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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010 VOLUME 35 • ISSUE 9

The Finals Countdown

SARAH KOSOFSKY
STAFF WRITER

"So, how many finals do you have?" Students at Conn typically have either a final exam or a final paper for each class, and both students and professors have strong preferences for either option.

There are several factors that contribute to a professor's decision into choosing to administer a paper or an exam, starting with the subject of the class. A natural science or math professor is not likely to give students a final paper assignment, and an English professor is not likely to give students a final exam.

There are pros and cons to both final assignments.

Leah Farber '11 likes final exams that consist of writing prompts, because "they test your ability to think about what you have learned, but also has an endpoint, with a time limit. You do what you can, and when it's done, it's done."

Galen Byrne '12 prefers papers. "You can combine different things that you have learned and you are given the opportunity to put forth something you are proud of." Stanislav Andreev '11 says that with exams, "you can just go and get them over with, while papers are more thorough. Also, the pressure for a paper is greater as there is a greater span of time given."

Religious Studies Professor David Kim has assigned students from his class Discontents of Modern Christianity with a unique final: an oral presentation. Students will team up in groups to talk about a specific philosopher from the class material for 40 minutes. When asked why he chose such a final, Professor Kim referenced one of the class' philosophers, Immanuel Kant, saying that the oral presentation utilized Kant's synthetic thinking, in that it brought together different teachings in the class into one final presentation. Kim said that the oral presentation was more of a conversation and a chance to show intellect. He also

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PHOTOS: STAFF
Pictured here, clockwise from top left: Jeff Baird '12 in the Windham common room; Knowlton common room; Larrabee common room won Student Life's Festivus decoration contest; Plant common room, Blackstone common room.

Students Vie for Pizza, Money in Annual Festivus Common Room Contest

Cablegate: exploring WikiLeaks

MEREDITH BOYLE
NEWS EDITOR

Last week, the organization WikiLeaks published the first installment of a massive stockpile of U.S State Department cables that detail their daily exchanges with various embassies and consulates.

WikiLeaks was founded in 2007 by Australian journalist Julian Assange. Originally considered a fringe-group, WikiLeaks has become more controversial with each new release of information as governments fear the secrets will damage national security and relations abroad. A not-for-profit, stateless organization, WikiLeaks functions with the help of full-time volunteers around the world and anonymous sources who submit leaked information in the hopes of reducing government corruption and increasing worldwide transparency.

The leaks were released early to The New York Times, The Guardian and various other European newspapers. The information is so massive that reporters are still sifting through it a week later. "The Lede" New York Times bloggers have even asked readers to delve into the cables themselves and send any insight or analysis to the blog.

This batch of cables was retrieved by Army intelligence analyst, Private First Class Bradley Manning who downloaded them from a military computer system and submitted them to WikiLeaks. He has been arrested and is facing charges of illegally leaking classified information.

The leaks have embarrassed the United States, the world's sole superpower, whose administration was predicated upon improving transparency in Washington. Initially the leaks appear to be an alarming exposé of state secrets, but upon closer inspection it seems they may not be so damaging after all.

Professor of Government William Rose said, "I find it embarrassing but not life threat

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OPINION

"Race to Nowhere" Documentary Hits Home

JERELL MAYS
STAFF WRITER

Is our educational system in trouble? Yes. It's hardly a question. I was in the public high school system as recently as a few months ago, and if you asked me back then whether I thought something was up, I would've given a very snappy "yeah" before storming off to go stress somewhere in solitude. Because the truth is that our educational system (our public one, anyway) is a mess right now. And after attending a screening of Race to Nowhere, a documentary on the negative effects of over-intense schooling on our nation's youth, along with an audience of teachers, administrators and students alike, I'd be surprised to hear anyone say otherwise.

But what specifically is the problem with our education system? Number-worshippers might say that the problem is test scores. They're too low (compared to other countries) and since the education process IS apparently a worldwide competition complete with medals and ribbons for the best horses (sorry, students), it's up to us and us alone to turn off the computer, put the McDougle down and start pushing ourselves harder. Right? Wrong. In fact, it's this line of thinking that Race to Nowhere attacks: the film suggests that the problem isn't that students aren't trying hard enough. It's that they're trying WAY too hard.

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SCREEN CAPTURE

6th Annual Mustache Dinner

RACINE OXTOBY
A&E EDITOR

As the snow-threatening, ear-numbing winds of December sweep over our lonely campus, it seems appropriate to look back on what made November great and why we will miss it. First and foremost, Thanksgiving: that tryptophan-filled day of parade floats, football and food. Following that is Black Friday, when we can either laugh at the fools who partake in 3AM shopping sales or join in on the fun. Of course, the most popular November association, at least for the male demographic of this campus, has to be the growing of mustaches. At Conn, Mustache November (or Movember, as it is affectionately referred) culminates in the Mustache Dinner, a Knowlton tradition filled with gentlemanly attire and feasting with friends before the semester comes to an end.

This year, Emile Premmeur '11 took over organizing duties, setting the date for the dinner and inviting alumni who had participated in the past. When I met with him in Cro on December 1, his face was warm with a scruffy black beard, which in three days' time would be trimmed into a neat, film noirish Mustache.

"The Mustache Dinner is an annual event where men and women grow their Mustaches and we all go



TANAHA SIMON / PHOTO EDITOR
Miriam Tabatadze '13 and Sonya Rao '13 flash their 'staches at Festivus dinner.

to dinner together in Harris dressed as fancily as possible for the evening," said Premmeur. "In terms of the actual process, we usually meet in Knowlton lobby - that's where people reveal their Mustaches."

The Mustache Dinner is fairly young, founded in 2003 by members of the class of 2005. "A lot of people just forgot to shave that year," explained Premmeur, "and they decided they were going to

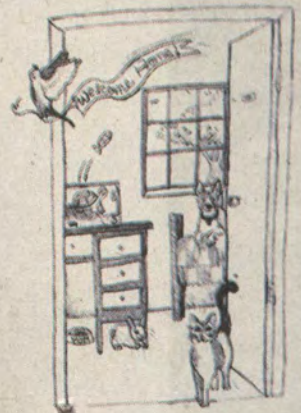
shave their beards into Mustaches and go eat dinner together." While the original meal was a fun expression of laziness, it has since evolved into a formal event. After a two-year hiatus, Jack Lichten '10 brought the Dinner back in 2008, and it has been held ever since.

I encountered the participants milling around Knowlton lobby around 5PM.

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EDITORIALS/LETTERS

DECEMBER 6, 2010

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Editorial

My least favorite saying on this campus, more than "campus bubble" or "student apathy," is the phrase "Engage in conversation."

SGA has taken on a new Facebook initiative called "Fireside Chats," with Nate Cornell offering us a post-game debrief of each weekly Assembly meeting. The web video series takes its name from FDR's weekly radio broadcasts, when throughout the Great Depression the president sat before microphones to clarify the government's role in a time of exasperation and anxiety. The chats were purposeful: On the Bank Crisis, On the Currency Situation, On the Works Relief Program. Cornell's first video suggests that the campaign is to increase transparency in a similar vein, but I can't imagine what student worries about the transparency of SGA – their minutes are always online, and they've been eager for a full visitors section since the class of 2011 were freshmen, if not longer. We can assume that the amiable Cornell sits before the PR VP's FlipCam for a different reason: publicity. It's a plea for "student engagement" with SGA's goings-on, and to be fair, it's a smart one. Unfortunately, the videos suggest that SGA is losing their long-term memory.

Take, for example, "SGA Video Update #3". In it, Cornell says, "SGA really discusses every year social responsibility, partying... and one thing that we had discussed as an SGA is sort of hosting a NESCAC summit, a teach-in, where we would invite all the student governments from all the NESCACS, and also some other senior administrators, the deans of Student Life as well, where we could really engage in conversations about alcohol and how we can work together to figure out the issues that we face on our campus. Colleges all across America are facing similar issues. This is something that has been well received within campus and within assembly."

Let's look at this a little more closely, based only on the information provided: the topic at hand here seems to be student drinking. Cornell says that this discussion happens every year, which leaves ambiguous whether or not they're looking for a *resolution*. This year, they are looking to expand our ongoing, unresolved discussion to include the leaders of *seven* major colleges and universities. Additionally, they say they have brought it to "campus" – although exactly how and to whom is unclear – and that this campus has "responded positively."

Unfortunately, a resolution cannot be reached, simply because The Issue has never been properly defined. What *is* our drinking problem? Is it a statistical fact, or a network of symptoms? Is it health related? Is it compromising our academics? Is it not prevalent enough? We've never been told. When Nate and his Fireside co-host Randy Lovelace suggest that we "figure out the issues that we face on our campus," they are implicitly supporting the notion that this issue is someone else's that they have to fix. They're placing the problem outside themselves. I'm not suggesting Nate and Lovelace have a problem. In fact, I'm suggesting quite the opposite: they, like I, like 81% of students on this campus, choose to drink alcohol, with most of us participating in our college's drinking scene since freshman year.

When SGA suggests things like Summits and asks for delicate conversations about whether drinking underage is an issue of honor, it's so incongruous with our lived experience that I wonder where everyone went. Student Activities Council hosts and funds sweaty events with themes as conspicuous as Anything But Clothes. Saturday nights the '62 room is swept of beer bottles and lost high heels, and all that emerge are detagged Facebook photos and Peer Education flyers. I can't imagine what our student leaders are trying to change about the drinking culture – I can't imagine that they want it changed at all. Nonetheless, they continue to pay lip service to an institutional condescension that pathologizes its students without ever defining its disease in real terms. If anything is dangerous about drinking, it's our schizophrenic way of talking about drinking when we're sober: on the one hand, in the form of animated stories over Sunday Brunch, and on the other, in business-casual attire, using party lines like "facilitate communications" and "work toward conclusions." It suggests shame. It lumps those with potentially clinical alcohol problems in with everyone who drinks socially. Most of all, it's deeply hypocritical and a dishonor to ourselves.

If drinking on campus ever does diminish, it's hard to imagine that "engaged conversation" and other non-objectives will be the cause. To really make a change, the Student Government Association should ease the rules to allow more areas for underage students to interact on drinking nights with upperclassmen, to let social influences happen organically as a mature outgrowth of seniors' imparting aged experience on the lower grades. For example, yes, hospital transports are expensive, invasive and embarrassing. Yes, you can mix that shot with two parts this juice, yes, in this glass, and surprise! You won't have to make that pained face scrunch every time you drink.

SGA is making the issue worse, not better, because they've failed to ask themselves a simple question: *Why are we having the conversation about drinking?* They're communicating nothing but a vague sense of anxiety. We've been having conversations about drinking for years with each new Executive Board, and if the issue is not defined, the solution will never emerge.

- Lilah Raptopoulos

FREE SPEECH

(Your opinion here.)

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

tact 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.

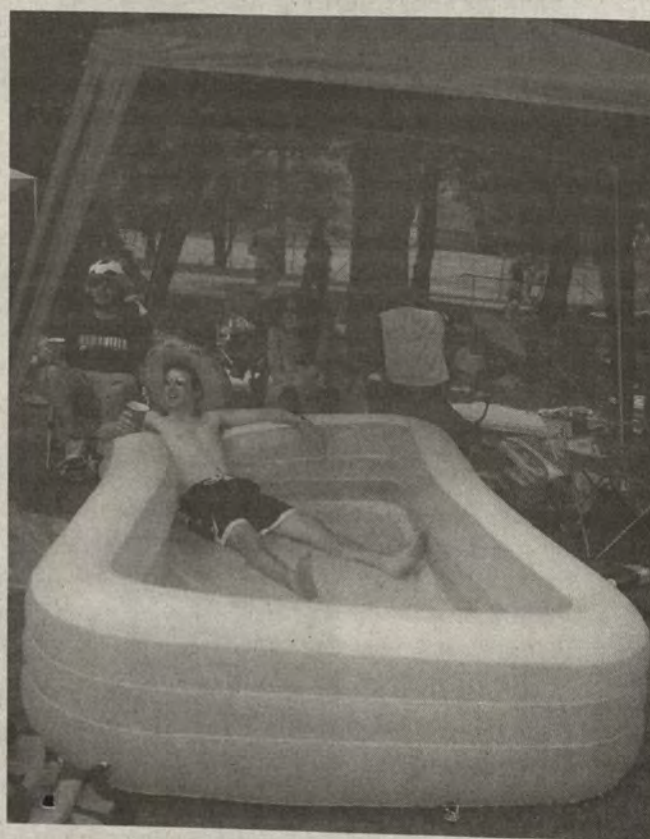
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www.thecollegevoice.org/contact-us/submitletter

or by emailing it to

eic@thecollegevoice.org.

