overall experience organized by CCASA (Connecticut College Asian/Asian American Student Association). Since I am far from an expert on Asian culture, I can't say I really expected anything specific when I went to see the event this past Friday.

Every year, the event raises money for charities in Asia. This year's show started with a slideshow featuring photos of broken-down classrooms in Vietnam, which will be fixed by Conn students January of 2010. While it is a noble cause, starting the show off this way was kind of a downer for me.

I know that sounds horrible, and I know many places in the need resources for rebuilding different public buildings and infrastructure, but maybe it was because I entered Cro that night just expecting a dance performance.

Finally the performances started.

"Jai-Ho," the first song (from *Slumdog Millionaire*), didn't impress me. The choreography was entertaining and everyone looked like they were having fun onstage. They weren't as synchronized as they probably

should've been, though.

The dancers also were wearing scarves and I hoped that the choreographers would integrate that accessory into the dance somehow but it was just for aesthetic appeal, which disappointed me a little. While that possibly would've made the dance a little complicated to teach, it would've been more interesting as a result.

The Vietnamese Fan Dance was very well performed. Each dancer was very careful to keep the fans shaking at all times. The only "fan dance" I had ever seen, before last night, was from an episode of *Gillmore Girls* when Rory attends her debutante ball, so I was quite impressed with Fusion's version.

The dancers were almost 100 percent synchronized, which surprised me. The fan props could've been disastrous. The part when the dancers were going around in a circle, elevating the fans as they went around, is just like the dancers going around Chicago's Billy Flynn in "All I Care About," giving the piece a theatrical flair.

One of my favorite dances could have been the Chinese Water-Sleeve Dance. There was such beautiful choreography in there. It wasn't completely synchronized, which killed it for me.

Granted, the dancers had to remember their safety because of the extremely long sleeves

on the costumes. Apart from that, I loved it, especially Wayne Ong's role in the storyline.

I wasn't all that impressed with the Korean Dance. The dancing and choreography was pretty good, but nothing really compelled me to watch it.

While I give the ladies props for dancing in high-heeled shoes, there were a few girls who looked like they didn't even want to be up on stage. That just doesn't make for an entertaining experience. A performer needs to draw the audience in with their smiles and enthusiasm, or at least fake it.

Then came the belly dancing. A lot of the dancers had never done it before and belly dancing is pretty difficult, so kudos to them for getting the choreography together and well synchronized. I enjoyed Pete Konowski's humorous addition to the piece; though, I think I would've loved it more if he had started dancing with them instead of just being mesmerized by them. That would probably go against the purpose of the dance, which is supposed to seduce a man (seemed to work pretty well on Pete).

I enjoyed the Beijing Opera as well as its introduction by Charles Cochran and Devon Butler, the MCs. The star of the piece, Aaron Chau, was dressed as a Chinese mime and mimed quite well. Offended that he'd been left out of the

party, Aaron proceeded to mime-drink all the royal's wine and drunk-walked, stumbling off stage temporarily while he stole the rest of their property.

When he came back, he was still captivating, doing cool martial arts tricks with a long silver pole. Spinning it at high speeds, he dropped the pole a few times, but it was still entertaining.

I adored the Chinese Yo-Yo piece. Jeremy Wong was jumping rope and catching it, wrapping it around his leg and spinning it, juggling two of them on the string simultaneously. The performance was phenomenal.

For the Martial Arts demonstration, I was enthralled. While Charles van Rees didn't teach anyone how to complete the defensive maneuvers, I know one thing: if I'm ever in a fight, I'm tagging Charles in my place to kick my opponent's ass. Poor Sam Field, as the uke taijitsu (empty-hand), getting thrown into the floor almost the whole time. Ouch.

The Lion Dance was cute and very entertaining. I think the look for the two guys as the lion would've been enhanced had they worn similar colored shirts, since the lion's body showed their torsos under it some of the time. I definitely laughed when the lion kept fluttering his eyes at the audience.

The Supra Tofu Bros. V.2 was very well done. Dan Swezey

and Wayne Ong were enjoying themselves, they were extremely synchronized and the audience enjoyed it thoroughly. Since they did a similar piece in Eclipse last spring, the dance came with little surprise value, but it was excellently performed.

Bollywood had good dancing. I thought the girl in the white shirt, presumably the one who choreographed it, should've worn one of the two colors her dancers were wearing so that she didn't stand out as much. It was very similar to the belly-dancing piece but there were slight differences. Overall I enjoyed it.

Bhangra Fusion might've been my favorite dance. It was hilarious! I enjoyed the dance-off aspect of it. The performance was mostly synchronized, and everyone was having fun onstage. The audience loved it too. It had a great ending as well, where the guys jumped into each other's arms.

As a performer, I know things can slip up, get messy, etc. and it's the way the dancers deal with mistakes. No one can anticipate getting off by a half of a beat, or further off. All one can do is know the steps, practice together and hope it's perfect on stage.

I admire the hard work everyone put into this show. In all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable event.

The Fearless Freaks

A History of Everyone's Favorite Avant-Garde, Ultra-Alternative Band, The Flaming Lips

ANDERS J. NIELSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Flaming Lips are not a rock band. They are not an alternative rock band or a psychedelic rock band. Certainly their day jobs are performing as all three, but to label them as such would be to limit them and their history unjustly.

From their inception in 1983 as a "Hillbillies-gone-punk version of The Who" (Wayne Coyne in *Fearless Freaks*), to their most recent release *Embryonic*, they have seen massive artistic shifts, drug binge lows, sold out concert highs, original films, experiments, explosions, and reinvention. The Flaming Lips are the Avant-Garde.

Wayne Coyne became the leader of the entity known as The Flaming Lips with permanent bassist Michael Ivins. The two released their true debut LP *Hear It Is* in 1986 on Pink Dust Records, followed by 1987's *Oh My Gawd!!!* and 1989's *Telepathic Surgery and In A Priest Driven Ambulance*.

At this point, the Lips were experimenting mainly with psychedelic rock and punk, generally much heavier than your run of the mill psych rockers.

Based out of Oklahoma City, they began playing small clubs and making up for their lack of musical talent by being as loud as possible in their live shows. The slow gestation of the band's final form was already visible at this early stage: experimenting with tape loops, classical music samples, pyrotechnics on stage and drug related/induced lyrics.

It was during this period that Wayne would develop his trademark high whine of a voice that would allow him to sound like any average dreamer with a rock star fantasy, yet allowing him to sing literally anything and get away with it.

It wasn't until 1990 that the Flaming Lips would become signed to Warner Bros. Records to begin their major label career and eventually

gain their true musical dynamo, multi-instrumentalist Steven Drozd. 1992's *Hit To Death In The Future Head* was not much of a departure from their rough-around-the-edges psych-punk sound, but their 1993 LP *Transmissions From The Satellite Heart* couched their surprise first charting single "She Don't Use Jelly."

The song was a prime example of anti-pop; full of sneering

simplicity tinged with bizarre lyrics and a melodramatic take on nonsense.

1995's *Clouds Taste Metallic* was the final album of this chapter of the Flaming Lips as a scrappy little anti-rock band simultaneously crafting catchy pop and non-traditional guitar rock. The recording of this album was documented in the film *Fearless Freaks* which illuminates not only guitar-

ist Ronald Jones' eventual departure from the band, but also the extreme heroin use of Stephen Drozd and various other drug influences fueling the group.

With the departure of their guitarist, the group found themselves pushing their boundaries as a three piece even further than they ever had in the past. Wayne came up with the concept of the "parking lot experiments," the "boombox experiments" and eventually their 4-disc 1997 LP *Zaireeka*.

The parking lot experiments were Flaming Lips hosted events in which they gathered thousands of people into a parking lot and distributed forty cassettes of pre-recorded sound generated for the project. Wayne would act as a conductor, cueing each car stereo to begin at the same time and then indicating who needed to be louder or softer from his megaphone. The boombox experiments were identical, but on a smaller scale, and then it came time to pitch the idea to Warner Bros.

