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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008

## ResLife Restructuring Gets More Students Involved

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief

*Editor-in-Chief, Areti A. Sakellaris, met with Patricia Godino, Director of Residential Life and Housing (ResLife), to discuss the upcoming presentation of the Commission on Residential Education (CORE) report. Since Spring 2007, the committee analyzed the residential life offered by Connecticut College and the final report will be presented to the Board of Trustees by President Higdon by the month's end. The report proposes to increase the student staff of ResLife to approximately 63 students and will replace the position of house governor with floor governors to work in coordination with the housefellow and the new residential scholar.*

**AS:** Was there anything in particular that indicated the need for such an undertaking?

**PG:** The really [sic] only thing of intellectual substance that we had is the D&D [Dessert and Dialogue]. And what we wanted to do is take that, and really build and make something into a rich and valuable experience. Another thing that is happening at other colleges is living

and learning communities -- a little bit different than what we are doing now with the seminars. They combine the classroom experience with the living experience and with something more substantive like a trip abroad... We can't go from zero to eighty in a year, but I think that in the long-term plan—and by long-term, I mean 2-5 years—we will come to implement some of those living and learning communities. Say, for example, we have a floor of students who are taking a social justice class together. They may have a project together related to that class, which will be easier for them because they live on the same floor. It's a real living experience—more than just two hours in the classroom followed by going home to do your homework and that's it.

**AS:** Students were afraid that we're moving to an RA system, which comes with such a stigma, but do you think that the job of a housefellow and what it means to us is significantly different than an RA's job by industry standards? Is what we have here really that unique?

**PG:** It really depends on who you are comparing us to. You know the school I just came from, Babson, is really different; it's a large school, we're a small



(Kaminsky '09)

school, it's a business school, etc. But culturally, I can tell you that other than the staff-student ratio, you know the RAs—and they're called RAs there—they're the same as [housefellows]. They enforce policy as much as you guys do, they look out for the residents as much as

you guys do. But I'll be honest, I've been at schools like Eastern Connecticut, and this is going back twenty years, when I was an RD [Residence Director], and my

SEE CORE

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## No Middle Ground for Middle East Studies

Part II

BY GOZDE ERDENIZ '08 AND KASEY LUM '11

news editor & staff writer

Last week's article on student demand for an Arabic language/Middle East Studies program was written as part of an effort for eventual implementation of a program. However, the administration has been slow in responding to student interest. Despite the petition to SGA, and a research report assessing the costs and benefits of such a program, the administration hasn't even brought the issue to the attention of the majority of the faculty, which means that in our system of shared governance, things cannot move forward.

So why does it take such a long time for the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee (FSCC) to take action on the Educational Planning Committee (EPC) report? What is currently on their agenda? The current

chair of FSCC, Prof. Leah Lowe of the Theater department, tells us that this year the Committee's agenda has been dominated by responses to a report from the Committee on Faculty Resources—a report which pre-dates the EPC report on Arabic language/Middle Eastern studies. The CFR report is concerned with how faculty resources are employed across the curriculum and grapples with issues produced by a curriculum in which some departments and programs are heavily enrolled and others teach far fewer students. In other words, the faculty is discussing ways of dealing with huge disparities between professor workloads—an Economics professor, for example, may have 40 students in an intermediate level class, whereas a German professor has five or less. This issue, is not entirely unrelated to the possible implementation of an Arabic language/Middle Eastern studies program. The adminis-

tration is wary of starting another small program that will possibly have relatively few students.

The point many students find frustrating is how slowly the process is moving. Considering the intricate bureaucracy of the faculty hiring process, the long wait isn't very surprising. Any proposal for the start of a new academic program needs to be discussed in a faculty meeting first. However, there is as of yet no formal proposal for an Arabic language/Middle East Studies program.

"The problem with the SGA student petition and the EPC report is that they don't add up to a formal new curriculum proposal," Leah Lowe explains. "I completely understand how frustrating this is for the.

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**A&E:** *There Will Be Oscars, page 6*

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**SPORTS:** *Men's Basketball Still Rolling After Setting Records, page 8*

Also see a brand new NESCAC scoreboard, page 9



## Letter From The Editors

I tend to exist inside my small English major bubble. The concerns and necessities of other departments do not really affect me on a personal level; I am content with my major and what it has to offer (except for maybe a Children's Literature course). But Gozde's article on the troubles implementing a Middle East Studies major or concentration struck me.

The history and current state of the Middle East is essential knowledge for American students. In order to understand how the United States functions within the international arena and how we, as the West, are perceived by the rest of the world, it all traces back to an understanding of the Middle East. The Middle East is not just a "topic du jour"; the history is vast and rich, and much of the change we are going to see in the world depends on how our relationship with the Middle East is fostered or hindered.