VOICE ARCHIVES



THIS WEEK

ON CAMPUS

What Can You Do With Garbage?

5:30pm - 7:00pm

Main Street East

An American Studies interdisciplinary dinner, hosted by Professor Stock featuring Professors Anthony Graech from the Anthropology department and Greg Bailey from the Art department. Dinner (Illiano's, not garbage) provided.



Pet a Puppy

7 pm

Stressed about finals? Spend some quality time with puppies in Harkness Dining Hall. Almost too good to be true.



monday

LOCAL

bean & leaf

Monday nights @ Bean & Leaf features
CBYD Jazz Quartet
8 PM
13 Washington St



Iraqi Refugees and the Politics of Survival in Jordan

4:30 PM

Blaustein 210

Lecture by Government Professor Caroleen Marji Sayej. The large influx of Iraqi refugees into Jordan after the 2003 Iraq War has affected state and society in Jordan.

Ridge / Winchester Desert & Dialogue: Slum Wars, The World Cup and The Olympics

7:30pm

Abbey House Common Room

Mystic Market desserts + Sociology Professor Robert Gay's anecdotes from his research with a major drug dealer from Rio de Janeiro's Vidigal favela.

'Tis The Season Holiday Art Show

Studio 33 Presents: 'Tis The Season, a collection of Art and Fine Gift Items by Local Artists. We are also featuring a special collection of art to celebrate the birthday of the New London Harbor Light. The show runs until January 16.

140 Bank Street New London

tuesday

Camel Hats Silent Auction

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Cro Snack Shop

Place your bid on a hat handknitted by a member of the Camel Knitters Guild. Hats will be on display every Wednesday noon-1 p.m. Winning bidders will be announced Dec. 15 at 1 p.m. Proceeds to benefit the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut.



wednesday



Come into the Quiet Meditation with

Rev. Carolyn Patierno

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Harkness Chapel



Visit the **Book Barn** in nearby Niantic and browse through their collection of over 350,000 used books. Open 9 am- 9 pm every day. 41 West Main St. Niantic, CT



Hoot for Hunger



Hoot for Hunger benefit show

6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Donations will be accepted for the New London Community Meal Center and New London Breakfasts. Union Railroad Station

The Telegraph Presents In-store Concert

Featuring Sandy Allen

7 p.m.

The Telegraph in New London, CT presents Sandy Allen for a holiday show.

19 Golden Street



Thames River Wine & Spirits: Weekly Wine Tasting

Every Friday night features a weekly wine tasting with four great wines in our one-of-a-kind wine cellar. Free. 6 - 9 PM, Thames River Wine & Spirits (84 Bank St)

friday

Traffic Jam Benefit Event

featuring MOBROC bands

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Coffee Grounds

Join CoAST(COalition Against Slavery and Trafficking) at our benefit for victims of human trafficking.

Dance Department Concert

7:00 pm

Palmer Auditorium

featuring choreography by guest artists Kyle Abraham and Gabri Christa and Connecticut College faculty and students.

Jersey Shore Dance

Featuring DJ E@ZY and DJ EMPEZ

11:00pm - 2:00am

Cro 1941 room



saturday

Funk for Forest Justice

9:00 PM - 11:30 PM

Cro's Nest

A benefit event featuring MOBROC's Funk the Police and comedy group N2O. All donations will go to a livelihoods conference in Uganda in collaboration with the Jane Goodall Institute-Uganda and the Budongo Conservation Field Station. Requested donation \$3. Unlimited beer \$3 for 21+.



Lyman Allen Art Museum presents "Exploring Art" Film Series

2:00 p.m.

The Lyman Allen Art Museum presents Simon Schama's award-winning Power of Art series. Free + popcorn provided. 625 Williams Street

Bean & Leaf Coffee House Presents Sky Island

8:00 p.m.

Join us at Bean and Leaf for 'Sky Island', New Lo natives who specialize in fantastic, ecstatic dance music.

13 Washington Street



all week

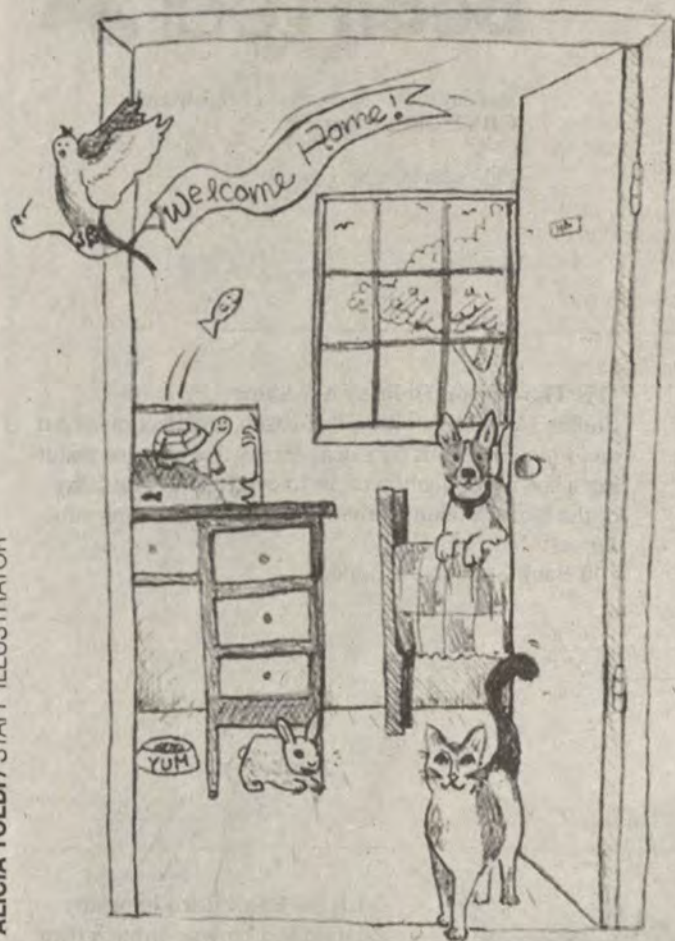
Art= Gift Exhibit at Hygienic Art

7:00 p.m Nov. 20- 4:00 p.m. Dec. 24

The Hygienic Gallery, in collaboration with other galleries in New London, will be filled with small, fresh, affordable artworks: paintings, soft goods, paper goods, prints, jewelry, photography, sculptural items and Hygienic T-shirts, ephemera and more. Come to Hygienic Art this Holiday Season to support your favorite local artists and discover new artists. 79 Bank Street



Conn College employs stricter pet policy than other institutions



ALICIA TOLDI / STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

DAVE SHANFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Across the country, colleges are opening up their doors and dorms to all kinds of animals, and not those typically seen a college campus. Increasingly, more and more colleges are loosening their policies on having pets in dormitories.

Monroe Hall, a dormitory at Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania, allows residents to keep pets in their dormitories. The permitted animals include turtles, guinea pigs, birds, cats and dogs under forty pounds, as long as the dog's breed does not include any mix of pit bull, Rottweiler, or wolf. Massachusetts Institute of Technology has "cat-friendly areas," where students are permitted to keep cats as pets. Both schools hold students responsible for the actions and wellbeing of their pets, and both reserve the right to "expel" pets from their campus for any number of reasons.

Middlebury College also allows small animals to be kept by students in appropriate aquariums or cages. Exceptions to the policy are snakes and ferrets, which are not allowed in residence halls at all. The idea behind such a policy is, in part, to help ease the transition of going to college.

Connecticut College's pet policy can be found on page sixty-five of the 2010-2011 Student Handbook and reads as follows:

"Students are not permitted to keep pets in residential houses. Fish in ten-gallon tanks (or less) are permitted. Only animals that can survive submerged under water are allowed; snakes, turtles, frogs, hamsters, mice etc. are not permitted in the residence halls. When a pet is found, the student must remove the pet from the residential area within 24 hours. There is \$75 fine for each violation."

While allowing dogs in residence halls may be extreme, it seems as though Conn's policy is on the opposite end

of the spectrum. However, not everyone at school adheres to Conn's pet policy. One student keeps two turtles, and shall remain anonymous for obvious reasons, believes that "having small pets at college can be a great thing for the right people."

Though the student does not necessarily think that freshmen with roommates should be allowed pets on campus, she is of the opinion that sophomores and upperclassmen with single rooms might find that "the unconditional love and companionship of a pet can be extremely comforting."

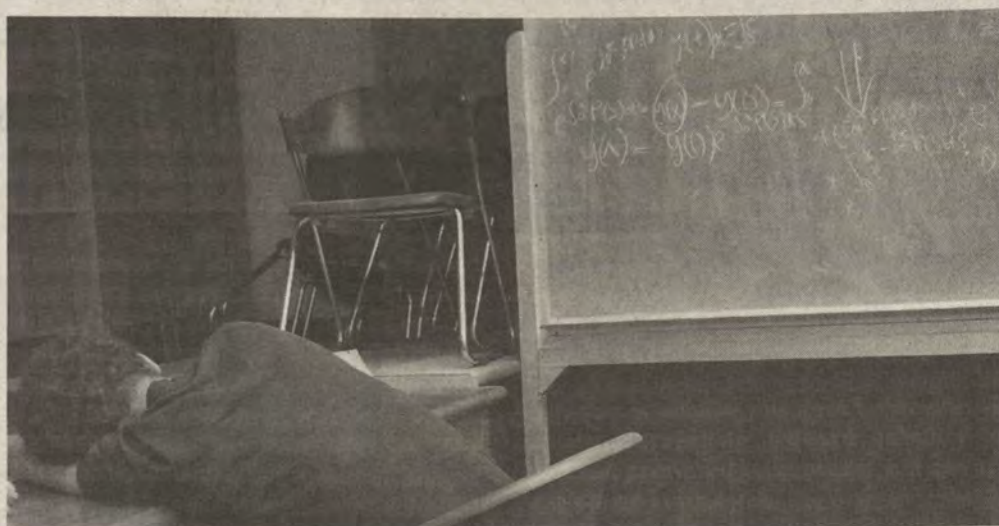
"As a sophomore, I brought my turtle to school as I had my own room, and it was not only a fun thing for me but a great way to make friends," explained the student. "Living in the Plex can be hard because often there is a negative stigma about leaving doors open because of the way the dorms are structured, but as I had my turtle tank in plain sight of the door, people I had never met before would stop in to chat when my door was open."

The student also said that "it often feels good to take care of something, whether it be a small pet or even a plant. Having a pet on campus can help students feel less homesick and even prevent them from going home every weekend if they live close to campus."

Of course, those with allergies and who dislike animals would oppose the points made by the turtle-owner, but it seems as though many colleges have dealt with such issues by creating a distinction between pet-friendly areas and the rest of the campus.

While it's unclear as to whether or not Conn would consider amending its current policy on pets, it appears to be a growing trend throughout colleges and universities. Many students are content with just having a small fish, or no pet at all, but for others, a guinea pig, cat or even a turtle can make all the difference. •

The Finals Countdown



VOICE ARCHIVES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He also said that the final is "not a bar to jump over."

Andreev prefers Kim's option, saying that the oral presentation was a more active way of showing what you know.

Andrea Rossi-Reder is both the Dean of Freshmen and Sophomores and an English professor. She always administers final papers to her students. In larger, university settings, exams are given because that is more suitable to the volume of students in a class. Dean Rossi-Reder said that the subject being taught in a class and the size of the class dictate the type of final given.

Professor Tristan Borer of the Government department felt the same way as Professor Kim, agreeing that there are many ways to assess a student's grasp of the material. Borer administers take home essays that are due at the end of the finals period, giving an exam only in her introductory course. She chose to give her introductory class an exam, be-

cause 100-level classes are meant to give students a foundation of a subject, which they can build upon in more advanced classes. She believes that upper classes are more about critically thinking about the material, and that is more effectively shown in a paper. "I think the type of assignment corresponds to what you want to do," says Borer. "What I like about Connecticut College is that it does not have one-size-fits all approach to classes."

Another factor may also affect a professor's choice of final: the fear of plagiarism.

When asked, Professor Kim said that his decision to administer an oral presentation final had nothing to do with potential issues of honor. "I tend not to worry about plagiarism. I trust strongly on the Honor Code," he said.