Zaireeka is a four-disc album intended to be listened to with all four discs playing at once. Wayne described in a 2008 interview with Tribune Business News that it was "...a kind of anarchy in art. It was like an art happening -- you have to bring four sound systems together. Sometimes you get great synchronicity; other times, it sounds haphazard. You get to hear music in a whole new way."

This sort of challenging of the forms of modern music as



(L-R) Michael Ivins, Wayne Coyne, and Steve Drozd. Photo from Web.

SEE FEARLESS PAGE 7

An Indie Movie Lament

One Student's Search to Find a Cure for the Movie Bug

STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

I begin this (controlled) rant with a disclaimer: I do not really consider myself a movie snob. *Accepted* holds an exalted place in my DVD collection, and I did sob my way through *The Time Traveler's Wife* this summer (though, in case you were wondering, the book is way better. Read it.).

However, I will not deny that my heart truly lies with the quirky, reflective, and dramatic worlds of independent film. That movie you've never heard of? Chances are I have been following its production for a year...or at least anticipating its arrival for a few months.

As awards season begins, with its onslaught of prestigious cinema, I ready myself for four wonderful months of awesome movies. However, I always overlook one detail; fall also means a return to my carless Connecticut existence.

The obvious solution would be the Camel Van, ushering Conn students to popular New London and Waterford locations four days a week. Naturally, one of these stops is a movie theater, the local Regal Waterford. Problem solved, right?

Anyone who has gone to Waterford via the Camel Van

knows this is not the case, finding themselves staring up at the dismal selections forty minutes later after misjudging travel time and thus missing their planned showing. Hmmm, what campy thriller do they want to pay money for instead?

Waterford works for the occasional dime-a-dozen romantic comedy, but in these cases, I have a friend drive.

See, if Waterford were my only option, I would be bitter but resigned. However, there are four other theaters within a fifteen-mile range of 270 Mohegan Avenue, all of which tend to have an indie film or two in their repertoire. Thus, my dream is not impossible, just out of reach, making the situation all the more maddening. The theaters in Groton, Niantic and Stonington are all pretty typical, showing a mix of family films, thrillers, romances, and indies... not too shabby.

However, only ten miles away is the Mystic Village 3, which has sadly become an idealized vision in my indie-deprived head. It shouldn't surprise me that this three-screen theater has such a great listing; the cutesy tourist towns somehow always have a small art house.

Yet, nine out of ten times,

Mystic tends to be the only theater showing whatever movie I want to see, even if only for a few weeks. I normally end up not getting to go, watching anxiously as the screening times dwindled down to nothing.

Over the last year, I have become trained in the art of asking for a ride without really asking for a ride.

"Oh, are you going to Target/Shop Rite/the mall anytime soon? Really? Let me know when!"

The journey needs to be the driver's idea - you are just along for the ride (ouch, no pun intended, I swear!).

I have tried this same technique with movies to no avail, targeting friends who I feel would actually enjoy said random film. I plant the bait ("OMG have you seen the trailer for *Bright Star*? You need to, especially with your love of the BBC!") and wait. Most of the time, no one bites.

I have yet to beg, but I will admit, I have gotten close to doing so. However, I do have some priorities in whack, enough to know that not scaring off my friends is more important than my movie obsessions.

At least...I think I do. I really should look into the Zip Cars next year. Or a therapist.

The Fearless Freaks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

art is what makes the Flaming Lips avant-garde. They frequently take over the top, high-concept spectacle and bring it right into their audience's living room. No two Flaming Lips albums sound the same, because they are marauders of music looking to pillage the new frontier.

Unsurprisingly, the sprawling *Zaireeka* did not chart very well, but in the interest of inconsistency, they followed it up with their commercial breakthrough, 1999's *The Soft Bulletin*. While production had always influenced their sound greatly, *The Soft Bulletin* was a true studio album, due to the inclusion of manipulated and warped sounds. This was when Wayne's songwriting fully fused with Steven's musicianship, resulting in psychedelic anthems more soaring, drums sounding rawer and lead guitar making room for synthesizers and studio samples.

The commitment The Flaming Lips show to their audience having the maximum experience is evident in everything they do. They possess a beautiful marriage of personal ideals and trippy art experiments with this complete devotion to a hungry cult of listening and watching consumers.

Whether they're landing in a giant UFO, Wayne is smearing himself with blood and singing from a nun puppet, or people in animal costumes are shooting streamers and smoke up in the air to mingle with the massive multi-media screen, The Lips made it.

It was right in this time, beginning in 2001, that the Lips began work on their first full-length film, *Christmas on Mars*. Written, directed and produced by Wayne, and filmed in his backyard in Oklahoma City in a Space Station he built, the film is a narrative with very little dialogue about the first baby being born on Mars in a dilapidated human colony.

Typical of the Lips' DIY extravagance, the film stars the band members and members of Wayne's family and friends (though Wayne's friends include Adam Goldberg, Fred Armisen, Steve Burns from *Blue's Clues*, and Modest Mouse's Isaac Brock) as well as featuring an original ambient score by The Flaming Lips.

Starring Steven Drozd as Major Syrtis and Wayne Coyne as a Martian who becomes Santa Claus, the film was in production until 2008 when it was finally released in limited art spaces. Completely unmarketable as a music video or a commercially successful film, *Christmas on Mars* can only be explained as something the Lips felt like making.

The Flaming Lips had truly arrived in the public eye at this point, touring with Cake and Modest Mouse in 2002 and releasing their most critically acclaimed, nearly-concept album *Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots*. The album earned the band their first Grammy for Best Rock Instrumental Performance for the final track on the album, "Approaching Pavonis Mons by Balloon (Utopia Planitia)."

The Lips had really hit the big time at this point, showing up in soundtracks to Hollywood movies, having the *Fearless Freaks* documentary released on DVD and touring up a storm. In 2002, they toured with Beck as his opening, and then backing band in support of his *Sea Change* album and they were set to headline the Lollapalooza Tour in 2004 until it was cancelled.

In 2006 they released *At War With The Mystics*, a more pop oriented, politically charged

album for them. The next year the only instrumental track on the album "The Wizard Turns On The Giant Silver Flashlight and Puts On His Werewolf Moccasins" won them another Grammy for Best Rock Instrumental Performance.

The band, at their most popular, began headlining major music festivals and touring to great critical acclaim. They released the live DVD *UFOs at the Zoo*, which documented their epic homecoming concert at the Oklahoma City Zoo and featured the band descending from a giant UFO (which Wayne built in his backyard) at the beginning of the show. In early 2009 their hit "Do You Realize??" was named the official rock song of Oklahoma.

The Lips had cemented themselves as permanent arts fixture in the public eye across the board, yet somehow had avoided selling out. Only The Flaming Lips can write a song for *Spider-Man 3* entitled "The Supreme Being Teaches Spider-Man How to be in Love" and still be cool for it.

They aren't creating new genres or defining the curve of where popular music is going, they are moving forever farther outwards into their own realm. They aren't concerned with keeping up with what Passion Pit or the Dirty Projectors are doing because they've already travelled light years in their own direction.

2009 also saw the release of their first double album *Embryonic*, which marked yet another curve in the creative travel of the Lips' sound. Consisting of much more raw, brittle tracks, their new sound was also much more sinister than some of their more recent ballooning sunshine epics.

The album began as the Lips doing these "unknown [freak-outs] and going, 'Dude, what is that?' with a real excitement. Like, 'I can't wait to work on that stuff'... we would have this surge of energy, and it would suddenly be like making our first record again or something. Or like making *Zaireeka* again, or some of these moments where people are just working from [intuition], whatever that is. I know it sounds cliché, but you want to get where you're not trying to sound like yourself" (Wayne in a recent Pitchfork interview).

There is no stagnation in the creative life of this band, because as soon as things begin getting stale, they switch gears entirely and still leave you saying, "Oh yeah! This is what The Flaming Lips sound like!"

It seems as though the flow doesn't stop, they don't get tired and take a break from what they're doing because what they're working on for one project is entirely different from whatever they've done before and whatever they'll do next. If any further proof of this is needed, the next project for the band is a track for track album covering Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon*.