I agree with the arguments that in order to be competitive with other colleges and universities at our level, a Middle East Studies program is essential, but I think greater than that, students who are government, economics, history and international relations majors have a responsibility as individuals to be educated about the Middle East. I don't want to place the burden on these specific majors, but these students are the ones who are going to enter the political/governmental realm, and if there are gaps in their college educations, they aren't the only ones to suffer the consequences.

Our lack of a Middle East Studies program seems to reflect the ambivalence of the country at large – we are in a war; and as a whole, Americans are horribly uninformed about it, I *very* much included. Connecticut College students could benefit and will benefit greatly from a Middle East Studies program; it is our prerogative to be educated members of society.

- Claire

When I first heard about CORE's upcoming recommendations to improve residential living on-campus, I liked the idea of making the experience more personal because a school the size of Connecticut College could implement it well. I was hesitant about dividing the role of governor amongst a handful of floor governors who would all need to work in concert with the housefellow and the new residential scholar.

Being on the ResLife staff, I know of some fantastic housefellow-governor relationships, some functioning ones, and ones that seem to hang together by a thread. I would want to be sure there is adequate training so they can all work together; that the dynamic was carefully thought about beforehand; and by putting people through an application process, it ought to yield students who have a genuine drive to undertake the project and want to make it work.

Making dorm life more enriching is vital to the "living and learning" environment is a shift that the College needs to see through for both the students' experience and because peer institutions are moving in that direction as well. Down the road, we can expand on the idea of thematic living, which we *do* have, to include students living together with a particular academic interest and programming catered to that.

The Connecticut College traditions are still there: all the major dorm events like Camelympics and Festivus will still happen, community is still the number one focus. I encourage those interested or with questions to speak with a housefellow or anyone in ResLife because it is an exciting change that has some great potential. We have a great education provided by the College, we have great opportunities to socialize, and CORE proposes a way to tie the two together.

-Areti

## Letters to the Editor

After reading Jacques Swartz's "Law & Order" article in last week's paper, I feel compelled to write a response to his comments on how some housefellows enjoy being "self-righteous," "moralizing," and are "power-hungry." Let me preface: this is not a criticism towards anyone or group, but just an effort to clarify and bring understanding to the housefellow position.

Although housefellows rarely get praised or get a simple thank you, it is an incredibly rewarding experience. I hate to see it slandered and other housefellows attacked because of the difficult decisions they are forced to make. Some decisions that a housefellow makes can have a huge impact on people's lives at Connecticut College.

Who a person is as a *housefellow* is more of a reflection of the house than it is of the individual. Yes there are different types of housefellows, but there are no "bad guy" housefellows with hidden Machiavellian agendas. No one agrees completely on how to lead a dorm, but we respect that our houses are different and we have different strengths and weaknesses. This is why I will always stand by each housefellow and whether I agree with them or not.

It's true that 21 individuals cannot care for 2,000 people on their own. But yet, for decades, the housefellow system has created one of best college residential atmospheres in the country. In order to function, there has to be community, and community is what makes this school great.

I agree with Jacques's statement that there should be

less disciplinary action in the houses by students, but in order for that to happen, there needs to be less deviant and reckless behavior. If people's behavior is harmful to themselves or others *in any way* and do not stop when asked, they create a community in which policy has to be enforced. Enough people don't realize that it is not just the housefellow's job to care for the house and residents but it is everybody's responsibility.

The power that housefellows have is not dictated by the administration but given to us by our peers and it has worked because usually Connecticut College students are thoughtful and respectful people. When they become apathetic and careless, the community and the housefellow system does not work.

Jacques asked, "Why do people become housefellows?" I became a housefellow because I love it here. For me, the best part about Connecticut College has been living on campus and the community. Being a housefellow becomes a part of who you are, and my experiences within the houses have been amazing. A housefellow is basically what the house community makes them to be and I am lucky to be the housefellow of one of the best houses on campus.

Please, the next time someone asks for your help or compliance, give it to them and see how much better our homes will be. If we all take responsibility for the condition of this community, I promise you that there will be no "bad guy" housefellows and more good times.

- Katrina Scherben, Housefellow of Harkness

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# Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

COMPILED BY GOZDE ERDENIZ '08 AND DASHA LAVRENNIKOV '08

news editor & staff writer

## National

### Raising Dollars Overseas

Americans living overseas are not immune from the fund-raising solicitations of candidates – nor of the desire to participate financially in hotly-contested races. Both Michelle Obama and Bill Clinton have made fund-raising trips to England, and in the case of Mr. Clinton, to Ireland as well. Those trips have paid off handsomely for both their spouses. The Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan Washington group that collects and analyzes campaign finance data, found that Americans living overseas donated \$1.4 million to presidential candidates by the end of 2007. This compares to \$908,000 collected for the entire 2004 presidential races. Overseas donors are a liberal bunch – Democrats got 69 percent of all donations. Barack Obama has raised the most, taking in \$462,340. But Hillary Clinton outpaced him in the fourth quarter, taking in \$314,000 between September and December of last year, more than any other candidate. That brings her overseas haul for 2007 to \$435,000. The most money came from the United Kingdom, followed by Switzerland and France. After that, money came from Americans living in Canada, Japan, and Bermuda.