Dean Rossi-Reder said that there has been a lot of talk among the faculty about plagiarism, especially because of the plagiarized 2009 Commencement speech. Because of that fear, it is possible that some teachers have

decided to switch from final papers to final exams. The biggest concern is that students will go online and lift ideas or get papers that are not their own.

Another problem related to plagiarism worries is that students often forget to cite or choose not to. "Faculty sometimes feel that they can exert more control when they give students an exam," Rossi-Reder commented. She also said that there was a definite correlation between procrastination and plagiarism; the longer students waited to write their papers, the more pressure they would be likely to feel, and the more likely it would be for them to plagiarize. "There's a lot of discussion right now, with some faculty changing the way they assess students."

But no matter the exam, paper, or other type of final, no matter where you go on campus, the same advice is always heard: sleep well, eat healthy, and don't stress too much. Every student knows, however, that this is far easier said than done. •

Meet Sarah Cardwell, Associate Dean for Student Life

ADAM MILLER
STAFF WRITER

What is your role as a Dean?

The Associate Dean for Student Life. I oversee the college judicial process and work with the honor code. I also work with CC Curtiss on campus wellness and with Darcie Fulsom overseeing the THINKSAFE project.

You work with the judicial process and the J-Board, correct?

I am the only staff member that works with J-Board.

What has been the funniest moment on J-Board?

I'm going to need a minute to think of a response, can you ask me at the end?

Definitely. So, I have to ask, is there a social and academic honor code?

No, in my head there is not.

Why do you feel that students make the discrepancy between the two?

I think students take their academics seriously here. That is something that you all have in common. Your primary purpose to be here is to study, to learn, to be engaged in academics. There's not a lot of tension or disagreement about the importance of academics here. When it comes to your social lives students have a lot of difference over what is okay and what is not okay.

I notice a Southern accent. May I ask where you are from originally?

I am originally from Memphis, Tennessee.

Do you miss the South?

Yes, I do. I don't like the winter.

What is the main difference you notice between Memphis and Connecticut?

I'm going to say climate, and I mean that in two different ways. When my parents say it is 75 degrees there and it is cold here, I get sad. Life is less rushed there. People take the time to have conversations with each other that you don't know. It is not uncommon when you are checking out at Target to have a conversation with the cashier.

How long have you been at Connecticut College?

I started here in November of 2007.

What has changed the most since you've been here?

I think the thing that has changed the most for me has been the structure of the Student Life Office. For example, when I started here there were three people working in Residence Life. For me, just the growth of the office and the impact that has had on students is really exciting.

What is your favorite day of the year at Connecticut College?

Do I have to pick one? One is opening day and one is graduation. Opening day is really exciting because it is new, and there is energy. There is something momentous about graduation.

That is sad, graduation.

Well, you see people come in, and, where I sit, I know different things about people. For me to see that they've had obstacles and worked through them and walk away with a diploma is special.

What is something that we need to work on at Connecticut College?

I sometimes am worried with how I see students treat each other. Some of it is face-to-face, but a lot of it is online.

What do you think of CollegiateLink?

I think it's good for two reasons. One is that all the information that students need for clubs and organizations is centralized and that's good. Centralizing all that information in one place and creating one process where you can reserve a room. A student used to have to come in here and fill out a book, and it made students have to run around a lot before. Secondly, I think it is good because it is accessible online. For a student to sit in their room and plan an event with other people instead of waiting for the office to open at 8 AM is very convenient.

Which Sex and the City character are you?

I would either be Charlotte or Cynthia Nixon's character...

Miranda?

I'm more Miranda. Definitely Miranda.

Final thoughts before finals?

People should remember to sleep.

I think we would if we could.

I think some people get a rush out of not sleeping.

Alright, I agree. I do.

I did it too junior and senior year, and now I go to bed at 10 o'clock.

Well, that is all. Do you have an answer for the funniest moment on J-Board question? Please don't feel pressured to answer if you can't.

I don't think I can say it.

Well, I don't want you to say something that will get you in trouble with the Office of Student Life. Unless you want to say something negative about CollegiateLink.

I don't. •

ONE MORE ISSUE

WRITERS

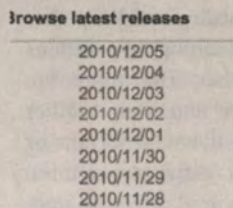
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Cablegate: exploring WikiLeaks



In spite of the controversy surrounding the site, WikiLeaks has won several notable awards, including the 2008 Economist New Media Award and Amnesty International's UK Media Award for its publication of "Kenya: The Cry of Blood— Extra Judicial Killings and Disappearances" in 2008. The New York Daily News has listed WikiLeaks at number one in their list of "websites that could totally change the news."

At right: a screenshot of several cables revealed on WikiLeaks. Above: WikiLeaks founder, Australian journalist Julian Assange.

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Professor of Government William Rose said, "I find it embarrassing but not life threatening. The things revealed aren't actually important, these ideas have already been out there."

Of the 250,000 leaks, many are unclassified and none are designated "top secret," the most highly classified category of information in the United States.

Teddy Fisher '12 said, "I think that except for a few small instances, the direct damage has been small. We already knew for example, that the Afghan government was corrupt, and we already knew that Berlusconi was a pig, or that Putin had sinister designs on the West - and anyone with sense knows that the government knows the same."

Government officials seem unsure of the true ramifications of the leaks. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton voiced the potential for threats to diplomatic relations between countries and security of all nations in the wake of the cable release, while Defense Secretary Robert Gates took a more calm stance, saying the effects on foreign policy would be "fairly modest."

The main reason that the effect of the cables may be muted in terms of damage to hard power is that many countries can't afford not to interact with the United States. "Countries have an incentive to interact with us, and WikiLeaks hasn't changed those interests," Rose said. The larger ramifications will be seen in the arena of soft power- damage to the appeal and perception of American culture and reputation.

Professor of Government Dorothy James said, "One casualty of the leaks is likely to be the attempts to increase information sharing among government departments and agencies."

On December 1, the U.S. government announced new restrictions on exactly who can view State Department documents. This policy implicates information sharing strategies that were implemented after the 9/11 Commission Report, which attributed part of the 9/11 attack to lack of cooperation and sharing between United States agencies. Using this logic, the shrinking of the pool of officials who can access State Department documents could backfire and instead expose security weaknesses for terrorists to exploit.

Rose indicated that the cycle within the intelligence agency frequently shifts between open sharing and strict security. The cycle is driven by disasters, such as 9/11 and this WikiLeaks saga.

Part of the crackdown on security included a warning from the Obama administration to all federal employees that the documents leaked are still considered classified, and thus accessing them whether directly via the WikiLeaks site, or through any other site that has published them, is a violation. A similar warning was expanded to Columbia University students, and allegedly to other universities, that publishing individual cables or discussing the cables through social media like Twitter and Facebook could compromise future job prospects in the government field. A Columbia alum issued the warning to Colum-

bia's Career Services saying any re-publishing of the leaks would "call into question [an individuals] ability to deal with confidential information."

Coupled with intensified security in the United States, an NPR report noted concern for heightened anti-American sentiment in the wake of the attacks, specifically in relation to Yemeni cables between General David Petraeus and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh which reveal cooperation between Yemen and the United States. News of this cooperation may anger Yemeni citizens and, paired with the State Department leaks, give Al Qaeda material with which to recruit followers.

Julian Assange's actions haven't come without ramifications either. Various internet sites, including Amazon.com, PayPal and EasyDNS.net (one of the main systems that manages WikiLeaks' domain name) have severed ties with WikiLeaks since the cables were released on Sunday. This has resulted in a massive scramble to get the website back online. Providing further problems for the site has been a flood of requests from suspected robot computers in Europe, Russia and Thailand. Although the exact source of the perpetrators will be difficult to trace, it is speculated that a government body has something to do with it.

Assange himself is in deep water surrounding allegations of sexual abuse in Sweden. An Interpol "Red Notice" (most-wanted alert) was released on November 30 and has forced him into hiding, presumably in London, to conduct his operations in secret. Facing the threat of arrest, Assange posted an "insurance policy" on the WikiLeaks website. This file is encrypted with a code that supposedly even a government can't crack, but once the code is broken the file will automatically dump the rest of the information in the WikiLeaks arsenal. The password to unlock the file will be released in the event that anything adverse befalls the WikiLeaks leader.

So while the major concern is no longer that the cables will ruin carefully-constructed diplomatic relations between the United States and foreign countries at the moment, Assange has established WikiLeaks as an organization to be reckoned with, leaving many wondering what will be revealed next and how it will shift the balance between freedom of the press and state privacy.

Fisher notes, "The danger is the implications of what WikiLeaks could be used for or what other as yet unreleased information could be sold to foreign governments. The threat of further releases to come is what has the US government so angry."

Representative Ron Paul tweeted on Friday, "RE: Wikileaks- In a free society, we are supposed to know the truth. In a society where truth becomes treason, we are in big trouble."

Professor Rose, however, insists on the importance of confidentiality among government officials, "There really is a place for confidentiality. A leader is going to want to have a frank discussion in public- you wouldn't get a frank and full opinion without confidentiality."

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09KABUL3324	FOLLOW-UP REQUEST -- RESOURCING EFFORTS TO DISMANTLE THE NEW	2009-10-18	2010-12-02	SECRET	Embassy Kabul
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The Larracats: Conn's Laziest Couple

RYANNE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

If you haven't noticed, there are two legendary cats romping (or lounging) in the vicinity of Larrabee's courtyard. One is an orange tabby named "Lancelot" (or just Lance if you're not feeling fancy), and the other is a

chubby gray female with a white splotch on her nose who goes by Gwen (although her full name is Guinevere).

Gwen and Lance had kittens once upon a time that now have other homes, and both have since been "fixed"—meaning they have been surgically discouraged from making more kittens appear.

Jeanne Gemma, who works in the Oasis Snack Shop, mentioned that colleges have cat infestations because they tend to create large amounts of garbage which attract felines. They can quickly present a conundrum: spend time and money keeping them healthy and fed, or exert effort to drive them away and keep them away. Luckily, the Niantic Animal Hospital has offered to neuter or spay,

and vaccinate the cats against diseases for a reduced cost.

The women who work in Financial Aid Services, whose office is between Larrabee and Coffee Grounds, have taken it upon themselves to care for the cats. They see the cats' role in a very different way, as an asset rather than a nuisance. They say that the cats are an additional way to be "green" because they eliminate many disease-carrying rodents without the use of pesticides.

In addition to the Larrabee cats, there are a handful wandering around Harris and the Plex, too. Staff members have been trying to catch them with traps in the bushes and have succeeded in snatching two kittens and their father. But there are still two more and their mother wandering in the wild terrain of north campus. After these three cats were captured, Gemma took them back to her house where she is "domesticating" them so that she can find wonderful homes for them—but she will NOT give



IPEK BAKIR / STAFF

them to students. She made this clear by repeating it several times in the span of fifteen minutes. The first question she asked me after I asked about the cats was, "Are you a student?" to which I nodded. She immediately replied, "You can't adopt one." Dang it. That's all I really wanted to talk to her about.

I don't know if these cats could really be put in a better home. They have a comfy resort right in front of Financial Aid Services, they are fed, vaccinated and even

washed by Jean Russell, who works in the college's post office. Someone built the cats a shelter that surrounds the heat steaming from the vent at the bottom of the financial aid building, so they have better heating than I do in my dorm room. They have platters of tuna or cat food awaiting them daily, people to pet them, an entire campus to explore and Lance has a tire-sniffing addiction that he can satisfy at night. These cats have it made. I want to be them when I retire. •

Don't Do That

Kiefer Roberts' open letters to the campus community

KIEFER ROBERTS
COLUMNIST

Dear Fellow Recovering Tryptophan Addicts,

Thanksgiving break is a great time to think about presidentially pardoned turkeys and men in tights running into each other in thirty-degree weather, but it's also a great time to think about what makes you grateful. Be it a significant other, a Black Friday purchase or, you know, family and friends, we should always consider what we're thankful for. Though another great practice is thinking about what we're *not* grateful for—three final assignments on the same day? No thanks. How about those torrential downpours on the first day of December? I hope Mother Nature got a gift receipt! Some of the things I'm least thankful for are those judgmental reactions people get all because of their taste in music. Let's think about this for a bit, shall we? Cue the holiday music.

Before we begin, you might think to yourself, "doesn't he write open letters that essentially judge everyone around him?" and to that I say NEIN, NEIN, NEIN. I merely give suggestions/advice/drop Kanye-size knowledge bombs. I'm aware that my judgment of people who are judgmental is inherently hypocritical. That's some truth serum I'm willing to swallow because I'm so damn tired of people turning their opinions into canonical declarations of what's good and what's bad.