Could stoner rock be any more exciting and anti-lethargy than The Flaming Lips? Is there another band working so hard to be avant-garde dynamos as The Flaming Lips? Will there ever be a cork in the seemingly endless bottle of sheer childlike wonder and amazement The Flaming Lips have had a hold of for the past 25 years?

Could you possibly get any more epic than The Flaming Lips? They have inspired hundreds of thousands of people to not accept the ordinary as the only way to live. They have given hope to the dreamers and solid footing to those floating in the ethers of imagination. They have proven that even freaks can rule the world, if they have no fear.



The Discerning Aesthetes

This week: "Complex Capers!"

DAVIS MCGRAW &
DAVE ALFONSO
STAFF WRITERS

In our continuing mission to bring to our readers' attention the finest in leisurely diversions we have chosen in this week's installment to shine a critical eye on a monumental landmark located on this very campus: the hidden spaces beneath the Complex of Dormitories Surrounding Harris Refectory.

We began our journey in Morrisson Dormitory, trying to find a way into what our anonymous sources informed us was an ancient concealed corridor whose plethora of wonders could put the Crystal Caves of Borneo to shame. Despite our efforts, we were unable to find this on our first go around, with stairwell after stairwell ending in a series of hallways with not a single soul in sight to ask for directions.

Deciding to alter our approach we exited Morrisson Dormitory to find an alternate point of entry via Wright Dormitory. Callooh-Callay! We immediately found ourselves in a mysterious basement lair; a peak through the keyhole of a locked door revealed what appeared to be a swarm of ghosts. What wonders this basement held, and what horrors we would come to find.

Upon entering Park Dormitory, we came face to face with the first of many harrowing

sights, a wounded soldier sat idly in a corner stoic and silent. We saluted the poor man, and continued on without incident. Park may be the greatest trickster of the Complex Family, with its twisting passageways and empty, shallow closets waiting to swallow up unsuspecting adventurers.

Following a pungent scent we found ourselves in the basement of Johnson, and what an abject sight it was. The floors reeked of sticky, spilt Natural Ice Beer and the walls oozed the sweat of a thousand hockey players whose equipment lay discarded and unwashed. Handkerchiefs held fast to our sensitive noses, we tread softly.

Opening another door brought us face to face with a display of disturbingly lackluster holiday themed graffiti bearing the legend '1997'. Our goal by this juncture was to complete the noble mission with our sanity intact.

We darted across the Fish-bowl Green and snuck around the backside of Hamilton Dormitory. As we approached a sunken basement entrance, we were shocked to see a door swing closed at our approach. Through a window we could make out a series of well lit chambers packed to the gills with potted plants and computer equipment. What sort of clandestine experiments could take place in these sinister laboratories?

Entering Hamilton from the side, we made our way downward into the hellish industrial bowels of the Complex where, at long last, we came to the strange basement corridor that had eluded us at the start of our journey. The space was massive; the walls sickly yellow. Staring helplessly at a locked door with a sign reading "Caution: Tripping Hazard" we couldn't help but think that somewhere along our journey we had been drugged. Strange symbols abounded, "Union Yes!!" screamed a concrete wall. The elevator had no first floor. Filthy concrete floors were blanketed with rancid cardboard boxes. Nothing made sense any more.

All but stripped of the last trappings of sensibility, we ran. We ran with arms flailing until we once again breathed the crisp autumn air of Connecticut. As our lungs filled with sweet fresh oxygen, the fiendish labyrinth of the Complex became but a distant memory, like the edge of a dream or thunder in the distance. I admit that tears were shed.

That's all for this week, amigos. Be sure to catch up with us next time when we return to our regular format to investigate and contrast the quality of Hector Berlioz' *Fantastic Symphony* and Kenny Loggins *Greatest Hits*.

May the road rise to meet you.

SPORTS

November 17, 2009 | Editors: Sarah Haughey and Mike Flint | sports@thecollegevoice.org

Camel Pride

Five Camels Named All-NESCAC Performers, Three Honored by ESPN The Magazine, Two Named All-New England



JOHN NARWESKI/PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR

MIKE FLINT
SPORTS EDITOR

Five of Conn's athletes, Trevor Prophet '11, Oscar Brown '12, Abby Hine '11, Amy Newman '12, and Marissa DeMais '11, were awarded All-NESCAC honors this past week.

Three athletes were also named to CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine District One All-Academic teams: Marissa DeMais '11, Sharon Katz '10, and Mickey Lenzi '10.

Men's soccer's Trevor Prophet was named to his second straight First Team All-NESCAC squad. Prophet finished the season second in the conference with 8 goals and a team-high 18 points. As the Camels' star forward, Prophet played an integral role in Conn's new-found success. He scored the game-winning goal in Conn's double-overtime win against Bowdoin on October 3.

Prophet's teammate, Oscar Brown, was named to the All-

NESCAC Second Team. Brown finished the season with 2 goals and 4 assists. He scored the first goal in Conn's 4-1 upset of Amherst on September 26, and scored the game-winning goal in the Camels' 1-0 victory over Colby on October 24.

"Trevor and Oscar executed for us all season long," said head coach Kenny Murphy. "We are fortunate to have conscientious and committed student-athletes like these two gentlemen who represent our program in a positive light on and off the field."

Field Hockey's Abby Hine was named to the First Team All-NESCAC squad. Last year, Hine was awarded Second Team All-NESCAC honors, and, as a freshman, Hine was named the team's most valuable forward. This season, Hine led the Camels in all three major offensive categories, scoring 9 goals, assisting on

6 scores, and tallying 24 total points. She scored the game-winning goal in Conn's victory over 16th ranked Amherst on September 26.

"Abby really stepped up as a leader for us this season," head coach Debbie Lavigne said. "This is a tremendous achievement for her and a credit to the hard work of the whole team."

Volleyball sophomore standout Amy Newman was also awarded with All-NESCAC honors. Newman was named to the First Team in her inaugural appearance on the squad after finishing second in the conference with 4.17 kills per set. Newman has emerged as one of the best outside hitters in the nation, and will be the face of continued Camel success for years to come.

Newman's teammate, junior Marissa DeMais, was also named to the All-NESCAC team. DeMais received Second Team honors for the second

year in a row. In addition, DeMais was also named to the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine District One Volleyball All-Academic Second Team. She finished third in the NESCAC with 10.06 assists per set and tied Newman for fourth place in aces with .59 service aces per set.

Together, DeMais and Newman were also both named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-New England Region Team. Conn was one of only a few teams to have two players named to the AVCA Regional Team.

"Amy and Marissa are both extremely deserving of these honors," head coach Josh Edmed said. "While they obviously show the athletic prowess to be a top level athlete in the NESCAC, what most don't see is the work ethic and drive each of them has to continue to improve their game on a daily basis...It is a tremendous

honor to be coaching these two athletes on a daily basis, and I look forward to all they will accomplish in years to come."

Joining DeMais as CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine District One All-Academic honorees are senior soccer players Sharon Katz and Mickey Lenzi.

Named to the District Second Team, this is Katz's second straight appearance on the District 1 squad, as she was named to the Third Team last season. With 3 goals and 4 assists, Katz led the Camels with 10 points on the year.

Lenzi was named to the District First Team. He was a tri-captain of the Camels and led the team to its best record in over a decade at 8-6-1. In the off-season, Lenzi competes in track and field where he holds the school record in the pentathlon.

With additional reporting by Will Tomasian.



From L to R: Award winners Oscar Brown '12, Amy Newman '12, Marissa DeMais '11 and Sharon Katz '10



JOHN NARWESKI/PHOTO CONTRIBUTOR

New Head Coach Brian Wilson
Seeks to Rejuvenate Women's
Basketball ProgramSARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

On March 11 of last year, Laura Hungerford announced she would be stepping down as head coach of the Connecticut College women's basketball team, a position that she held for eight straight years. Throughout the Spring 2009 semester, Fran Shields conducted a national search for a replacement head coach. After interviewing many qualified candidates, he decided on Brian Wilson, former assistant head coach at the College of the Holy Cross.