In both cases, visits from their spouses sealed the deals. Mrs. Obama fund-raised for her husband in England in October – prior to her visit, he had only banked \$194,000 from American expatriates. As of last August, Mrs. Clinton had received only \$51,000 from Americans living abroad, but that all changed after her husband flew over in the fourth quarter to campaign for her.

## Europe

### Serbian PM Angers EU Officials

The European Union criticized Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica of Serbia on Wednesday after the nationalist leader blocked plans to sign a political and economic agreement with Brussels. He called the agreement a "deception" aimed at tricking Belgrade into conceding the independence of Kosovo. The pro-Western president of Serbia, Boris Tadic, who won re-election Sunday, had backed the accord, which would expand trade, ease visa restrictions and improve student exchanges between Serbia and the Union. But after Kostunica accused the EU of trying to trick Belgrade into letting Kosovo go, the EU said his unwillingness to back the deal had made it legally impossible to proceed with a signing ceremony planned for Thursday. Olli Rehn, the EU commissioner responsible for the Union's expansion, made little attempt to conceal his anger. "I deeply regret the obstruction by certain politicians in Belgrade in blocking the signature," he said. He accused Kostunica of ignoring the will of Serbian people, as expressed in the election of Tadic, who made EU membership the centerpiece of his campaign. Rehn attacked the prime minister by name for linking Serbia's EU membership aspirations and the future of Kosovo. "It is truly sad for Serbia, if politicians continue to put power games ahead of their own citizens' interests," he said. Kosovo, a breakaway province of Serbia that is expected to declare independence this month with the backing of the EU and the United States, has been under United Nations administration since 1999 after NATO intervened to halt Slobodan Milosevic's repression of

Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority. Serbs consider the territory to have been their medieval heartland and it is the location of several important Serbian religious sites.

## The Middle East

### U.S. Accidentally Kills Civilians

American forces said Sunday that they had accidentally killed nine Iraqi civilians and wounded three in a strike aimed at militants of Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, south of Baghdad, acknowledged what appeared to be one of the deadliest cases of mistaken identity in recent weeks. A military statement released late in the day said



the accidental killings happened Saturday in Iskandariya, about 25 miles south of the capital, and that the wounded were taken to American military hospitals. The statement did not further identify the civilian victims, but the Iraqi police said American aircraft, responding to an attack on an American convoy, had erroneously bombed Iraqi civilian guardsmen who have contracted with the American military to fight Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia. Those guardsmen, predominantly Sunnis, are considered a major reason the American military has successfully reduced insurgent violence in Iraq. Lt. Patrick Evans of the Navy, an American military spokesman, said that after the deaths in Iskandariya, American military officials met with a sheik representing the citizens of the local area and that the mistake was under investigation. "We offer our condolences to the families of those who were killed in this incident, and we mourn the loss of innocent life," Lieutenant Evans said. He said he did not know whether the Iraqi victims were citizen guardsmen or precisely how they had been killed.

## Asia

### The U.S. Happy with New Thai Government

The U.S. has announced a resumption of military aid to Thailand, hours after a new democratically elected government was sworn in there. Washington suspended the aid after the Thai military ousted leader Thaksin Shinawatra in a coup in September 2006. The sanctions were an automatic step under a law banning such aid to nations where elected leaders had been deposed. But funding for counter-terrorism work and joint exercises

remained in place.

"We congratulate Thailand's new cabinet on its inauguration, and the Thai people on their success in re-establishing an elected government," he said. The new cabinet is packed with lawmakers loyal to the ousted Mr. Thaksin, following victory by his allies in December's general elections. Mr. Thaksin remains in self-imposed overseas exile.

## Latin America

### Worst Flood of Decade in Bolivia

Severe flooding caused by weeks of heavy rain is now known to have left 48 people dead and some 40,000 families homeless, authorities in Bolivia say. Two rivers in one of the worst-hit provinces, Beni, have broken their banks and are threatening to cut off the main city in the region, Trinidad. The government has declared a state of emergency and launched relief efforts.

"We are experiencing one of the worst disasters of the past decade," the deputy civil defence minister, Hernan Tuco, told local radio during the weekend. Among the worst-hit areas are the eastern provinces of Beni and Santa Cruz as well as Cochabamba in central Bolivia. Several thousand people have been moved from areas at risk in Beni, where the River Mamore has broken its banks. The provincial capital, Trinidad, is surrounded by a roadway that acts like a dyke protecting the city from floods, but there are fears that rising waters could cut the city off.