Do I enjoy the current state of the radio? Not entirely. But do I choose to tell you about it whenever someone says the word "dynamite," "airplane," or "paparazzi"? I get it, you're opinionated, or at least you would be if the latest edition of *Spin* hadn't informed every view you hold. But would it kill you to follow instructions and just dance? It might dislodge whatever it is that seems to be fossil-deep inside your colon.

That's the first thing about judging people based on music choices. If the responsible individuals really had formed their own opinion that Kings of Leon was the new U2 instead of *Rolling Stone*, or if they *actually* had loved attending a Sleigh Bells concert rather than reading reviews, then I'd be gung ho to listen to them ramble incessantly about the sad state of pop music and rap culture nowadays. But unfortunately they've got nothing to say and a lot to regurgitate. So back off my love of "All I Want For Christmas," my friend. It's festive, it's in season, it's a classic, and it happens to be loud enough that I can't hear anyone bemoaning the music industry.

I love enjoying new acts before they gain notoriety—there's a certain exclusivity to it, I admit—but hearing those new acts being played by a group of freshmen girls doesn't suddenly detract from their musical talents. If you like Bon Iver or The Bridges so much, then why don't

you marry them? Or at least stand by them when their songs are played in Hyundai commercials? "Sell Out!" someone will cry. Well I'm playing the world's smallest violin for you, my friend, because commercialism is pretty much inevitable. But don't worry—you're preventing that act or band that you love so much from receiving any kind of money from all the pirating you do and the videos of concerts you watch on YouTube, so congrats. Fight the power.

It all comes down to a goddamn individual decision. No one likes everything, but that doesn't necessitate a need to hate *everything*. If there aren't any actual instruments being played, I hate it. If it appeals to numerous people, I hate it. If *Pitchfork* or *Entertainment Weekly* loves it, so do I. Spare me the looks that scream "Really?" when you can hear "Single Ladies" blaring from my headphones. Before that, I killed cardio at the gym to LAZRtag and Boys Noize, and I'm going to be doing homework to Robyn later. Where's the harm in finding pleasure in both? Yeah, I listen to bands you like, too, but you wouldn't know that because you're too busy writing me off as a quality-hating, mass-market appreciating bullshit lover. Don't be so hasty, judgy pants.

And there it is: the biggest pet peeve I have is the assessment of people based on their tastes. Am I a Communist because I like Coldplay? Is that really how

Paul Rudd knows I'm gay? Well, that would have been helpful to know in high school. To assume my sexuality, my level of intelligence and my other interests based on my iTunes library should get you mauled by a bear. An Alaskan bear...that Sarah Palin is riding. Do you want that to happen? Then STFU about how much this kind of person listens to this kind of music and so on.

Not all hipsters love Animal Collective, not all ladies love Justin Bieber, and not all guys love Kylie Minogue. But even if some or most do, you can't just assume that their music trends strictly follow the genres of those artists. Even here at Connecticut College (gasp!), people do have different tastes in music, so Passion Pit isn't on everyone's iPod. Have I made this clear to everyone? Great.

I'm not saying stifle your opinion on music. I'm just suggesting that perhaps we should jump off our pedestals and acknowledge that someone's idea of bad music and someone else's idea of bad music are often different.

All of this said, you should really listen to Kanye's new album. It's fire. Even *Pitchfork* says so.

Best,
Kiefer •



ALICIA TOLDI / STAFF

One is the Loneliest Number

A freshman's guide to making friends at Conn

MELANIE THIBEAULT
STAFF WRITER

Author's note: I do not take responsibility for the weird stares or lack of friends that may result from following any of my advice.

1. Don't be yourself. You're weird. Just embrace it. You only have friends back home because they're also weird. When meeting new people, pretend to be a normal, social person and refrain from mentioning the strange quirks that make you you until it's too late for them to back out of the friendship.

2. Shake hands. The friendship will never be legitimate unless you introduce yourself with a friendly smile and a handshake. It doesn't matter if you run to disinfect your hand with Purell afterwards; just be polite.

3. Inquire about their lives. *Where are you from? What are you majoring in? What classes are you taking?* These questions make it appear that you are interested in your potential new friend's life, even if you aren't. Let's be serious: they're probably from Massachusetts and you couldn't care less what they want to study unless it's the same thing as you. And if you do have the same major, you feel a competitive need to achieve more than they do. Friendship: not happening.

4. Learn their name. It sounds like common sense, but many times, people forget the name of their new friends. When you're a month into the friendship and you go to introduce your friend to another friend, don't be that kid who completely blanks. You'll look like an ass and now you must find a different person to hang out with. If this happens, start back at rule number one.

5. Don't be overly friendly. People don't want to hang out with Debbie Downer, but they also don't want to hang out with Flo from the Progressive Insurance commercials. A little bit of amiability will take you far. A lot of it will cause you to send potential friends running.

6. Don't be caught stalking. While it's flattering to find out somebody's been checking out your Facebook profile, you don't want to let on that you know more

about their lives than you should. You'll be labeled the creepy kid and your friendships will die before they even have a chance to begin.

7. Feel free to cyber stalk. I said don't get caught stalking, but I didn't say stalking was totally out of the question. Now, that doesn't mean it's okay to hide outside of someone's dorm in the bushes and follow them to class, but a little Facebook stalking to find out what this person is all about is totally acceptable. It will give you an idea of what they're interested in, what they like to do, etc. and it will allow you to figure out if you want to pursue the friendship. Either way, give them a chance to impress you in person.

8. Don't make inappropriate jokes... until you're sure the friendship is solid and your friend won't be offended. Meeting a group of people for the first time, don't make a crude (and lame) "that's what she said" joke. That's a surefire way to turn off a bunch of people who were considering being your friend. If you're looking to make enemies, however, may I suggest attending a Women's Club meeting and firing out as many misogynistic phrases as you can. Always a win.

9. Dress fancy. Sweatpants, athletic shorts, T-shirts: all fine for the gym or for lounging around your dorm. But when they become the staple pieces in your wardrobe, people start to question your other life choices. *Does she go to class or just sit in her room all day reading blogs and drinking milk out of the carton?* Don't be that kid. Never be that kid. Put on some real pants and a shirt that says, "I'm comfortable, but I also look decent" and get out there and meet some people.

10. Be a seat-whore. If you find you're lacking friends in one or more of your classes, don't be afraid to sit next to a different person each day. The key to this trick is to introduce yourself and actually talk to the person you sit down next to. You can't make a new friend if you both sit there in awkward silence. If you find that no one in your class wants to talk to you because they think it's strange you seat-hop each day, try dropping the class or bringing friends you already have to sit next to you. •

Students Run a Race They Can't Win

JERELL MAYS
STAFF WRITER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Through interviews with students of different ages, parents and public school teachers, *Race to Nowhere*, directed by Vicki Abeles (a mother with two children) looks at the lives of over-achieving students and how their packed schedules have a negative impact on their physical and mental health. The consequences of such a schedule are emphasized mainly by roughly thirty minutes worth of close-up shots of students gazing apathetically out of windows or into walls. Overdramatic? Not really, and that's what is kind of messed up.

Interviews with overworked students revealed a girl in junior high who developed stress ulcers that were so bad she had to be hospitalized. One girl in high school studied so often she found little time to do normal teenage things like hang out with friends, go to the movies or even eat food. She developed anorexia and spent time in an institution. What was the cause of these ailments?

These students had too much schoolwork.

But it's not just the schoolwork; it's the extracurricular activities. Soccer practice, gymnastics, piano lessons, volunteer work, etc. When you pile six hours of homework a night onto who-knows-how-many hours of extracurricular activities, it's a wonder anything gets done. The real driving factor behind all the stress, however, lies in the competitive mentality of a school system that has become obsessed with number-based achievement. While the age-old adage, "If I study real hard in school, I'll live a better life when I'm older," is often a good motivator; it's the end goal that needs analyzing.

What is a better life? Is it living in a nice house? Why is the dream of buying a house so prevalent anyway? Plenty of miserable people have excellent houses. But when I got a bad grade in school, which according to the students (and me in high school) was anything below an A, I could see my future house (and happiness) disappearing, and irreversible, grinding poverty taking its

place. Fear of poverty is a factor, but there are other factors, too. Many of the students felt pressured primarily by their parents to do "better" and take on more



IMAGE FROM WEB

responsibilities. Not all parents are like this, however, and some of the students drove themselves to the verge of a breakdown.

So whose fault is it then? Is it the teachers'? The fact that so many local teachers showed up to the screening of the movie puts that idea out of the picture,

in my opinion. Also, many of the teachers interviewed in the documentary seemed to know exactly what the problems were, as well as their causes. There is so little teachers can do when SAT scores essentially define a student's worth, and the time for college applications is characterized by kids too busy studying to argue or question anything.

To be fair, the movie does end on a positive note. Solutions are proposed, some good and some radical. For example, one woman who helped contribute to the movie was Sara Bennett, creator of the now-defunct blog *Stop Homework*. You can guess what her agenda is. This idea of ceasing all homework was highly disputed in the discussion that took place following the end of the film. Michael Freeman, First Vice President Director of the Stonington Education Association, agreed with certain aspects of the film, but seemed to think that the idea of removing all homework would be counter-productive to the student's education, not to mention unfair to teachers who rely, understandably enough,

on homework to fit the proper amount of work into a course.

Doug Lyons, Director of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, expressed strong discontent with standardized tests and the fact that they often prove nothing about the intellectual capacity of a student. Rather, they focus narrowly on math and reading and all but forsake art and other subjects. He also talked about how the skills required to be "successful" in the twenty-first century have changed. Things like teamwork, cooperation and verbal skills are the traits employers currently value. He mentioned a new kind of test he had seen; a team of students was given a problem, materials, and a few hours to solve it. He said he thought it was, "the future" of education.

I'm inclined to agree. The education system hasn't changed much in the past hundred years. It is, like much else, stagnating. As the world progresses and develops, the educational system has to adapt to fit its students' needs. Otherwise, what's the point of getting an education at all? •

Junior Jennie Edgar Finds Herself in Mali

JENNIE EDGAR
CONTRIBUTOR

As I stood in the dimly lit room of a rural maternity, I watched life begin on a small, rusting table. The likelihood that the woman, who looked into my eyes as her son breathed his first breath, would die from preventable complications was one of the highest in the world. She did not say a word, she had not made a sound, but she clenched her jaw and got up off the table, leaving her son in the arms of the midwife as she headed toward the thin mattress that lay on the floor in the adjacent room. At the maternity, resources were limited, supplies scant and staff was knowledgeable but less than friendly. For women in Mali, birth is not a memory to be cherished; rather, it is an obligation, the duty of a woman for the prestige of her husband. Therefore she will deliver an average of seven times in her short life, usually in

rapid succession and frequently without proper medical care.

Experiences like these have not only reconfigured my perceptions of the world and expanded my horizons, but have also assaulted my convictions, challenged my identity and provoked me to thoroughly engage and grapple with my previously solidified philosophies. My life has undoubtedly been transformed after only two months abroad studying health, gender and community empowerment in Mali.

Six months ago, I turned down an opportunity to study abroad in Paris because of a recommendation from my advisor to take this semester as an opportunity to challenge myself. "Paris is easy," he told me, "and it will always be there." However, when I arrived in August in Bamako, Mali's capital and largest city, I found myself thoroughly resenting my advisor and his advice.

Instead of enjoying the aesthet-

ically pleasing and romantic disposition of Paris, I found myself amidst chaos that is characteristic only of an African city. Bamako is dirty and noisy, the heat is oppressive and the food is horrendous. But these displeasures are only superficial, for in Mali—a country that may be the antithesis of the one I call home—never have I been so confronted by the beliefs that coalesce my identity and never have I stammered so numerously to define them. Not only has Mali disrespected every boundary I have ever established for myself, but it seems to take pleasure in my discomfort and pushes me further.