Wilson, after graduating from the University of Virginia in 2000, spent six years in the Patriot League and served as recruiting coordinator for the Crusader program for the past five years. In 2007, he was elevated to the position of Associate Head Coach, becoming only the second coach at Holy Cross to hold that title in 24 years. With the help of Wilson's recruiting and leadership skills, Holy Cross women's basketball achieved NCAA Tournament berths in both 2005 and 2007, as well as reaching the Patriot League Championship game in four consecutive seasons from 2005-2008.

While Wilson spent the majority of his coaching career

in the Division I Patriot League, he has had some experience in the NESCAC.

After starting his career as an intern at Williams College in 2000, Wilson said, "it has been my professional goal to return to the NESCAC as a head coach and I am thrilled to be the new head coach of Camel Women's Basketball."

"It will take exceptional passion, discipline and preparation on the part of our players and staff, day after day. We have a talented group of young women on the team this year who are determined to make a move up the NESCAC ladder."

While Wilson's enthusiasm and determination will undoubtedly bring a new energy to the Camel program, he recognizes that he and his team have a lot of hard work ahead of them in order to move up from last place in the NESCAC rankings.

"It will take exceptional passion, discipline and preparation on the part of our players and staff, day after day. We have a talented group of young women on the team this year

who are determined to make a move up the NESCAC ladder. They committed themselves this summer and fall in the weight room and on the court in preparation for this season," said Wilson.

Since the start of preseason at midnight on November 1, returning players have noticed a change in the energy of the team.

Senior Amy Towne reflects on past seasons. "We have been preparing for our opening games with more intensity this year than before. This does come with a larger time commitment than in the past but we are all adjusting and working harder on and off the court."

With the addition of a new head coach to the close-knit team she has played on for most of her college career, Towne has definitely noticed a change in dynamic.

"It is interesting as a senior to be adjusting to a new style and intensity, but that is part of being an athlete - having the ability to adapt to new challenges. Coach Wilson is demanding but fair."

A firm believer in discipline, Wilson expects his team to give 100 percent in every practice,

SEE HEAD COACH PAGE 5

Conn Equestrian Team
Riding StrongSAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

Although little known and rarely talked about, Conn has an equestrian team - and a pretty good one at that. The Connecticut College Equestrian Team (CCET) competes in Region I/Zone I of the Intercollegiate Horseshow Association (IHSA). The team recently hosted a very large open show at the Mystic Valley Hunt Club in Gales Ferry, CT where they tied with Brown University for the team high point.

As I knew little about equestrian and the Conn team, I talked to head coach Richard Luckhardt who gave me the inside scoop on how the team works. This year, in particular, started

off very well when the incoming freshmen doubled the size of the team from fifteen to thirty members. According to Luckhardt, the freshmen were largely attracted by the team's success in the past.

Most of the team members practice around two to three times per week at the Mystic Valley Hunt Club. The team has both a fall season, comprised of six shows and a spring season with four shows. After the completion of the season, the team will compete in Regional Championships, followed by the Zone Championships and if they are successful, the team will finish up at the National Championship show.

SEE EQUESTRIAN PAGE 5



Some members of this year's equestrian team courtesy of Devon McLaughlin

OPINIONS

November 17, 2009 | Editor: Alfred DeGemmis | opinions@thecollegevoice.org

On Drinking: Needs and Reasons

RIORDAN FROST
COLUMNIST

Let's agree on one thing before I begin this article. Alcohol is a drug. So is caffeine, for that matter, and social acceptance doesn't simply cancel out the fact that these are drugs.

That being said, I happen to thoroughly enjoy alcohol (and caffeine, but that is not the subject of this article).

A glass of wine or a G&T after a hard day can be just what I need, just like a game of Kings, followed by hilarious behavior after a stressful week of exams can be just what I need.

Except there's a problem in language here: I don't need a chilled glass of Chardonnay to relax. I just want it. In terms of needing it to relax, a nice cup of green tea can calm the senses just as well, as can several other things, like a nap or even a movie. 'Need' and 'desire' are quite different.

The reason I make this dis-

inction and argument is that even though saying you 'need' to do something can seem relatively harmless, it can lead to endorsement of negative behavior and consequences. A friend once recounted a night of drinking to me, a night that became a night of vomiting, and of it they said "But I really needed that."

I disagree.

No one needs to drink to the point where one's body forcibly rids itself of the overwhelming amount of alcohol, and no one needs to vomit for psychological accomplishment. But "everybody needs one of those nights," right?

Incorrect. Convincing yourself of that in retrospect to make yourself feel better may be all right, but be aware that it endorses those consequences for others.

Let me be clear, however, that I am not condemning drinking itself. Drinking, as a great deal of us agrees, is enjoyable. Is it enjoyable for the alcohol? No, usually it's

enjoyable for the social situations it provides. I've never had as much fun sitting around drinking alone as I have drinking with a group of my friends (don't worry, I don't often drink alone).

The gifts of Dionysus are not at all wasted upon this campus, and occasionally we overindulge, but focusing on the bad is what leads us away from acknowledging any of the good. There are a great many of us who know our limits and party responsibly, enjoying our time together, even if our actions during those times are technically illegal (which is another discussion altogether).

That's what so few critics of the alcohol culture realize: for most of us, it's more about the culture than the alcohol. To me, those who recognize that there is no need for it, but consume it responsibly and enjoy themselves are in no way in the wrong. After all, alcohol is one of the only things that all cultures share.

Where, Oh Where Have All The Kegs Gone?

Editor's note: This Opinion Editorial is part of a series of letters being published by the SGA Executive Board about issues SGA is working on this year.

GRACE CHAMPLAIN ASTROVE
SGA PARLIAMENTARIAN

Remember the good old days of kegs? Well as a senior, I most certainly do. Living in Windham basement my freshman year I couldn't tell you just how many kegs frequented the common room, but my memories from them are endless.

These were jovial get-togethers where mirth and joy could be had by all, 21 years of age or not. They were a place to be social, drink without excess and bond with members of your community, sports team, club or classmates. The wonderful thing about kegs was that the party was contained to one room - a large open common room to be precise - so that it did not disturb the entire house nor did it damage the entire house. In addition, with so many people and limited alcohol, binge drinking was nearly impossible.

Jump forward three years and the college, in my opinion, is faced with a completely different drinking culture and a major issue of limited social spaces. Over the past two years I have seen an overwhelming number of transportation and floor parties that have been getting completely out of hand.

These floor parties seem to be the most destructive events that take place on campus, with damages and noise getting out of control to the point where houses like Windham, JA, Freeman, Johnson and KB are being completely trashed almost every weekend, not to mention the disturbance that floor parties cause to those who may live on the floor but do not want to take part in such an event.

Floor parties, and even room parties, also supply what seems like endless amounts of alcohol to eager students. Instead of having a keg tapped after two or three hours, you have drinking games and shotgunning beers. Socially, I hope everyone can plainly see that a small, narrow floor (or even smaller room) in a house is the worst place to host a party and cause exclusivity.

But with common rooms out of the question, where else are we to go?

The bar is one option, and one that I have grown to love this year, but if you are under 21 and want to "socialize" what are you to do? I fully understand that the college cannot condone underage drinking but the reality of the matter is that underage drinking does exist at this college, and at every other college, and will always exist because drinking is part of our culture as college age students (and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that). With just the bar as a social space to drink how is a college that prides itself in community establishing any community when they are separating the students from each other during social situations. Perhaps I feel this now more than ever since I am 21 but I am meeting less and less underclassmen because socially we are severely separated.

The office of Residential and Education Living offer a party planning training (Keg 101) for of age students at the beginning of every year and I attended this year in the hopes of actually making kegs have a triumphant return. But about ten minutes into the meeting a dark cloud appeared over my happy keg-filled future and by the end of the meeting it was a torrential downpour raining on my parade. I now understand why it seemed like kegs were here one day and gone the next when the social hosting rules changed.