## Africa

### Fleeing Chad

Thousands of people are fleeing the Chad capital, Ndjamena, to neighboring countries after two days of fierce fighting between government and rebel forces in the city. Thousands of people have been streaming across the Ngueli bridge, which separates Chad from Cameroon. At least 100 civilians were killed in last weekend's fighting between rebels and government forces in Chad, according to aid agencies. Although the former French colony has a history of coups, last week's fighting was the most violent in decades. 363 foreigners were evacuated from Chad due to extreme violence including aid workers. Chadian rebels seized control of large parts of the capital on Saturday, approaching the palace where President Deby was holding out. Mr. Deby seized power in a coup in 1990, but has won three elections since then, although their legitimacy has been challenged. Chad accuses the Sudanese government of backing the rebel offensive in Chad in order to stop the EU force from being sent to the region. "Sudan does not want this force because it would open a window on the genocide in Darfur," said Foreign Minister Amad Allam-Mi. Sudan denies this, as well as accusations that it has supported Arab militias accused of ethnic cleansing and genocide in Darfur. President Deby said he believed most of the attackers had fled the capital. "We're at their heels and we shall catch them before they get back to Sudan," he said. There is also concern for the 240,000 Darfur refugees in Chad.



# Increase in Number of Entry Level Jobs Bodes Well for Seniors

BY KATHERINE SHUSHTARI '11

staff writer

For seniors, spring semester means the end of their undergraduate college experience. The class of 2008 will soon be on their way to graduate school and into the workforce, but will there be jobs with a dwindling economy looming over everyone? Seniors have no fear, a recent press release from CollegeGrad.com states, "Great news for the Class of 2008—entry level employers are increasing their hiring by 11.8 percent in 2008. This is the largest projected increase in entry level hiring CollegeGrad.com has seen since 2005." The press release then goes on to say that recent college graduates are in high demand due to their innovative ideas, global knowledge and technological finesse. Companies like Liberty Mutual Group, Enterprise Rent-A-Car and Progressive Insurance are examples of companies with the highest increases in hiring college graduate rates.

Many seniors are beginning to feel the pressure of finding jobs; applications and interviews are well underway. 2008 graduates have mixed emotions, many are extremely excited and scared; it is a major step toward finally growing up. Jake Stolar '08, senator for Wright, is more optimistic about his current job search due to CollegeGrad.com's press release. Coming from a liberal arts background some students are worried they may not have necessary skills compared to graduates coming from a pre-professional education. Stolar says, "As a history major, I've been told over and over again how the skills that I've acquired in my studies will be a boon to me wherever I wind up. They certainly have been in my internships, and I hope that continues to be the case."

As Stolar mentioned, internships are a huge help to many students at Conn.

With the CELS program, students are given \$3,000 after their junior year to participate in an internship, as well as a plethora of information and training for finding the best-fit job. Jack Tinker, Director of Recruiting at CELS states, "How well you present yourself to an employer and conduct yourself in an interview is a big factor in the job search process... This is where Connecticut College students that participate in the CELS career development program have a big advantage. We teach students how to identify and articulate their skills and accomplishments, how to present themselves effectively on their resumes and cover letters, and learn how to interview effectively." Tinker also mentions the other programs Conn offers such as CISLA, SATA, and study abroad. He then commends the new International Cultural Commons initiative, "Our students who become proficient in a foreign language find that to be an excellent way to make themselves more marketable to an organization looking to do business in parts of the world who speak that language.

As for the job market, Tinker is equally optimistic. With baby boomers retiring, and concern for the environment growing, more and more jobs are becoming available. Tinker then goes on to explain how "fierce" the job search can be, "When hiring is down in some of those occupations or locations, hiring will be up in others. There are always good opportunities out there, but it can take a great deal of perseverance and aggressive efforts to find them. You need to approach the job search as if it was a job: just sending out a few resumes now and then normally won't do the trick." Students are instructed to use every strategy possible; there are jobs out there, students just have to find them.

Studying abroad at Conn is most commonly done during one's junior year

and can be a huge help when job hunting. Shirley Parsons, head of the Study Abroad says, "Studying abroad gives students the opportunity to gain many global skills, including, but not limited to; foreign language acquisition, an appreciation and awareness of ethnic and cultural differences, sensitivity of these differences; patience, a willingness to try new things, and a better sense of their own culture and themselves. As companies expand more and more into the global marketplace, students who have acquired these skills are in a much better position when they interview for that first job." She then goes on to say that students who study abroad have a definite leg up over other candidates in the job market. She concludes, "For many students [studying abroad] can be a life-changing experience."