This has been good for me, however. And things have gotten easier because as I gain momentum, I am most rewarded when I do not push back. By examining each difficulty and holding it in my hand, turning it over with my fingers, I am learning more about my-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIE EDGAR

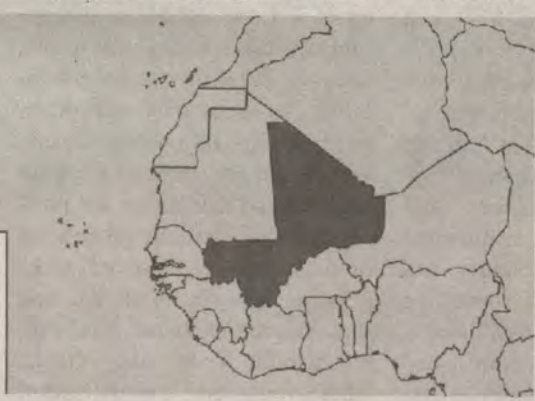
self than I thought I could know. I have never laughed or cried as loudly as I have in Mali. As I begin to open my eyes, open my ears and open my heart, I can finally see the beauty, hear the rhythm and feel the love.

What I would like to share, then, is what I believe to be a critical—and maybe even necessary—step for the betterment of our personal lives, for the progress of our society and possibly for the enhancement of our world: cultivating a lifestyle that seeks and accepts opportunities that challenge, encourages new perspectives and requires not only self-reflection, but deliberation on all of humanity. By engaging so honestly and thoroughly with our own selves, we, along with our communities,

will undoubtedly benefit. It is for these reasons that I implore you to make time to study abroad.

I believe conventionality to be the antithesis of a liberal arts education. You will never get to know yourself as well as you will half-way around the world. Go somewhere you're not sure you can find on a map. Learn an obscure language. Listen to your intuition; consult your innermost voice. What calls to you? What are you hungry for? Set out to do what you were meant to do and keep a journal along the way. Remember the good as well as the bad. You will be lonely, but you will also make the best friendships. Always dance. Always laugh. Love the unlovable. Discover, enlighten and be kind along the way. •

IMAGE FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



"It's Economics, Stupid" Conn's most popular major, demystified

STANISLAV ANDREEV
CONTRIBUTOR

A lot can be said about Quinn Menchetti's "Conn's Saturday Night Social Scene, by Department" article a few weeks ago, especially how prevalent stereotypes regarding majors are, as well as how little we know about other people's areas of study beyond stereotypes. Therefore, I decided to shed some light on a few myths regarding economics, one of the majors I know quite well. Hopefully, others might learn a bit about my area of study so we can all begin to understand, respect and appreciate others' academic pursuits a little better.

Myth #1: Economics is the study of money (and so the pursuit of those who love it).

False. Saying that economics is about money is the same as claiming that music is about stemmed circles on staff paper. As a discipline, economics is the study of decision-making as it pertains to the allocation of resources humans consider valuable out of necessity or desire. Money, on the other hand, is simply the set of units that allow us to quantify and compare the absolute and relative

values of these resources. In other words, just like music has existed long before we began recording it on staff paper, economic decisions have been made long before the invention of money and will continue to be made if we abolish the capitalist system altogether. The economic discipline is therefore about understanding how and why people take economic decisions and has very little to do with "paper chasing."

Myth #2: All you learn in economics is a bunch of graphs and abstract equations, so it is all about math (and difficult math!).

If this is true, it demonstrates a failure in the learning process. Graphs and equations are used merely to illuminate the causal mechanisms guiding the decisions groups of people take and the outcomes associated with them, given a set of assumptions. Since human decisions tend to be influenced by a large number of factors, the more realistic a model tries to be, the more elaborate the assumptions become, so the more complex the math employed has to be.

At Conn, in order to have the major maximally accessible, our professors use an extremely small

amount of math (yes, even in Intermediate Microeconomics or Econometrics) so the models we learn in most courses are unrealistic and might appear abstract. (By the way, some relatively new subfields, such as behavioral economics, believe the assumptions upon which models are based should be dropped altogether and experiments (or historical case studies) should be used as a better way of analyzing and understanding decision-making, but they have yet to become accepted into mainstream economic study).

Myth #3: Majoring in economics is the way to land a job on Wall Street.

Anyone who has ever worked in finance can tell you that this statement is very far from the truth. Financial services companies and management consulting firms are looking for a wide variety of competencies (e.g. analytical skills, ability to work long hours and under pressure, etc.) that could be demonstrated in a variety of ways but definitely not by the simple choice of a major.

In addition, the skill set we acquire in class, mostly knowledge of economic theory, is largely irrelevant to most finance-related

jobs. In fact, the course that is mostly applicable to working in finance, Accounting, is not only not offered at Conn but would also not count towards an Economics major, even if you choose to take it at the Coast Guard Academy. Therefore, in principle, an accomplished art history major that can demonstrate the ability to learn quickly and has some knowledge of the markets has a much better chance of landing a job on Wall Street than an average economics major.

Myth #4: Economics is the "practical" major for people who either have no strong passion for anything else or are held back from pursuing it.

Deeply false. First, an Economics major is no more or less practical than any other major on campus. In fact, as liberal arts students we all learn very little "practical" knowledge, knowledge that could be immediately relevant to a specific career field. At the same time, the liberal arts "career enhancing life skills" such as analytical thinking, the ability to conceptualize and solve problems, coherent and persuasive writing, etc. that one obtains while learning economics could be perfected through virtually any of the majors Conn offers.

Second, economics is a pretty demanding major in terms of the amount of theory and relative

complexity of some tools used, so one needs to be pretty passionate about the economic implications of decisions and events in order to understand fully and enjoy the material taught in class.

Myth #5: Economics is the major of a social group on campus that tends to hang out at the lax house on Saturday night.

This is kind of like saying that Lamborghini is the "rapper car" because rappers often show up in Lamborghinis in their clips. The truth is that economics is for everyone, which is to say every single adult should have at least some knowledge of it. The reason: most every adult engages in economic transactions and decisions on a daily, possibly even hourly basis whether or not he/she is ignorant about some (or most) of their consequences.

In fact, one of the big aspects of the Conn "bubble" and the adjustment to the so-called real world is that here we are sheltered from making economic decisions. Therefore, if you have some analytical aptitude and want to learn about human decision-making and how we are all affected by it, then econ is probably the right major for you, regardless of your background or career aspirations. •

Climate Justice: A Shout-Out from COP-16

CARRA CHESLIN
CONTRIBUTOR

When most people think of Cancun, the first images that come to mind are sandy beaches and spring break festivities. For me however, the phrases "climate change actions" and "international youth mobilization" are much more relevant.

I am currently serving as a youth delegate to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Sixteenth Conference of the Parties in Cancun (abbreviated as UNFCCC COP-16), which takes place from November 29 to December 10. I was lucky enough to be accepted to the SustainUS youth delegation (a United States-based youth non-governmental organization) and thus have the great opportunity to share this experience with nineteen other young adults from around the United States.

However, I am quickly becoming aware that we are not alone in our fight for climate justice: there is a strong youth voice in these negotiations, both national and international.

Over the past week I have met, been inspired by and developed relationships with these youth, each of whom have come to Cancun for the same reason: to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations. I was introduced to the world of international youth climate change mobilization through the official UN constituency of international youth delegations known as YOUNGO.

YOUNGO is an amazing organization of talented and dedicated youth whose focus is on capacity building for the youth climate movement and increasing the influence that young people have at

the international climate change negotiations. To strengthen our impact, YOUNGO is broken up into working groups, each focused on a different aspect of UN climate change policy, campaigns, actions and building relationships with media.

Despite my inexperience with the Conference of the Parties

I have met, been inspired by and developed relationships with these youth, each of whom have come to Cancun for the same reason: to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.

process and negotiations, I was wholeheartedly welcomed into this constituency and immediately began forming connections with other youth climate activists. Given my personal interest in environmental activism, I have become very involved in and currently facilitate the YOUNGO Actions working group. This group supports youth platforms on policy issues with creative demonstrations in public areas of the conference center with the purpose of influencing negotiators. Getting to work so closely with youth who have different skill sets and experiences, but an equally strong motivation and commitment to put their all into affecting global climate change has

been an incredible and unique learning opportunity.

This year's UN climate change negotiations, known as COP-16, is a very interesting one in that it immediately followed COP-15 in Copenhagen, which received an influx of press and youth attendance, but a less than satisfactory result. At COP-3 in Japan, an international agreement known as

the Kyoto Protocol was created, and as of now has been signed by 121 nations. This agreement set binding targets for thirty-seven industrialized countries and the European Union for reducing greenhouse gas emissions between 2008 and 2012.

COP-15 in Copenhagen was supposed to identify how countries would agree to pursue emission reductions after 2012, but instead the conference produced a non-binding document, called the Copenhagen Accord—considered a disappointment by many. The impacts that COP-15 has had on the COP-16 talks in Cancun primarily center around a largely pessimistic sentiment that there is



no real chance for any significant climate agreements to come out of the conference.

While negotiators and others might consider this and choose to act apathetically towards the negotiating process at COP-16, international youth as a whole have become even more motivated to use this period of stalling to emphasize the stronger role that young people should be playing in these conferences. There is a great deal that we can accomplish during these two weeks in Cancun between media-grabbing actions and policy interventions. Given the energy that we are bringing to the table, I am confident that young adults have the potential to make a huge impact. *



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRA CHESLIN

A Picture-Perfect Campus Needs Picture-Perfect Postcards

For me there is no better place
JOHN KELLY
STAFF WRITER

to enjoy autumn—my favorite season—than right here at Conn. And I was glad to have shared the campus' beauty with a few people through some postcards I bought from a table at Harvestfest. I picked out the ones depicting various familiar sights on campus surrounded by trees ablaze with

fall color and sent them as the season waned.

But these were a rare find since there are no postcards for sale at Conn. It has always bothered me that something so commonplace in every college bookstore is glaringly absent from ours, especially on a campus like ours, which has a potential postcard-perfect shot at almost every turn.

With the various communication options available to us today,

it is pretty obvious that the traditional, snail-mail method of getting in touch is virtually obsolete, except maybe around holidays. Yet at almost every tourist trap, local or national monument and college bookstore in the country one is almost guaranteed to find a spinning rack of glossy 4x6" cards with a picture on one side and a blank space to scribble your thoughts on the other.

To me, the fact that these little guys have survived in spite of all the options modern communication offers says a lot about their place in our memories. It says that even though people can get in touch more quickly in more transient ways, deep down they still have the sentimental capacity to linger and appreciate something solely for the thought that was put into it and not its efficiency. There is something so valuable about something from a loved one that you can physically hold and appreciate: the brief thoughts of the sender on one side and a picture on the other, depicting something memorable or beautiful. Surely everyone has received at least one postcard in their life that they have appreciated.

Unlike texts or e-mails that get deleted or archived, people tend to hold on to postcards. Letters are nice, but unlike postcards, which are just assumed to be a

simple gesture, they come across as requiring a bit too much effort these days. When it comes to getting in touch informally, the old-fashioned way, postcards are the answer. They're a more straightforward, visual memento—something that can be kept for a long time and rediscovered down the line in the bottom of a drawer or stowed away in a box somewhere.

To find them missing from the bookstore was disappointing.

But before I continue my petition for postcards in the bookstore, I should confess that I made a slight omission when I said that there were *no* postcards at Conn. There is actually one offering, which is great except for one problem: no one buys them. To find out why, just go there for yourself and ask where the postcard rack is. You'll be asked what in the world a "postcard rack" is (where do you think you are, Times Square?), then cordially directed to the expensive gifts table, where you'll find a neat stack of one variety of postcard. Brushing off the thin layer of dust should reveal a breathtakingly boring shot of the back of Fanning, taken at an extremely wide angle to include the guardhouse and a sign (before that small stone wall was erected) at the Mohegan Avenue entrance engraved with the college's name.

I can't help but question the aesthetic tastes of the person who chose to print and try to sell over a thousand copies of this picture as a way of representing our school. Have they seen Conn?

Have they ever been around campus at sunset after a fresh snowfall? Have they ever taken a walk in the Arboretum in the peak of autumn? Have they ever looked south across Tempel Green from the sundial at night and seen the checkered golden lights of south campus against the dark backdrop of Long Island Sound? I am almost certain that every student here has been rendered speechless by a sight of beauty on this campus and felt something that was hard to describe in words, perhaps requiring a picture to convey the feeling.

The bookstore is usually very good about taking students' requests. They even keep a notebook to take down suggestions for when they make orders from suppliers. When I asked if they could order some new postcards, the woman told me that they first had to sell all the ones currently in stock, to which I probably said something to the effect of, "You mean *that one*?" She affirmed my doubts and, ignoring the obvious flaws in this logic, I pointed out that they weren't selling at all—meaning no postcards for Conn in the foreseeable future.