These regulations I speak of are: no student under 21 may enter, there must be three trained hosts at the event at all times, the hosts may not drink, the hosts must pay for everything and cannot charge anyone who comes to the party and even if there is alcohol left over it must be dumped at the end of the allotted time for the party. Sadly after seeing the few numbers of students who even attended this training, and after hearing the rules I can assure you this will be another keg-less year at Connecticut College.

The stipulations for hosting a keg may be guidelines that Res Life thinks will make drinking safer on campus and prevent students from trashing our new and beautiful common rooms, which are now used as classrooms. But the exact opposite seems to be happening because due to these regulations NO ONE wants to host a keg.

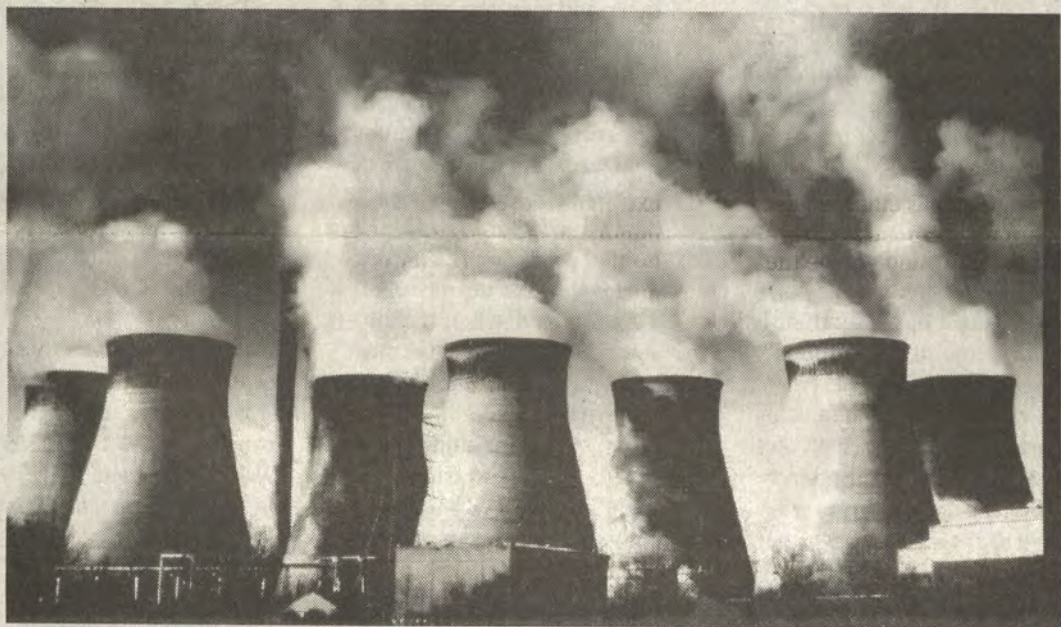
If the administration is serious about changing the drinking culture on campus then one way is to use the new (or the old) social spaces. I do not have all the answers but I do have a few suggestions. One is to have kegs that allow all students to attend but to use bracelets to indicate those who are 21. Another is to have fewer than three social hosts, since that seems absurd, as does the fact that they cannot drink, even responsibly.

I am simply disappointed that the classes that have entered Conn Coll after my freshman year have no idea what pleasurable and responsible drinking used to be when we had kegs. The amount of house damage and transports was down when these kegs still took place. There needs to be a compromise about using the house common rooms as both academic and social spaces, because first and for most the common rooms are social, gathering spaces for the students in those houses and the social hosting rules need to be strongly reconsidered.

If you have any more thoughts on this or anything else please come to an SGA meeting any Thursday night in Cro 1942 at 7:15 and tell your student government representatives what you think!

See Editors Voice on page 12 for more information on social host policy changes over the years.

Wants and Needs



LELAND STILLMAN
COLUMNIST

I've spent the last few weeks scouring the literature in environmental science, economics, political philosophy and ethics for someone who I agree with. But everyone seems to think we cannot survive without pollution. This depends on two assumptions. First, all waste is pollution. Second, waste is bound to get out of hand.

The first statement is false. All waste has a use. At least, all natural waste. In order to maintain soil quality and therefore food quality, manure and urine must be recycled into the land. These are the only two necessary forms of anthropogenic waste.

The rest, which ranges from spoiled food scraps to broken machinery, can be disposed of innocuously. Then again, ultimately we will have to reuse everything. The idea of "wasting" anything implies a limitless supply, which in the case of most resources, one of which is land, we do not actually possess. Eventually, metal will not be mined, it will be reclaimed. Maybe we'll even start dredging the sea floor for it, given how much of it we've discarded into the aqueous environment.

The second statement is obviously true; I will not contest it. But people have been dealing with spilt milk since the dawn of time. Such prob-

lems are not always anthropogenic either: consider natural disasters. People can handle the foibles and screw ups of others. So if all natural waste is useful, and if industrial waste is unnecessary, or can be degraded into something natural, then we don't need pollution.

I've been discussing this with many great intellects of our student body (most notably Jacob Winegrad, Matthew Baum, and Charles Van Rees), and they consistently present one objection. How is this utopian, pollution-free world going to be regulated?

This runs into another question: how do we even define pollution? There are many definitions, but all seem to be as complicated as they are incomplete. I will define pollution as any alteration of property in a way undesired by its owner.

Under current U.S. law, if your neighbor pisses on your lawn, you can sue them. If they buy 100,000 hogs and have them piss all over their lawn, and it contaminates your well, the issue is more complicated. Unless the hog urine contamination causes you "to incur costs" you cannot sue your neighbor. There is such a thing as a nuisance lawsuit: suing someone for causing undue nuisance to you.

However, this does not extend to all forms of pollution. I believe this paradigm of American and global politics

needs to be altered. Your neighbor has no more right to piss on your lawn than to have a 100,000 hogs piss on his lawn and contaminate your air with their ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, or your water with their urine. Currently, they are allowed to, and can continue to do so as long as they are willing to pay the fines for it. But you wouldn't let someone keep harassing someone so long as they paid a fine. You'd put them in jail.

This is inconsistent.

Somehow, this is the paradigm American law currently functions under. We are allowed to pollute our environment, so long as it's sufficiently profitable.

I believe that all such pollution should be illegal.

The ramifications of this are vast. It is an issue that even many ecologists do not consider possible. It is certainly possible, whether or not we are willing to achieve it. Humanity has existed without pollution before. Arguments that it is now impossible simply assert that it is not plausible without significant changes to our lifestyle. We may not want to give up our delicious lifestyle, but when its maintenance degrades another's environment and health, how can we not give it up? The question comes down to eliminating our consumerist mentality, and focusing on what we need, rather than what we want.

"The Boy Who Cried 'Fire!'"

Do fire drills contribute to a lack of urgency in a real fire?

STEVE BLOOM
COLUMNIST

As a third grader, fire drills were a blessing. You would make predictions with friends about when the next one was coming, thinking it had been a while since the last. Then, on the day of, official word meant for only the teachers would leak to the students (or the teacher would purposely dish out info to the boy who was made nervous by the sudden, unpredictable noise and whose parents had called the school about it). Rumors would be passed like a blunt in the Arbo, and by lunch everyone knew about the pending evacuation drill.

Although it was whole-heartedly anticipated as an excuse to miss a portion of class, the procedure was practical. If such drills were nonexistent, and a seventh-grader became too mischievous with his Bunsen burner, I am sure we would have run around like headless chickens. Our teachers would have to scream to get us to calm down and share any instructions they had learned from training or adulthood. But, because of our drills, my entire third grade class memorized their role in an emergency situation.

Fire drills are state mandated in elementary, middle and high schools, as written in all fifty states' legislations. In Connecticut, one fire drill must be conducted each month school is in session. But now we are in college. Every student at Connecticut College has dealt with fire drills at a prior institution.