President Higdon points out that Conn students have an advantage in the work place due to their liberal arts education, as he addressed in his recent article in the *Hartford Courant*. "Our graduates start their careers at an advantage because their liberal arts education has

helped them develop qualities that are essential in a dynamic work environment, including ethical mindset, global orientation, passion for learning, critical thinking and experience working in teams," said President Higdon. "I'm confident Connecticut College alumni will continue to thrive as leaders in our increasingly global marketplace, and I encourage Class of 2008 students who are pursuing jobs after graduation to highlight the added value they bring as liberal arts graduates to any workplace."

Conn's students are bright minded, both academically and socially. With the opportunities the college has to offer and a strong liberal arts background, the Class of 2008 is more than prepared for the workplace. The added bonus of an 11.8 percent increase in entry-level job hiring is a comfort to many seniors. The search is not an easy one and requires a great deal of perseverance, but if a student commits to the challenge he or she should not be concerned about finding a job this upcoming year.



(Web)

## CORE

continued from page one

RAAs there did rounds every night, every hour, they wrote people up, they addressed school policy violations. So it really depends where you are.

AS: What are some ways we can address the fear Conn. kids have about RAAs and how can we get them to apply for the new positions?

PG: We're trying to find out what we're talking about here—you know, "what is the plan," "what is the philosophy"—getting that message out there and talking to as many people as we can is important. I really believe that the housefellows are key to that... You should be saying, "it isn't what you think it is. This is what it is." I think that you guys really hold a lot of that in your hands.

AS: I think the shock is wearing off from when this first surfaced last semester. We've been here for four years and nothing has changed. But is this change for the sake of change?

PG: It's hard when we look at these floor employees...With governors, we didn't want to lose some of that tradition, and it's still there. We took that and kind of molded it. We felt that the governor had a strong tradition in the house and we didn't want to let that go completely.

AS: How much is the change going to really impact students?

PG: That's a good question. It's hard to predict the future. I think going from 22

staff members to 63 has to impact the students. What I hope they feel is more of a connection to someone who cares about them and is interested in them being successful and making their residence hall experience more interesting.

AS: How does the residential scholar program play into this?

PG: To me, it's the most exciting part. The residential scholar is a new member of House Council who is connected to both our office and the Dean of Studies office, whose job is to work on bringing more intellectual or educational experiences to the house. They'll work with the floor governors and the faculty fellow. We will be getting 12 faculty members to each have two houses that they work with, to sort of share their expertise, their energy, their interest...The purpose is to target smaller groups and to get students to connect with each other.

AS: Where will the funding come from? Are we just waiting for President Higdon's presentation to the Board of Trustees?

PG: I'm feeling really good about it. President Higdon is working with the Board of Trustees --some of the money will come from our operating budget, and as for the rest, he's out in the world fundraising. Of course this isn't simply for CORE, but also for upgrading the common areas, dorm renovations, adding good quality furniture for common rooms... that stuff is not cheap. I get the privilege of administering his big success and make something special for the students here.



# Freshmen and Seniors to Rate Academic Experience

BY CHRIS BUONINCONTRI '08

news editor

Following February 11th, freshmen and seniors will begin partaking in the National Survey of Student Engagement, or NSSE, as part of the ongoing effort to improve different aspects of academic life here at Conn.

The NSSE, a survey created and distributed by Indiana University, is designed to measure the degree to which students have educationally beneficial experiences at their school, particularly during their first and last years. Many schools nationwide have begun implementing the survey in an effort to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses within academic programs. In addition, the survey makes it possible to compare quality of academic life across schools, an implementation that has become an alternative to US News rankings, which is

based more on financial data.

"The survey provides us with a more comprehensive view of student life," said Professor John Nugent, who is charged with facilitating the administration of the survey.

According to him, many recent changes have come about due to data gathered from surveys like this one, including the recently added freshman seminar program. He explained that the multiple axes within the survey itself allow for critical analysis of the data on a variety of levels; for example, comparing only freshman response scores across either previous years, or other schools, or both.

One of these axes, labeled "Level of Academic Challenge," indicated an average level of engagement among first year students here at Conn, when compared with other liberal arts schools nationwide. Seniors, however, reported a comparatively much higher level of

challenge, higher than the average among the top rated schools in the country.

Other aspects of the survey are designed to assess other details of student life, such as "Enriching Educational Experiences" like study abroad or co-curricular activities, and the ways in which Conn provides a supportive campus environment.

Professor Nugent emphasized the survey as a starting point for further research, which in turn may lead to future changes. Vice President of Information Services, Lee Hisle, is also involved with library and information service evaluations here and comparing Conn. with other schools.

Students are all encouraged to participate in the upcoming survey, as participants will be entered in a series of raffles for gift certificates to the Crystal Mall and Best Buy.

## MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

*continued from page one*

students. However, while our committee is one that receives proposals for new faculty lines and new programs, we are not the appropriate committee to generate such proposals. My understanding is that the way that new programs have begun at the College is through the efforts of a group of faculty members who bring a proposal to FSCC, then the Dean of the Faculty, and ultimately, to the entire faculty for discussion. We'd be happy to facilitate the work of such a group. At the last faculty meeting, I reported to the faculty that we were hearing of more student demand for such a program and I asked faculty members who were interested in developing a proposal to let me know. It's a slow process, and one that demands that the College carefully consider how it will support and maintain new curricular programming."

The general faculty meetings happen once a month. The agendas of these meetings are determined by the FSCC, and ultimately by the Dean of the Faculty. To date, there has been no formal faculty discussion of the EPC report and the SGA petition and in order for such a discussion to take place, College bureaucracy demands that there first be a faculty proposal presented to the FSCC. This ultimately means that the future of an Arabic/Middle East Studies program depends on whether a group of faculty will dedicate themselves to advocating for it. However, many members of the faculty did not even know about the heavy student demand for such a program because they have never received a copy of the EPC report. It is the responsibility of the Dean of the Faculty, Roger Brooks, and of the FSCC to

bring this issue to the attention of the faculty at large.

When asked if he believed if the competitiveness of Conn students would be impaired vis-à-vis comparison with institutions who offer Arabic/Middle East studies, Dean Brooks replied: "at this time, about half of our peers offer programs in Arabic, most for two years of language. While we are in the process of considering these proposals, Connecticut College students who want immediate opportunities for Arabic studies will find a wide range of summer study options available through the US government."

As Professor of Religious Studies, Professor Uddin explains, "There is talk among the faculty, the president is aware of this, the faculty is aware of the need and the desire among students. They have heard the students, they know the students are interested in Arabic and now they have to find a way to incorporate. So there's a financial issue there..."

We spoke with Greg Waldron, Vice President for College Advancement, who informed us that since the issue is still "currently being discussed within the academic realm of the College" they have not been asked to actively start fundraising for this program.

But it seems that student patience is wearing thin. SGA President Nick Sullivan '08 reported that at the last SGA meeting, "a charge was drafted in response to the continued need students feel to address our lack of an Arabic Language Program and a Middle Eastern Studies Program. The charge has been approved unanimously by SGA."

Excerpts from the appeal include:

"As representatives of the student body, we unanimously feel that the administration has ignored our con-

cerns regarding the creation of an Arabic Language Program and a Middle Eastern Studies Department. Our institution has actually regressed from the point where we were last year. We had an intro-level Arabic Language Course, which is no longer being offered. Additionally, we had a very well written and researched report on the feasibility of such a program.

"Using the recommendations given from the EPC last year, we believe that grants could be obtained to fund this program, or that one or more of the five new faculty positions being proposed should be considered to start this program...A Middle East Program and Arabic Language Program would add an up and coming field to the school, create diversity within the faculty and students, and take pressure off of some of the other departments who have an influx in students, as well as giving smaller departments an opportunity to collaborate and learn about a different area of our world.

"For these reasons, the Student Government Association would like to charge the FSCC and the college administration to look into how to fund such a program using the EPC report as a guide, to report back to SGA and the students, and to implement a competitive program as soon as possible."

Now it's the faculty and administration's turn to discuss the issue among themselves while taking into account the urgency with which students desire such a program. Even if the administration eventually decides that such a program is not feasible for the College at this time, shared governance mandates that students be given a full explanation of the reasons behind such a decision and what other issues have taken precedence over the need for this program.

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## Persepolis Offers Everything You Want in Animated Movies

BY RACINE OXTOBY '11

staff writer

Living in the modern world of animation, with its dancing penguins, rats with culinary skills, and curmudgeonly ogres, it's refreshing to find a movie like *Persepolis*. Based on the graphic novel by Marjane Satrapi, who also wrote and co-directed the movie, *Persepolis* is beautiful, heartbreaking, hilarious, and nonetheless important all at once.

Told in black and white to mirror the style of the graphic novels, *Persepolis* tells the story of Marjane as a child growing up in Iran under the Shah's dictatorship. Her parents and grandmother are great influences in Marjane's young life, along with rebellious icons like Bruce Lee and the Bee Gees. After the Iran-Iraq War begins, her parents fear for Marjane's safety and send her to Vienna to go to school, where she becomes friends with nihilists and hippies, falls in and out of love, deals with discrimination against her Iranian background, and soon finds herself on the streets with a dangerous bout of bronchitis. She returns to Iran, but finds that her home isn't the only thing that has changed.

*Persepolis* is extraordinary in its ability to transport you into Marjane's life. You feel like you know this young woman's whole story, from her dilemmas with boys to dealing with the restrictions of the new regime. The narration is sharp and spunky, and the relationships she has with her family members are beautiful. A particularly vivid scene unfolds as Marjane's uncle, Anouche, is arrested and is allowed one visitor before his execution; he chooses Marjane, which has a profound effect on the young girl, instilling in her a responsibility to make something of this dangerous new world.