At this point the woman stopped pretending to be nice to me. Maybe I came across as obnoxious, but as the naïve, curious freshman I was, I received some serious negative vibes. I realize that an argument like this one may seem less than legitimate. It comes down to whether or not one values having postcards at Conn. If the answer is yes, then an argument has to be made. In any case, I believe that postcards that actually portray the beauty of our campus are important to have, if not as a bare necessity then definitely as a welcome addition. *



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DECEMBER 6, 2010

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All About A Cappella

A look inside Conn's six a cappella groups and what makes each of them unique

CAROLYN BISSEX
CONTRIBUTOR

Would you believe someone if they told you that the extremely popular McDonald's Filet-o-Fish jingle was based off of a tune written by a member of a Connecticut College a cappella group? Well, it's true; a former member of Conn's Co Co Beaux created this earworm.

Our small school takes pride in the popular a cappella groups on campus, but not many people know too much about them. There are six groups total: three coed groups (the ConnArtists, Vox Cameli, and Williams Street Mix), two all-female groups (the ConnChords and the Schwiffs) and one all-male group (Co Co Beaux). People who are not active in a cappella may not realize how much time and dedication goes into being an active member of one of these groups.

Kim McHugh '11 of the ConnChords says that while the end result may sometimes seem relaxed and carefree, "it actually does take a lot of work and many rehearsals to learn, teach, and perfect songs."

Bailey Bennett '14 of the Williams Street Mix noticed right away that the groups "are very supportive of each other, and people have a lot of friends from other groups."

When hopeful members of the freshman class arrived on campus, they were surrounded by a cappella music in Cro, concerts advertising the groups, meet-and-greets, and of course the "daunting row of sign-up tables," as Schwiffs member Whitney King '12 recalls. Numerous group members loudly encouraged freshmen to audition, enticing them with music and candy.

Amidst the chaos, students must decide which groups they want to audition for, beginning with the decision of a single-sex or a coed group. Mike Gulotta '12 of the ConnArtists chose the coed route because he feels that "the sound of male and female voices together cannot be matched," and he wanted a change of pace after participating in single-sex groups in high school.

On the other hand, McHugh opted for the ConnChords, an all-female group, because she immediately felt "the sense of friendship and solidarity" among the group members.

The audition process can clearly be stressful, but it's worth it in the end. Ross Peterson '13 of Co Co Beaux is "very happy with his choice" of a cappella group, as most members are. Andy Savage '14 auditioned for Vox Cameli because he, "felt really welcomed and was the most comfortable



The Co Co Beaux.

HOITT MCALLISTER / STAFF

with them." Auditionees are typically expected to complete vocal exercises and sing part of a song of their choice. Beyond that, some groups asked students to tell a joke, or recall their most embarrassing moment.

As a junior, Gulotta was a part of the selection process and had to help choose three or four people out of nearly seventy-five who auditioned. This speaks volumes about the competitiveness of the a cappella groups here on campus; the members of each group were hand selected and have true talent. Gulotta stresses that, "It's a strenuous process and there are

rarely any quick decisions made during this time."

When it comes to choosing songs to sing, it seems that there must be competition when each group is selecting, but each group has its own style, and there is a formal "first come first served" policy in place to avoid disagreement. When asked what happens when two groups want to sing the same song, Peterson joked, "we fight them and steal their lunch money." In reality, the leaders of the group usually handle this, and when a group decides on a song they want to sing, they send out a mass email to all of the other groups notifying of them of this decision.

McHugh notes that her group, "holds meetings where members are asked to bring forth their suggestions for which songs we would like to add to the group's repertoire and who will arrange the songs." King adds that the members of her group, "aren't very formal when it comes to choosing songs" and that they simply sing what they like.

The groups on campus each have their own individual style that stems from the personalities of the members, and these unique qualities can be observed in each group's CD. Members of Vox Cameli have recently performed Lady Gaga's "Alejandro," and are currently working on songs by Amy Winehouse and Feist. Savage hopes to get a chance to ar-

range a song for Vox and, "might try arranging 'Sweet Disposition' by The Temper Trap."

The members of Co Co Beaux are rehearsing "I'll Make Love to You," by Boyz II Men and "Jessie's Girl," by Rick Springfield. The ConnArtists have recently performed many songs from Ben Folds and Regina Spektor. Regina Spektor shows up again on the Schwiffs' album, along with Maroon 5, Natasha Bedingfield, and Oasis. The newest CD from the ConnChords features popular songs from John Mayer, Alicia Keys, and Michael Jackson. The Williams Street Mix sings "Spiderwebs," by No Doubt, and Bennett notes that "Rock and Roll" by Eric Hutchinson is one of her favorites.

A cappella members have excessive pride in their groups, and King notes that, "the a cappella switch is always in the on-position." The groups often practice for at least six hours per week, which explains why their concerts are always impressive and extremely well put together. Although Bennett is a new member of the Williams Street Mix, she already feels that her "group is really a family, which sounds cliché, but it's actually true."

Interested? Here are some upcoming concerts in the Chapel:

December 10: **Co Co Beaux**

December 11: **ConnChords**

December 12: **Williams Street**



The Connchords.

HOITT MCALLISTER / STAFF

Undercover Mustache

Boys and girls proudly show off facial hair at the annual Mustache Dinner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They had planned on heading to Harris earlier, but the Festivus Feast pushed Harris's opening time back an hour. At least thirty people attended the Mustache Dinner this year, most of them Knowlton residents, past and present. Alumni Lichten, Charles van Rees and Gordie Hall, all members of last year's graduating class, traveled back to Conn for the event. Boys and girls were decked out fancy suits, ties and, of course, mustaches.

Lindsay Woodville '12 was dressed in old-man attire, including sweater-vest, white pipe, a bushy black mustache and a penchant for wandering away from groups. Max Novak '13 wore a bowler hat and had shaved his mustache into a "Chester A. Arthur," with his sideburns creeping down his jaw and jumping to under his nose. I quickly ran to the bathroom, applied my grease-paint mustache and joined the fray.

After a group photo shoot on Knowlton's grand staircase, the mustachioed men and women headed towards Harris and claimed three long tables by the napkin note bulletin board. This year's Mustache Dinner coincided with Festivus, which Premmereur worried would "change the perception" of the event. "Usually it's held on a day where everyone dresses normally and they see a bunch of really well-dressed people with mustaches go to Harris. This year, since it's Festivus, some people might think, 'Oh, they're just dressed early,' or something." However, Premmereur came prepared with a plan: "We're going to emphasize our mustaches much more."

The Festivus Feast menu and decorations also emphasized the courtliness of the Mustache Dinner, the place-



The participants of the Mustache Dinner gather in Knowlton Lobby to stroke their mustaches before venturing down to Harris.

MATTHEW MITCHELL / CONTRIBUTOR

mats and holly branches giving the meal an air of importance and regality.

One person was noticeably absent during the Mustache Dinner: President Higdon. "I wasn't there, but there was an event two weeks ago in Knowlton," explained Premmereur. "From what I hear, Lindsay Woodville talked to him and told him that there was a Mustache Dinner. He asked if he could be invited... so I emailed him a formal invitation. I don't even know if he has a mustache, but I let him know that it is a necessity." Sadly, President Higdon couldn't make the event, as he wasn't guaranteed back in town in time for it, but his knowledge of the Mustache Dinner suggests that he may be a future attendee.

While everyone was finishing their meals, Premmereur

stood between the tables and addressed the crowd. After a light smattering of applause, he said, rather sadly, "As you all know, I won't be here next year to organize the Mustache Dinner. So, Lindsay, if you will..." The crowd cheered as Woodville stood and accepted the request.

After the attendees had returned to their meals and private discussions, van Rees turned to his table and announced that he had counted at least seven passing Harris diners mouthing the phrase "What the hell is going on?"

After the dinner ended, many mustachioed members headed off to celebrate Festivus with other, facial hair-less friends, but most headed back to Knowlton for some more fun. The mustaches remained, at least for the night. "Some people keep [their mustaches]," said Premmereur. "Some people have had mustaches since forever and decided to come along because they have one, but most people just shave it off afterwards. Especially

the ones, like me, who have been growing it for a while specifically for that purpose and want nothing but just to shave it off."

The Mustache Dinner is over and many faces are newly bare, exposed to the cold air they had previously been protected from. As the weather grows more frightful, some men may decide to grow their mustaches back in, while the ladies will have to resort to their iParty knockoffs. In these trying times leading up to exams, it is comforting to know that a group of men and women can get together in the spirit of food, friends and mustaches.

The Museum Around the Corner

A day at Lyman Allyn, the not-so-secret museum on campus

MONICA SCHACHTEL
CONTRIBUTOR

Desiring culture? Interested in viewing various selections of eclectic and elegant artwork? Need a break from your stressful and hectic academic life?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you're in luck. Just a short walk past the south lot on campus lies a grand neo-classical building that houses a varied art collection of over 10,000 pieces. This structure is the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, founded in 1932 by Harriet Upson Allyn, as homage to her father Lyman Allyn. It contains mainly impressive works, including a Picasso and a Warhol.

The museum's main level contains mainly fascinating and numerous portrait and landscape paintings done by American artists between the 18th and 20th centuries, like Beatrice Cumming, William Chadwick, Charles Ebert, Winslow Homer, and Gilbert Stuart. Also interesting to see is the curious collection of colonial furniture the museum offers, which includes delicately crafted armoires from the 1680's, regal and gilded grandfather clocks, and even old iron stoves from the 18th century.

Although most of the display is dedicated to talented American artists from the 18th through 20th centuries, the second level of the museum features many multi-national sculptures, paintings, photographs, and drawings. Numerous pieces can be found on this floor, including varied and innovative works by African, Aboriginal, Chinese, French, Inuit, Native American, Spanish, and other artists.

Also intriguing on the upper floor is a large exhibit dedicated



CECELIA BROWN / STAFF

purely to painters hailing from Rhode Island, during 1873-1941. Many beautiful natural and picturesque scenes can be found here, often appearing in the impressionistic and post impressionistic styles.

Overall, the Lyman Allyn Art Museum is a great artistic oasis just a short walk away from Conn's main campus. Before leaving the museum, be sure to check out the museum's gift shop, which is filled with books and prints from the various exhibits. Also, make sure you have seen the captivating and featured prints of one of Conn's own professors, Ted Hendrickson. Additionally, the building has a quaint and charming library, which features colossal models of sailing ships, an antique piano, other small works, and would even make a great place to reflect or study in.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 5, and on Sunday from 1-5. There is no fee for a Connecticut College student – just remember to bring your ID with you. •

Into the Hallows

How SAC sent Harry Potter Enthusiasts to the *Deathly Hallows: Part One* Premiere

MOLLY BANGS
CONTRIBUTOR

On Friday, November 19, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows:*

Part One, the first half of the last installment in the *Potter* franchise premiered globally. Upon SAC's announcement that they would be renting out a theater at the nearby Regal Cinemas, hundreds of students waited in line a few days before the movie's release to obtain a coveted six-dollar ticket, which would guarantee them transportation and entrance to the midnight premiere of the movie.

The first students arrived an hour-and-a-half prior to the selling time and camped out on the second floor of Cro outside of the Office of Student Life. Some brought food to eat and homework to complete to pass the time – a few even read *Harry Potter* books. As time passed by, more and more Conn students began to arrive in hopes of obtaining tickets. Some created signs, including one which read, "Cut and die!"

Soon enough, one o'clock arrived, and hands began being stamped and names written down. There were easily over a couple hundred *Harry Potter* enthusiasts assembled on the second floor of Cro that afternoon.

Two days later, at 11PM on Thursday night, 200 students – many of them dressed in proper *Hogwarts* attire, complete with Gryffindor scarves and artificial lightning bolt scars – loaded into packed school buses which transported them to a theater marked "Conn College" on the marquee. After bum-rushing the doors and settling into seats, the long-awaited film finally began just a few minutes after the clock struck midnight.

The movie ended around 2:30 AM, at which point the satisfied – albeit tired – HP fans climbed back onto the buses to Conn, most of whom seemed extremely happy with *Deathly Hallows*.

Due to both the length of the seventh *Harry Potter* novel and the fact that the book is the culmination of the entire saga of books-turned-films, Warner Brothers Productions, director David Yates, screenwriter Steve Kloves and author Rowling decided to split the story in two parts. The second part is set to premiere in July 2011 in 3D. This decision enabled Yates and Kloves to better retain the integrity of Rowling's storyline, as they did not have to cut out nearly as many parts as they had in previous films due to time constraints.