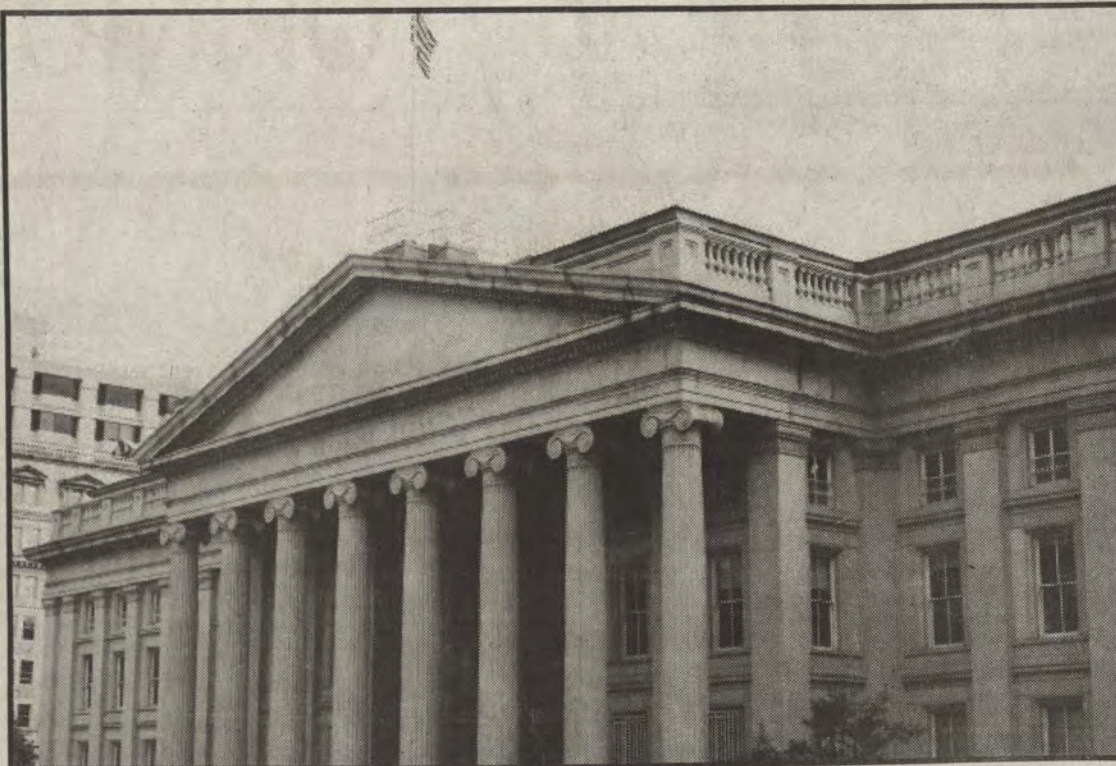
At this stage in our lives, fire drills are only contributing to a "boy who cried wolf" situation. Currently when the fire alarm rings, students assume it's a planned exercise and they dilly-dally or stay in their room and hide in their closets when they hear Campus Safety roaming the halls. I know that I casually grab my jacket, cell phone and keys, and put on my shoes before heading into the chilly night to gather with other shivering scholars or drunks (depending on the night).

In the case of an authentic fire, students would not hesitate to adhere to the same practice. If it were announced by the college that our dorm-life would never be interrupted with drills, when the hallways did howl with rings and dings, we'd rush to our nearest exit hoping to survive being burnt to a crisp.

I understand our Office of Residential Education and Life is likely abiding a state regulation. But not all laws are befitting of all populations. Whether we practice our fire evacuations because of statute or whether it is merely an excuse for Campus Safety to privately sniff our underwear, I think it is in our best interest to abandon a silly tradition. Actually, we played four square and drank a good amount of chocolate milk in third grade... maybe Conn can assist in bringing back some other good elementary school memories.



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How to Prevent Another Financial Crisis

DANIEL HARTSOE
COLUMNIST

Last Thursday, the Economics Department sponsored a lecture on the causes of the financial crisis and the policies needed to avert future crises. The speaker was Dr. L. Randall Wray, professor of economics at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, Director of Research at the Center for Full Employment and Price Stability, and Senior Scholar at the Levy Economics Institute. While most of his prescriptions for future policy action were sound, a few do not pass the test of economic logic.

First, Dr. Wray stated that "stability is destabilizing." When market conditions remain the same or a move in a certain direction consistently for a period of years or decades, banks will become over-confident in the persistence of the status quo.

They will therefore make huge risks based on their belief that economic conditions will not change. This is what happened with the housing market — the market values of houses rose consistently and at a very fast rate over a period of a few years. Financial companies believed that this seemingly inexorable increase would never end, and thus made big bets on assets backed by mortgage loans. When the housing market went bust, the financial sector collapsed as its bets went bad.

But Dr. Wray has neglected an important element in saying that "stability is destabilizing." Stability itself does not have a destabilizing effect on markets and the economy as a whole; stability artificially created by government policies does.

The consistent rise of housing prices did have a destabilizing effect on financial markets — but only because government policy in the realm of mortgage finance fueled the rise in housing prices in the first place.

Congress subsidized the government-sponsored mortgage lenders, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, in order to

accomplish a political goal: to make it more affordable for potential homeowners to get a mortgage loan. The subsidy allowed Fannie and Freddie to offer lower interest rates on mortgage loans, making these loans more affordable to borrowers who wouldn't have been able to pay off their mortgage if it had a higher interest rate, which led to an increase in the number of mortgage loans made out throughout the country.

This increase in mortgage lending, fueled entirely at first by the impact of the subsidy, led to a rapid increase in the demand for houses, which led to a rapid increase in the price of houses and the number of houses built. But this situation was unsustainable, because it was created by government policy, rather than being a reflection of the value each buyer and seller in the housing market placed on the homes they wanted to buy or sell.

And indeed, when the buyers and sellers in the real estate market realized that houses were overvalued, they all began to sell, resulting in the bursting of the housing bubble. What appeared to be a stable phenomenon was in reality highly unstable, as the direct result of government policy.

The other major mistake Dr. Wray made in his analysis was to conclude that securitization of bank loans is "useless."

Up until about twenty-five years ago, when a bank made a loan out to a homeowner or business it would keep the loan on its balance sheet as an asset — an investment that was worth the value of the loan plus the interest the bank was charging for it. In recent decades, banks have begun to sell their loans to other financial companies, such as investment banks, hedge funds, pension funds, and university endowment funds.

By selling these assets as what are known as asset-backed securities, banks are able to lend out the money they receive in exchange for the security it has sold, and thus make a greater profit on

the return these loans bring them. When Dr. Wray denounces the creation and trading of these securities, he ignores their fundamental purpose: to turn bank assets based on loans into liquid money, or liquidity, and to do something with this liquid money to earn a profit.

Banning the sale of all securities would lead to a dramatic decrease in what Dr. Wray believes is the only "useful" financial activity: traditional lending. Thus, it is not obvious that such an action would have no costs, or even that its costs would be outweighed by its benefits.

This is not to say that non-traditional financial activities comprised too large a share of the financial sector in the years leading up to the crisis—it certainly did. But why did this come about? Banks are required to keep as reserves specific percentages of its deposits and of all the assets on its balance sheets.

In order to evade these requirements, banks created "investment vehicles" and rearranged their accounting so that all of their assets would appear in these vehicles instead of on their balance sheets, and thus would not be subject to the requirements. But banks had to keep all traditional loans—those made with a bank's deposits—on their balance sheets, because government regulations require banks to do so.

This in effect made securities trading much more profitable compared to traditional lending than would naturally have been the case, which led banks to rely more on selling their assets than on attracting more deposits to finance their lending. Government regulations distorted the financial markets by favoring what was not regulated over what was.

And it is for this reason that government regulation of any consensual activity will fail: governments can only regulate an activity after it has been invented, and therefore the most recently invented activities will be favored over all others.

Last time on
SBBS starring
Boof!

Alien zombie
clones are going
to throw
Mr. President's
daughter in
the volcano!



And now, the
thrilling conclusion!

Blughhh...
Boof am being
sick with the
H1N1



Um... Hello?

Telegram for
Mr. Boof



Dear Boof, stop.
Pres daughter dead, stop.
You're fired, stop.



Aw, figs.

"Boof" by Justin Levy

Is the NFL Truly Keeping Up "Good Standards"?