The movie deftly slides from real world atrocities to wild arrays of surrealism at the drop of a hat. A memorable moment involves Marjane, coming out of a depression, singing Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" as she turns her life around. What makes the scene even more hilarious than it probably already sounds is that Marjane is singing the song in English but with a thick French accent (the film is in French). Another funny moment involves Marjane being taught exactly what the Iranian revolution is all about (a good history lesson for those who missed it) through a shadow theater show. Other dreamlike images, from jasmine flowers raining upon Marjane's smiling face to riding a flying car with the boy of her dreams, stick with you long after the credits roll. These surreal moments work well as the story operates in a vein similar to films like *To Kill A Mockingbird*, where crimes of humanity are viewed from the innocent eyes of a child.

To no one's surprise, the movie has received a great amount of backlash from the Iranian government, but don't let that deter you from this perfect picture. If *Persepolis* doesn't win the Best Animated Picture Oscar, I will be thoroughly disappointed (I'm also disappointed that the movie's lovely score hasn't received any accolades, but I guess you can't have everything). The movie has everything you could ask for — history, love, death, innocence — without coming off as contrived or corny. No matter what you're looking for in a movie, *Persepolis* is a must see, probably my favorite film this season right after *No Country For Old Men*.



## There Will Be Oscars

BY JACOB TISHER '08

staff writer

I don't have any particular affinity for Daniel Day-Lewis. He is, to use a term I will never use again, 'too Hollywood:' a purposely-typecast art-house hack. His public persona is too similar to his screen persona, without a funny accent. He has taken part in historical adaptations that are guilty of the most regretful textual revisions known to screenwriting, such as: reciting the Lord's Prayer during the final gallows scene in *The Crucible*. I do believe in the human capacity for reinvention and am willing to give Day-Lewis my time and attention.

The reason that critics have gone over the moon and pledged their undying loyalty to his newest film, *There Will Be Blood*, is that it derives so much force from its unique pacing, whereas most films try to constantly push the pace of the narrative in order to keep the audience engaged. *There Will Be Blood* envisions the pacing as having a complex and intimate relationship with the narrative. It engages

the audience with its significance and not its showmanship. In contrast to the pacing, the plot derives its force from the single-mindedness and self-torment of Daniel Plainview. In an industry obsessed with the stark aesthetics of a scoreless film, that uses music as ironic place-fillers, it's invigorating to watch a film that embraces the effects of a well-crafted score. The film is punctuated by a distant, whining, yet loud cacophony, that brings the subtly changing landscape into sharp focus. The score explores a range of emotional tones without ever communicating joy or hope.

*There Will Be Blood* is loosely based on an Upton Sinclair novel, *Oil*. Daniel Plainview is 'oil man' just like George Bush is a 'regular guy.' The first ten minutes is entirely taken up with methodic and strenuous labor, setting a tone echoing the pace of inhumane capitalism. The pace is uninterrupted by a series of brutal industrial accidents. The introduction of Mr. Plainview, played by Daniel Day-Lewis, is of a man who embodies the American capacity for rein-

vention. He appears congruous with the impenetrably steady progress. In the blank and arid landscape of the film, the motive behind all action appears to be a need to make something out of nothing. What seems like an equally arid narrative begins to get under your skin while the subtleties of the work reverberate with everything we know of our national culture: the childish connection with religion, the false virtues of industry, the simultaneous glorification and marginalization of the common man, and the violent collision with an end to a story that seemed endless. We, as enlightened moviegoers, have come to mock and abhor this culture. But the film reinforces our understanding of a national culture and gives it a name and an untrustworthy face. The vestiges of our own nature are inherited from that face and it is truly shocking. Daniel's self-destruction through self-preservation is of contemporary significance and makes this work the first successful mainstream effort at a great American story in years.

## Taylor Katz Poet in Residence (J.A.)

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08

editor-in-chief

Taylor Katz, '08, read five original poems on February 8 in the Charles Chu Room. Katz was selected to participate in the Connecticut Poetry Circuit, a prestigious honor given to only five college students in the state of Connecticut. These students get to tour the state throughout the spring semester and give poetry readings at college campuses. On February 8, the Connecticut Poetry Circuit made a stop at Connecticut College.

Katz, an English major with a concentration in poetry, was nominated for the Connecticut Poetry Circuit by Professor Charles Hartman, Connecticut College's poet in residence.

With graduation looming, Katz has been seriously thinking about her future. She says, "It seems silly to forget something I've worked so hard on for three years," and with poetry, she hopes to one day teach at the college level.