The first film to not take place in *Hogwarts*

School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, *Deathly Hallows: Part One* possesses a different tone, which is characteristic of the plotline of finding and destroying horcruxes in pursuit of *Harry's* enemy, the dark wizard Voldemort. Furthermore, this film also successfully incorporates a tasteful amount of comic relief and casual dialogue among the characters, something that the fifth and sixth films lack in this midst of their dark underlying plotlines.

The film begins with shots of Hermione, Harry, and Ron preparing for the journey that they have all anticipated would happen upon the murder of beloved *Hogwarts* headmaster Albus Dumbledore. This is appropriate, seeing as the heart of the seventh book is in the strong bonds of friendship between Harry and his two best friends. The action began right away after a humorous scene in which members of the Order of the Phoenix used the Polyjuice Potion to transform into clones of Harry as a means to smuggle him to safety.

However (SPOILER ALERT), with the deaths of Harry's owl Hedwig and Auror Mad-Eye Moody, as well as the gory loss of George Weasley's ear, viewers sensed an ominous reminder of the difficulties to come. Through shots within the recently-seized Ministry of Magic, run-ins with snatchers in the depths of faraway woods, Harry almost getting eaten alive by giant snake Nagini, betrayal by supposedly good men such as Mr. Lovegood, a horrifying episode with Bellatrix Lestrange and the Malfoy clan, the death of house-elf Dobby and Voldemort himself breaking into Dumbledore's grave to retrieve the Elder Wand, the film certainly demonstrated the evil that Harry and the others are up against.

However, Ron's rescue of Harry and return to the group, as well as a heartfelt, heroic speech by Dobby before bringing our heroes to safety, give viewers faith in Harry, Ron, and Hermione, even with the odds against them.

With the aid of new special effects, such as the animation playing during Hermione's voiceover telling the story of the *Deathly Hallows*, and outstanding performances by Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, *Deathly Hallows Part One* is a polished, mature film that brings the first half of Rowling's final edition to her epic series to the big screen in a way that Harry's most faithful fans – including those of us at Conn – can enjoy. •

Less Is Not More, Anymore

Two journalists weigh in on Kanye West's new album, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*

JEFF BAIRD
FICTION EDITOR

It's been a rough couple of years for Kanye West. He dealt with the loss of his mother, his first critically panned release and drinking himself to the point of public humiliation and dismissal after the over-publicized Taylor Swift incident at last year's Video Music Awards. But bouncing back from public rejection has become Kanye's forte – a staple of his career – and he has been laboring for months on an even tighter, more scrupulous musical effort that will disprove his detractors when he repeats this inevitable cycle.

This time, however, Kanye isn't back for the same things. On his latest release, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, he wants to teach us something – firstly that yes, he has been a "douchebag" (as he so elegantly puts it in the Pusha T-assisted single, "Runaway"), but also that we should expect more from him and our artists. It's interesting to hear such a commercially successful figure critique the industry and radio hip-hop, and make a project full of seven-, eight- and nine-minute songs, rounding out into breaks and drops – never ending around the four-minute mark as a radio edit would.

It's not just about the length, though, that makes this project one of excess. It's about the sound. The instrumentation is elaborate, melodic and heavy at all times. Sometimes the sounds blend together better than others, but every one is mixed to death and thus completely engaging and consistently awe-inspiring. Kanye has always been a perfectionist, but here his product is so dense, it's almost to the point of being superfluous, as on "All of the Lights" where he blends the vocals of eleven different artists (including Alicia Keys, Elton John, Fergie, and Elly Jackson of La Roux).

Never has a Kanye album been as lavish as this one, which has something to do with his ability to get just about any artist to work with him. The features here are stellar: Jay-Z's verses on "Monster" and "So Appalled" are some of his most inspired to date, and Pusha T's wordplay on the latter as well as "Runaway" is phenomenal. The John Legend-laced "Blame Game" not only features smooth and moody vocals from his label signee, but also bottoms out with a short bit from Chris Rock. "Monster," which spawned major buzz this summer when leaked as part of Kanye's "G.O.O.D. Friday" series, is one of two songs to feature the vocals of Bon Iver's Justin Vernon, and also includes a fiery, maniacal verse from Nicki Minaj, which may be her best yet. Elsewhere to be found are Raekwon, Kid Cudi, Swizz Beatz, Rick Ross and more, who were all pushed by Kanye to deliver the quality of features presented here. Along with Mr. West, who did the bulk of the music himself, production was provided in-studio by The RZA, No I.D., Jeff Bhasker, Mike Dean, S1, Bink!, Emile and other industry greats.

There's no doubt that Kanye knew what this album meant. As we've seen with Michael Vick, and much less so with Tiger Woods, a public figure's performance can make us forget about who they are. During his sixth-month recording period in his Hawaii studio, Kanye never slept in a bed, only taking naps in intervals throughout the night, trying to get the album perfect. Even after leaking versions of over half the album's cuts, Kanye furiously re-worked the tracks up until its final deadline, making sure the final product is something nobody else could deliver. Say what you want about the man, but as an artist, Kanye is revolutionary – he continues to set the boundaries of music and then break them, keeping us on our toes.

My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy is a mouthful of a title for an earful of music, and an abundance of sound for an abundance of a mind. This is the sound of a genius – the sound of a man gone crazy. It is one of Kanye West's greatest albums, as well as one of the year's. •



While *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*

KRIS FLEMING
STAFF WRITER

itself is not as untraditionally hip-hop as Kanye's last album, *808s and Heartbreaks*, it is still unconventional. Genres are interlaced within songs, ranging from operatic-like vocal melodies to dingy guitar rock to West's familiar use of song-sampling. His rhymes are still fierce, and he knows it; at one point he calls himself the "Lebron of rap" (which can be construed several ways). In that regard, it is an escalation of what listeners have come to expect since *Graduation*. But enough of the analysis, let's get to the meat of the album.

From the beginning, Kanye takes more control as a composer rather than a central actor in his own album, evidenced by the sheer number of guest artists. Alicia Keys, Rihanna, Jay-Z, Kid Cudi, Nicki Minaj and Bon Iver are all featured in at least one track each, with some appearing in up to three. It is this collaborative effort that makes the album shine, as each new voice adds to the experience rather than distracts; Nicki Minaj in particular does a great job adding a verse to the track "Monster." It is a nice contrast with *808s*, where Kanye's voice was, for better

or worse, the predominant presence throughout each track. That is not to say that Kanye lacks a voice on *Fantasy*; if anything, his limited presence draws the listener in even closer.

By now, everyone is aware of the impact Hurricane West has had on the media in the past few years; he called President Bush a racist, interrupted several music award shows to rant about one thing or another and started a tremendously popular Twitter account. These moments have not been lost on West, as this album seems to be his most self-conscious one yet. He laments past relationships ("Blame Game", "Runaway"), acknowledges his status as an asshole ("Monster") and expresses a need to change something in his life ("Hell of a Life", "Lost in the World"). But what the hell? Part of Kanye's appeal has always been his habit of being arrogant and brazen, doing and saying whatever he wanted and then apologizing in an all caps letter later on. Following this pattern, it may be that this album is his apology letter; he's already spent enough time hating and complaining on his past albums, and now he's taking an opportunity to think and reflect.

That is not to say that Kanye is insecure after years of backlash and insults. The musical composition of the album shows he's at the highest level of creativity and confidence in his career. Each track is a sweeping epic, creating unique landscapes that build and change. This shows in the length of the tracks; eight of the thirteen tracks are over five minutes long, and not a minute is repetitious. One of the stand-out moments is in the nine minute "Runaway," in which an auto-tuned vocal solo takes up the last few minutes of the song. I dare you to find another song that manages to even attempt that, let alone succeed as West does.

Overall, *Fantasy* is an ambitious continuation of Kanye's tried and true sound, pushing him from a rapper to a bonafide artist. Hell of a life, Mr. West. •

Stand-out tracks:

- "All of the Lights"
- "Monster"
- "Devil in a New Dress"

Sewing Up the Loopholes in the NFL's Concussion Policies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

have violated the league's policy. Football players are known for wanting to play through any minor injuries they sustain on the field. Most players will not take these borderline concussion events seriously because they have a strong desire to help their team win the game. Head coaches may also try to downplay the significance of these injuries in cases where they would lose valuable, talented players if they adhered to the NFL's ruling. If Commissioner Goodell really is serious about preventing players from returning to the field after a concussion, he needs to implement a rule with more objective criteria. That is to say, he should mandate that any player who suffers a major blow to the head must stay out for the remainder of the game, regardless of the symptoms he experiences. The player would then be evaluated during the following week to determine if he would be medically eligible to play in subsequent games. This would, no doubt, be an unpopular rule among players and coaches, but it's no

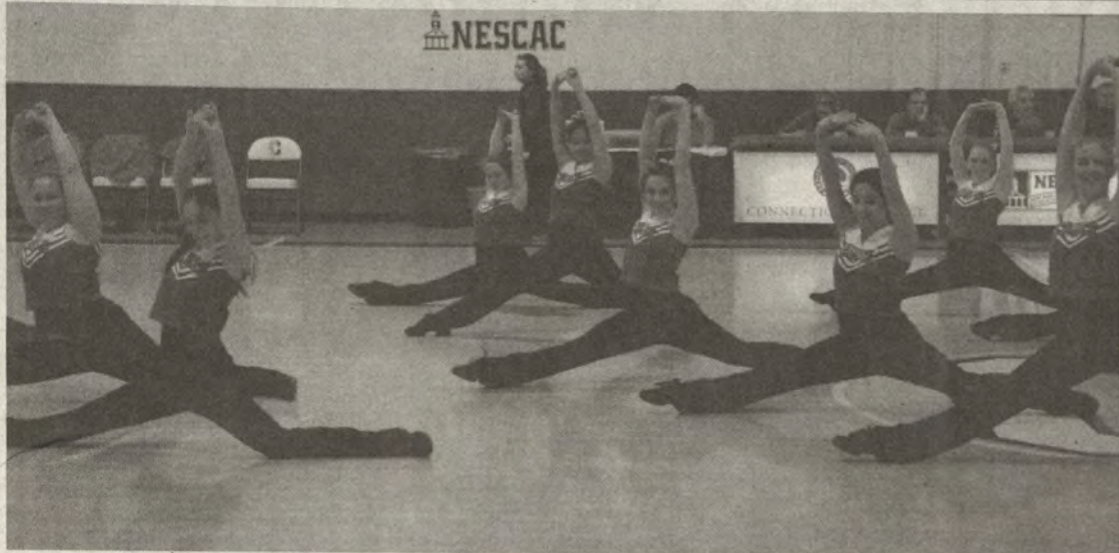


A trainer examines concussed Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis during a 2009 regular season game.

Photo from Web

secret that they don't like the concussion policies that are already in place. Last month, Hines Ward, one of the Pittsburgh Steelers' wide receivers, criticized the concussion policy, saying "It's football. You get your bell rung." He, like many football players, claims that the sport is violent by nature, and that the league should leave it up to the players and their trainers to decide whether they are capable of returning to a game. I believe this argument is flawed, for not only does it place the game ahead of one's own well being, but it is also known that concussion patients often downplay the severity of their injuries. Because denial can stem from the concussion itself, I do not think that players are qualified

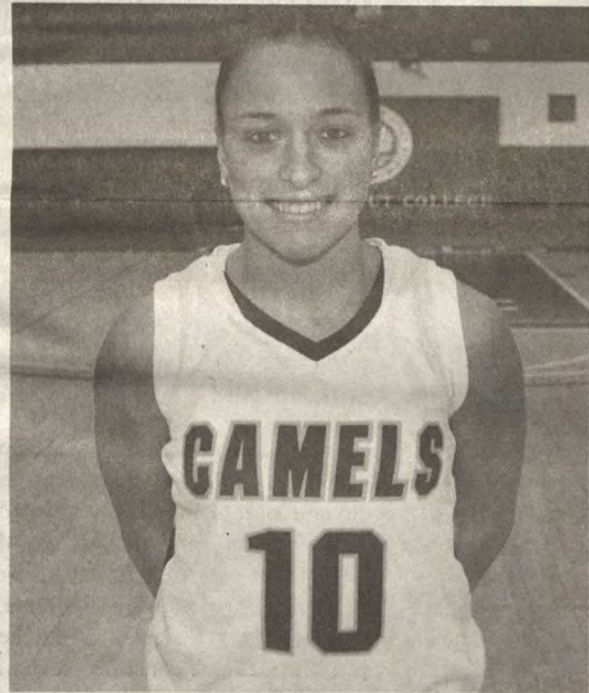
to evaluate themselves after suffering a head injury. With all of this in mind, I feel that concussed football players need to be sidelined and evaluated by impartial medical staff for at least one week, for the sake of both the remainder of their football careers and their health in general. •



The Connecticut College Dance Team, one of the few team spirit instigators on campus, performed for the first time on Thursday night at the Women's Basketball Game against Western Connecticut State. After years of receiving a club allotment from SGA, the Dance Team was recently cut from the budget because of their selection process.