MICHAEL MARKS
CONTRIBUTOR

Despite having backed out of the deal, Rush Limbaugh's recent attempt to gain control of the St. Louis Rams has brought out a flurry of attacks from the more progressive members of society. I keep wondering why. First, Limbaugh would not be a sole owner. Secondly, what right does anyone outside of the franchise have to prevent him from taking a corporation through a legal manner? If you are a Rams fan and you don't like his politics, stop buying tickets and paraphernalia. If you actually work at the club, I am under the assumption that every contract has a "buy-out" clause.

If you think he is a misogynistic pig/racist, then buy out your contract. If you play for another team, feel free to boycott Rams game. If you have the money to buy Old Rush out or buy the whole team yourself, then you can prevent the sale by merely bidding more. Is it worth \$750 million to you, billionaire potential buyers, for controlling stakes of the Rams?

Stories involving "divisive" characters, such as Limbaugh,



tend to drone on for extended periods of time. Personally, I didn't think that it was an issue until I heard that the school was putting on an event to talk about it. What's there to talk about?

A fat angry white guy buys part of a corporation. That doesn't sound very unusual. On the other hand, I wanted Limbaugh to buy the Rams because it gives me more reason to hate the team (I'm a Titans

fan with a serious grudge and they stole my Super Bowl). Unfortunately, the players union and the owners association have fought successfully to keep Limbaugh from pursuing the deal. Based on the ESPN details, it seems that this act is solely based on an attempt to keep up "good standards," as Commissioner Goodell told ESPN. In addition, the Commissioner said, "I would not want to see those comments com-

ing from people who are in a responsible position in the NFL - absolutely not."

It seems professional sports have come a long way from the days of Marge Schott's crazy comments. Of course, I do wonder how the league can claim to hold up "good standards." I was at the game when Albert Haynesworth stepped on a guy's face (but I was rooting for Albert's speedy return to the field). Michael

Vick served time, but I guess a racist statement is much more shocking for fans to accept from an owner than dog fighting is from a QB.

Then, again, could be seeing discriminatory practices at work? Could Limbaugh and Beck be right that the left is really our to get them? Something is rotten in the state of Denmark?! Hell, John Rocker got suspended for his racist comments but Ray Lewis participated in obstruction of justice in a murder. What did that social delinquent get? A fine for \$250,000 with no suspension. It may sound like a lot of money, but his contract is now 7 years for around \$15.5 million.

Clearly, professional sports are not the best place for kids to look for role model. In fact, given their inability to govern, I would suggest not looking at Congress either.

I guess we need to go back to the old favorites of firefighters, doctors and soldiers for our dose of leadership. As for corporate acquisitions, I think that it would be best for the market to do the talking.

You Grow Up, I Grow Up, We Grow Up, A Nation Goes Up

WELBITH MOTA
COLUMNIST

If I am right that Obama will fail as a cultural revolutionary leader, then I'd like to propose that he owes some of this failure the fact that he is leading a childish nation, a citizenry composed of a people who, for various reasons, have proudly shut the door on maturity. What exactly I mean by maturity, I'll get to later.

First, I have to admit that, in theory, a nation composed of adults behaving like children sounds like a great utopia. Because unlike so many adults, children are willing to play, expose their feelings, explore their world, learn new things and connect to others.

The problem for us, of course, is that this epoch is seeing the vast majority of its citizens skip adulthood altogether, resulting in what I see as a society made up of mostly child-adults. These are the folks who wish to lead fundamentally jejune lives. Individuals who do not wish to take on the responsibilities of adulthood. While I can understand the hesitation - as I am one of these folks - in the end, enough of these people create a citizenry that is made up of tall, adulterated children, and, by definition, a corrupt state. It becomes a lose-lose situation where children make up the majority of the country, but lack the joyful qualities of real babes.

We aren't crazy for fearing adulthood, though; we see in our parents how the supposed 'real world' is terribly demanding - emotionally, physically, spiritually and psychologically. 'Out there' things move fast, too fast, and we feel that we'll have no choice but to join (and become real good at) competing in the rat race. 'In here,' at least we can slow things down. And what competition we have, in the form of GPA for example, can at least be private. Plus, what really awaits us out there but debt, marriage, children, responsibility, routine and a world that seems void of Carpe Diem. (We've all heard it: "Stay in school for as long as

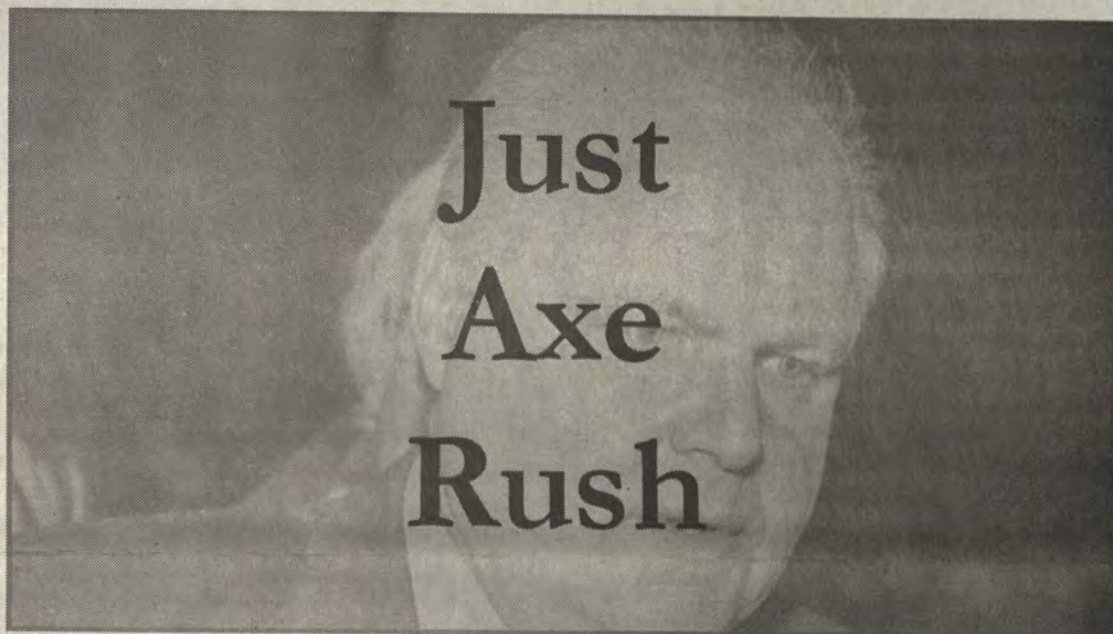
you can.")

But who decided that adulthood had to be a sad place that's up-early-newspaper-reading-coffee-sipping-boring-lonely-rushed-money-oriented-consumer-centered-individualistic? Surely we can imagine a world where becoming an adult is something to look forward to? Environmentalist Susan Griffin aptly states, "Let us begin to imagine the worlds we would like to inhabit..."

But this also requires maturing. Which to me means not being afraid of being critical, being committed to one's own happiness, and to the happiness of others; similarly, it means learning to become in tune with the misery and suffering of other bodies (both at home home, home, and abroad); it means humility. Moreover, the happy adults that I know have retained a child's sense of play, curiosity and compassion; but they do not pretend to be ignorant. In other words, growing up means assuming the difficult responsibilities of living in a so-called democratic system: As Cornell West would say, a mature citizenry would not be afraid to lay witness to injustice and to speak the Truth to Power with love. Rather, it would awake from its "sleep walk," and take back our political systems, and values.

Of course, this is easier said than done. In a wealthy capitalistic society that aims to turn citizens into docile and conformist consumers, in a nation that runs on fast food and that prefers facility always, in this context, our fear and unwillingness to mature make perfect sense: maturing is process that it requires courage and hard work.

Personally, because this is my last year in college, I set out to make the best of it. To ensure that nothing could deviate me from a great year, I chose a theme that seemed perfect - "Just Do It." It's been fun, and I don't think I need to tell you what I have been doing, but now, "Just Do It" takes on a different meaning. Perhaps it's time to just grow up.