Men's Basketball defeats John Jay College 77-61.



PAUL BRANDON/CONTRIBUTOR

Women's Basketball

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

few goals for themselves for this upcoming season. "We are aiming for the NCAA tournament," said Verrengia. "However, first we must make it to the NESCAC tournament. With three years under my belt, I have never once made it to the NESCAC tourney and would love to see it before I graduate. We have what it takes, so I would love us to come together as a team and truly accomplish what I know we can." Demonstrating the talent of Connecticut College athletes, two players received New England Women's Basketball Association (NEWBA) awards for the span of November 15 to November 28. Guard Jenn Shinall '12 was appointed to the NEWBA Weekly Honor Roll and forward Tara Gabelman '14 received NEWBA Rookie of the Week for their outstanding play in the first five games of the season, especially in the wins against Springfield and Nichols. The Camels are preparing for their next game, which will be played at 8PM on December 7 against Roger Williams University at Luce Field House. The first NESCAC game won't be played until January 14 when the Camels face Amherst College. •



Jenn Shinall '12 (left) and Tara Gabelman '14

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CONNECTICUT COLLEGE



POWER RANKINGS

compiled by the tufts daily

For the first time ever, a school has broken the 2.0-point barrier in the NESCAC Rankings. Thanks to unanimous second-place rankings for men's basketball, men's hockey and women's hockey, as well as a very impressive showing in women's basketball, Amherst now sits at a 1.90 average in the last installment before winter break. Ever since finishing behind Williams in the preseason winter rankings, the Lord Jeffs have maintained a three-week hold on first.

Williams has kept a hold on the No. 2 spot, undone by an eighth-place finish by its women's hockey team. Middlebury, Bates and Hamilton all leap-frogged Bowdoin; the Polar Bears plummeted to sixth overall. Meanwhile, at fourth place, Bates is at its highest mark ever.

After a down week at ninth, Tufts moved back up to seventh; the Jumbos overtook Trinity, which fell to eighth, and Colby, which headed down to ninth. Wesleyan and Conn. College for the third straight week flip-flopped at the final two spots. The former now sits in the cellar.

THIS WEEK	SCHOOL	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	MEN'S HOCKEY	WOMEN'S HOCKEY	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
1	AMHERST	2.00	1.60	2.00	2.00	1.90	1 ↔
2	WILLIAMS	1.00	1.60	1.00	8.00	2.90	2 ↔
3	MIDDLEBURY	3.00	2.80	7.60	1.00	3.60	4 ↑
4	BATES	4.20	4.20	—	—	4.20	5 ↑
5	HAMILTON	—	—	5.80	4.40	5.10	6 ↑
6	BOWDOIN	8.20	6.40	3.00	4.20	5.45	3 ↓
7	TUFTS	8.20	6.40	4.20	—	6.27	9 ↑
8	TRINITY	4.80	8.20	9.40	3.00	6.35	7 ↓
9	COLBY	6.40	7.40	7.40	7.00	7.05	8 ↓
10	CONN. COLLEGE	10.00	10.00	5.20	5.20	7.60	11 ↑
11	WESLEYAN	7.20	6.40	9.40	9.00	8.00	10 ↓

The poll was devised as follows: Each voter ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport, and those scores were averaged to create a composite ranking for each sport. The composites were then averaged to determine each school's overall ranking. Note that Hamilton does not compete in men's and women's basketball in the NESCAC, Bates does not compete in men's and women's hockey and Tufts does not compete in women's hockey.

This week's list was determined by polling Amro El-Adle (Amherst Student), Mike Flint and Nick Woolf (Conn. College Voice), Katie Siegner (Middlebury Campus), Alex Prewitt (Tufts Daily) and Whit Chiles (Wesleyan Argus).

DESIGN BY STEVEN SMITH/TUFTS DAILY



MIGUEL SALCEDO/STAFF



Men's Hockey Buries #4 Middlebury

Sean Curran '12 off to an incredible start

MIKE FLINT
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's hockey has opened up the season on a strong note. Although they alternated wins in their first four games of the year, victories against #4 Middlebury and New England College more than show the potential of this season's squad. Led offensively by breakout forward Sean Curran '12, the Camel attack will be as potent as any in the NESCAC.

Coming into this past weekend, the Camels sat at 1-1 after opening the season with two tough NESCAC contests. In the first game of the year, Conn fell to Williams (score) in a game that should have finished much closer than it did. Although the Camels played the Ephs even through a period and a half, after Williams scored two quick goals half-way through the second period, the game kind of fell apart.

"We made a few mental mistakes, and [Williams] had had a game under their belt against the Swedish U-20 team, and it kind of showed," said forward Ryan Riffe '11.

Impressively enough, though, Conn came right back the next day and took down #4 Middlebury 5-3 on the Panthers' home

ice. After a disappointing loss the night before, Conn showed a lot of pride in their efforts against Middlebury. The game was back and forth the whole way with Conn finally going up for good on a Mike Sinsigalli goal in the second period.

"[The Middlebury game] was amazing," said Riffe. "We talked a lot about the need to respond. The motivation we used was how Middlebury really doesn't respect us- not only in hockey, but as a school in general. They pretty much know they're better than Conn- they get the better recruits and whatnot- so we kind of used that as motivation to beat them. It was a battle."

Fellow senior Joe Capuano had a similar take. "Those are two points on the road not many people get. I know it's early this year, but I think that's probably the most important game I've played in since I've been here," he said. "This program's never beaten Middlebury on their ice in the history of either program. Not only that- to beat the whole Middlebury type of mystique that they think they have about themselves. To go in there, do it in their place, in front of their fans. After a 5-1 beating on the road like that... we showed a lot of heart, and the

guys came back and we fought until the end."

It was truly a great win for the Camels, and it gave them two points after only one weekend of play.

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"We've only had one weekend, but in my four years it's the best we've done," said Riffe. "We've come out with two points- the best previously we've done was one point, which is when we tied Middlebury my freshman year [in 2007]."

With the first weekend behind them, the Camels returned to the Cameldome for their home openers against Saint Anselm and

New England College on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

On Friday night, Conn fell to Saint Anselm 5-1. Curran scored the lone goal for the Camels in the second period, but at that point Conn was already down 3-0. The Camels seemed a little out of sync with one another throughout the whole contest, and Saint Anselm really took it to them.

But once again, Conn followed up a tough loss with another impressive win the next afternoon. Trying to make up for the dud of a home opener, the Camels let New England College have it on Saturday, beating them 5-2. Curran added to his amazing start with three more goals, bringing him to nine points in four games.

After tallying only six points all of last year, Curran has come on as the Camels' new breakout player. He has four goals and five assists so far this season, leading Conn in all three offensive categories (goals, assists and points).

On Curran's early success, Riffe said, "It's exciting. He's among the top on our team with some of the best set of skills in terms of shooting, stick-handling. He's got the potential to do this every game. I think he could be at the top of the league with points."

"Sean's one of the hardest

working guys," says Capuano. "He's an incredibly talented kid...He's one of those kids that we need to come out and play like that. That's what we expect of him, that's what expects of himself. The entire junior class has a big role this year. We lost a lot of guys last year through graduation and through everything else, and guys gotta start stepping up. We're only going to take ourselves so far. If we don't step, we don't do it, and if we do, like Sean and Bouts [Julien Boutet '12] and JJ [McGregor '12] and the rest of the junior class, what they did this weekend was great. And I don't think anyone's satisfied with it, I think that they want to just keep piling it on. They're gamers, so they're going to keep going and hopefully keep improving."

The Camels will be home again this weekend as they take on Tufts at 7pm on Saturday night in the Cameldome. Conn will try to ride the hot stick of Curran to make it two wins in a row. Tufts currently sits right above the Camels in the NESCAC standing. Both squads have beaten Middlebury and lost to Williams, so it should be a great contest.

Women's Basketball Starts Season

MELANIE THIBEAULT
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut College women's basketball team kicked off their season November 20 with a game against Brandeis University. Unfortunately, the Camels lost 36-68, but that didn't crush their spirits.

In the next two games, the team stepped it up and racked up two wins against Springfield College (66-60) and Nichols College (72-52). Their streak was short-lived, however, as they suffered another four losses against Wellesley College (44-61), Western Connecticut State University (41-54), Rhode Island College (38-50) and St. Joseph's College (40-70). Despite the current 2-5 record, the Camels have plenty of

games to prove their skills.

"The early games are our way to see exactly where we are at before we hit league play. In preparation, we are playing high ranked teams outside of the NESCAC in order to see just what we have to work on in order to give ourselves a good ranking in the league," said Tori Verrengia '11. "We have so many talented individuals, that I know, as the season progresses we will do just fine."

With continued practice and preparation, this team of gifted players, which includes a talented crop of freshmen, has the ability to really improve their game for when it comes time to compete against other NESCAC schools. Ready for the challenge, the Camels have already set a

Sewing Up the Loopholes in the NFL's Concussion Policies

NICK WOOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

During the last two years, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and his cadre of policy advisors have progressively issued a set of new rules to all thirty-two teams in the league regarding concussions.

In one of the early rule changes, the Commissioner required all teams to hold a concussed player out of the remainder of a game if he is displaying certain symptoms, which include memory loss, sustained dizziness and headaches. The old practice was to hold a player out of the game only if he lost consciousness.

This change was among the first of many steps taken by the league in an effort to protect players from significant head injuries

and related neurological problems that may arise later in the players' lives.

I do not doubt the necessity of such rules, since they protect the players' good health, but I do wonder how the league plans on enforcing them. To illustrate my concern, I offer the following scenario:

Suppose a player is tackled on the field so that he happens to hit the ground head-first (this is considered a legal tackle by league standards). He stays on the ground despite his teammates' offers to help him up, so his team's trainers run out to evaluate him. It seems as if he has had a minor concussion and is experiencing some dizziness. After a minute or two however, he is able to stand and speak coherently, and he be-

lieves he can stay in the game.

If the player doesn't lose consciousness and the training staff can't tell whether there's been any memory loss or vision impairment, then all parties involved would assume this was a minor concussion and let the player head back onto the field. This is where problems with rule enforcement would arise.

Headaches and other "hidden" symptoms are commonly known to follow the initial impact. Indeed, according to the Mayo Clinic, "The signs and symptoms of a concussion can be subtle and may not be immediately apparent." Since no one besides the player can become aware of these "subtle" problems, I argue that the NFL has no way of knowing whether the player and his team

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Men's Basketball (3-3):

11/29 Conn 61 - 71 Eastern Conn. St.
12/3 Conn 77 - 61 John Jay
12/4 Conn 62 - 54 Medgar Evers

Women's Basketball (2-5):

11/30 Conn 41 - 54 Western Conn. St.
12/2 Conn 38 - 50 Rhode Island College
12/4 Conn 40 - 70 St. Joseph

Men's Ice Hockey (2-2):

12/3 Conn 1 - 5 St. Anselm
12/4 Conn 5 - 2 New England College

Women's Ice Hockey (3-3):

12/3 Conn 1 - 0 Colby
12/4 Conn 3 - 4 Bowdoin

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Men's Basketball:

vs. Wentworth Isnt. Tech: Tuesday, Dec. 7 @ 6 PM in Luce Field House
vs. Salve Regina: Saturday, Dec. 11 @ 3 PM in Luce Field House

Women's Basketball

vs. Roger Williams: Tuesday, Dec. 7 @ 8 PM in Luce Field House

Men's Ice Hockey:

at Manhattanville College: Tuesday, Dec. 7 @ 7 PM
vs. TUFTS: Saturday, Dec. 11 @ 7 PM in Dayton Arena

Women's Ice Hockey:

at Holy Cross: Tuesday, Dec. 7 @ 7 PM
vs. Neumann University: Saturday, Dec. 11 @ 3 PM in Dayton Arena

Swimming and Diving:

vs. WILLIAMS: Saturday, Dec. 11 @ 1 PM in Lott Natatorium