JAMES SCALES
STAFF WRITER

There are many detractors - despairing the condition of language and culture today - who blame African-Americans for mutilating that poor old word "ask."

Indeed, during his talk radio show, conservative host Rush Limbaugh routinely (with an air of mockery) changes the pronunciation to "axe." This is not surprising for a man who began his radio career after dropping out of college, and who was recently fired from working as a football commentator at ESPN for claiming that Donovan McNabb was given "extra credit" because of his race.

Perhaps Mr. Limbaugh should have stayed in school, at least until taking a course on the history of the English language. He might have learned that "axe" was one alternative form of "ask" - beginning in the eighth century - and was considered standard until around 1600.

Let us redeem him of this malapropism. Or, as Chaucer notes, in *The Parson's Tales*, better let him "cometh for to axe [us] of mercy," for the Bible (Coverdale's 1535 translation) tells that one must only "Axe and it shall be."

In any case, settlers brought this archaic form - which still exists in regional dialects of England - to the South and Midwest, where it is used today (by scholars and fools alike).

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing; Mr. Limbaugh naturally plays it safe. His brash defiance of factual accuracy is admirable: "It has not been proven that nicotine is addictive, the same with

cigarettes causing emphysema [and other diseases]."

He also possesses a near zen-like quality of perfect paradox; after railing that anyone caught with drugs must be convicted and "sent up," he was caught lifting OxyContin from his maid and smuggling unlabeled bottles of Viagra after a vacation in the Dominican Republic.

Like so many of his brave generation, Mr. Limbaugh avoided being drafted to fight in Vietnam with claims of cysts on his buttocks. His early career was no less brave: he was terminated from several radio gigs for his bigoted political comments.

He later rose to national fame. Because his show was handed free to any station that would carry it, his voice is one of the most heard on AM radio. Clarence Thomas (Supreme Justice) has claimed that he listens to "Rush" when he works out.

A philosopher once noted that if we are truly loyal to a political cause, we must regard it with careful criticism. This ensures that rhetoric does not become doctrine; that the leaders of change do not become what they seek to replace.

Few embody these principles finer than Mr. Limbaugh, who - skeptical of President Obama's ambitious healthcare plans - has made many wry observations (including a comparison between the project's logo and the Nazi swastika).

His historical understanding is, however, not limited to insignia:

"Well, the Nazis were against big business...they were opposed to Jewish capitalism. They were insanely, irrationally against pollution...They were against cruelty and vivisection

of animals, but in the radical sense of devaluing human life, they banned smoking. They were totally against that. They were for abortion and euthanasia of the undesirables, as we all know, and they were for cradle-to-grave nationalized healthcare."

Perhaps fearing that this association was not evident enough, Mr. Limbaugh frequently turns to another standard enemy:

"[Van Jones is] an avowed communist and so forth. Obama's mentor was an avowed communist, Bill Ayers...And then you've got State-Run Media, which refuses to report on any of this...If Obama is sounding like a god and a messiah during the campaign and somebody's out there saying, 'we're dealing here with a hard-core leftist radical who wants to basically overthrow this country's institutions,' people don't want to hear it."

To better understand Mr. Limbaugh's fear of Nazi-communism, let me finish with one final anecdote. During the 1960's, a young student at Harvard spoke the following words to a gathering of parents and alumni:

"The streets of our country are in turmoil. The universities are filled with students rebelling and rioting. Communists are seeking to destroy our country. Russia is threatening us with her might. And the republic is in danger. Yes! Danger from within and without. We need law and order! Without law and order our nation cannot survive."

The ovation was prolonged. When the applause finally died, the student quietly told his listeners, "These words were spoken in 1932 by Adolph Hitler."

EDITORIALS

November 17, 2009

E-mail: contact@thecollegevoice.org

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Editor's Voice

Behold the Power in Numbers

Behold the power in numbers.

After Jamison Hermann's article was published in *The College Voice* on October 27, the Facebook group "Connecticut College needs more bandwidth!!" gained over 550 members, discussions were had at SGA and complaints and groans heard throughout campus, Information Services made our day last week with a campuswide email from Lee Hisle, Vice President for Information Services (IS):

"We've asked the Connecticut Education Network, that provides Internet access to Connecticut colleges and schools, to increase our bandwidth by 30MB as soon as possible, almost half again as much as we have now. When we have the additional 30MB in place, I'll send out a notice, but I hope you'll notice an improvement right away. After the increase, we will continue to monitor network bandwidth usage to determine if additional bandwidth should be planned and budgeted for in the future."

This is already happening.

The Internet service plan at Connecticut College was limited to 70MB per second, but last Friday John Schaeffer of IS wrote on the wall of "Connecticut College needs more bandwidth" that the college was now up to 93MB and will be up to the full 100MB after registration.

Behold the possibilities if you communicate problems in constructive ways.

The power we as students have at Conn is sometimes quite surprising, and we are not always cognizant of our potential impact.

We just need to make our voices heard. With such a large Facebook following, Jamison's article and Rachel Blitzer's opinion piece (last week's edition), as well as discussion at SGA, students banded together to show that this was a problem we're passionate about resolving.

SGA had a conversation last Thursday during the Assembly meeting about our perceived lack of passion this year on some issues, despite the long

laundry list of ideas we came up with at the beginning of the year of changes and additions we'd like to see on campus.

Our conclusion was something quite similar to thoughts I brought up in previous editorials – just do it.

Talking is great, but often we think too hard and long about an issue or initiative, so much so that nothing actually happens.

I'm not suggesting we start jumping into things blindly – careful consideration and research are always necessary for success.

But let's take this enthusiasm and passion and focus it on other areas of student concern.

From the culture of complaining we have here at Conn, I'm sure off the top of your head can name at least ten things you'd like to change or new things you'd like to see on campus.)

As students, we have a strong voice – let's use it constructively.

- Claire

Editor's Notes

1) This is our final issue before Thanksgiving Break. We only have one final issue on December 8 before Winter Break, so if you have opinions, something you'd like to review/report on or a response to any of our articles, please email contact@conncoll.edu, or one of the editors.

2) If you're headed abroad or away next semester and want to share your experiences with the campus, become a con-

tributor to our "Wanderlust Travelogues" Abroad Blog. Email eic@conncoll.edu if you're interested and check out the site for inspiration: thecollegevoice.org/abroadblog

3) If you have an opinion on an article, please write a Letter to the Editor! I've heard plenty of comments (positive and negative) from friends, or overheard over breakfast as students read the paper, but share it! Start a dialogue through

the paper. That is our purpose after all, to serve as the campus watchdog, a community forum for issues of common concern, and informant for the campus community on significant issues.

See you after break!

- Claire

Want to write for us?

E-mail our editors at the e-mail addresses listed above, or come to Cro 224 Monday nights at 10 PM for our two final all-staff meetings on November 30 and December 7.

Letters to the Editor
(Your opinion goes here.)

As always, we welcome letters to the editor! If you're interested in writing a letter, please read the below.

Letters to the Editor:

Any and all members of the Connecticut College community (including students, faculty and staff) are encouraged to submit articles, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, photographs, cartoons, etc.

All submissions will be given equal consideration.

In particular, letters to the editor are accepted from any member of the college community on a first-come, first-come basis until noon on the Saturday prior to publication. They should run approximately 300 words in length, but may be no longer than 400 words.

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and

include contact information. No unsigned letters will be published.

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

The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, grammar or libel. No letters deemed to be libelous towards an individual or group will be published.

The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. These policies must be made public knowledge so that every reader may maintain equal opportunity to have their opinions published.

Other policies of note:

All articles must be received by the appropriate section editor by no later than 4 PM

on Fridays (preferably earlier), unless given prior permission.

The College Voice reserves the right to reject any ad it deems unfit to publish because of subject matter, conflict of interest, etc. A distinct line must be drawn between articles and advertisements, and no article should be published with the intent to advertise a particular event, person, place or product.

Any advertisement that resembles an article must be marked "Paid Advertisement." From the date of the last advertisement placement by an advertiser, the advertiser has 30 business days to pay their outstanding balance. They will be charged \$2 per day their payment is overdue.

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