Her love of poetry runs deep, but she approaches it

from a very academic perspective. "It's great. At school, poetry is something I can do and enjoy, but it's also my homework."

Katz's passion for words is immediately apparent in conversation. She says, "I am very much aware of the words around me." She is extremely interested in a word's etymology, which traces back to the 400 level Chaucer seminar she took with Professor Kenneth Bleeth, as an ambitious sophomore. The final essay required students to write 4000 words on the etymology of one Middle English word. She comments, "I learned another language for that class. I loved how hard I had to work at it."

Language and words are two things a poet must be keenly aware of. "Each word is so acutely chosen. Even in prose, you don't have to be so careful because you get more words," Katz says.

As any true writer, Katz seeks great enjoyment in speaking about her influences. She writes about the people and friendships she has fostered over the years. Her artistic influences range from Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Emily Dickinson, William Matthews, and Frank O'Hara.

Despite all the positive recognition, Katz remains humble. When asked to describe her poetry with three adjectives, she pauses, and then says, "Mediocre, attentive...and sly."





## Restaurants

### The Broken Yolk Café

BY BEN EAGLE '09

sports editor

Last week I wrote about the ability of a fine restaurant to transport you somewhere else. This week, however, I want to do the exact opposite. We, as Connecticut College students, already risk losing a sense of where we are. The pristine, picturesque campus in which we reside is not indicative of our surroundings. New London is a blue-collar town that has seen better days. But, as with any place, it still has character. You just need to find it.

One place that seems to understand New London quite well is the Broken Yolk Café.

At first glance, it seems you can tell everything about the Broken Yolk from looking at it. The exterior is humble: an understated sign and a small egg with a brown yolk are the only things identifying the diner. However, the place is impossible to miss. It is right next to a liquor store, and if you go past

the Broken Yolk you won't get lost, you'll end up in the Long Island Sound.

The interior also tells you, "We have nothing to hide." In the heart of the diner, free of screens or dividers, is the kitchen. While it is not a revolutionary concept, it is certainly refreshing. Seated either at the bar that surrounds the kitchen, or at the four booths that line the northern wall, you can watch your order evolve from transcription on a pad to glorious food on a plate. It's like a meal and a show for the price of one.

Looks can be deceiving though. And in as many ways as the Broken Yoke acts as a typical New London diner, it also does not. Mostly where it matters: the food. The chef, a former head chef at the Coast Guard Academy and executive chef at Pfizer, brilliantly revamps diner fodder while remaining true to it's soul.

Where to start? On my last trip there, I indulged myself with the three-egg omelet, which comes with three ingredi-

ents of your choice, potatoes, and toast. The options alone are enough to get excited about. Their vegetable options include the normal: mushrooms, spinach, tomatoes, onions, peppers. The options also include the deliciously abnormal: asparagus, capers, scallions.

No omelet is complete without cheese, and the Broken Yolk, again, does not disappoint. Their menu gives you the option of: American, feta, cheddar, provolone, Swiss, Gorgonzola, Gouda, mozzarella.

Their meats are also a mixture of the high and low cuisine. Their list includes: ham, bacon, sausage (of the normal and soy variety), kielbasa, and salmon. Feeling bland the day I went to the Broken Yolk, I thought I was playing it safe with an omelet of ham, Gorgonzola, and spinach.

How wrong I was. After I placed my order, I intensely watched my order turn from free-floating matrix to omelet. The chef gathered my spinach, my Gorgonzola, and then went for my ham. I am not sure what

I expected, but I was shocked when she pulled a rump of ham from the reach-in and started hacking away. You're not supposed to use that type of ham in an omelet, especially if no one expects it of you.

But that is what the Broken Yolk is all about, at least for me: defying expectations. When my omelet finally freed itself of the griddle and found its way to the plate, it was a masterpiece. A huge, moist envelope of eggs surrounding my perfectly cooked spinach, melted Gorgonzola, and thick, smoky ham. Also on the plate, were perfectly seasoned potatoes, and two thick slices of whole-wheat bread. The meal was the only thing I ate all day, and it filled me up without the usual heaviness that diner food gives you.

For breakfast, the Broken Yolk also has many other options. Shirred Eggs baked with tomato, scallions, and cheddar cheese lead the list. There is also Eggs in a Window, done beautifully inside French toast; Huevos Rancheros with

beans, salsa, and sour cream over the traditional and tasty arepas; Stuffed Croissant with two scrambled eggs, tomatoes, scallions, cream cheese, and, if you want, smoked salmon.

The lunch menu is also extensive and delicious. Whether you want burgers (vegetable or their distinctive half-pound bountiful burger) or paninis (highlighted by the vegetable panini with grilled yellow and green squash, onions, lettuce, and tomato) the Broken Yolk is always a good choice.

Few places can balance being two things so well. For the Broken Yolk, it seems effortless. Their friendly staff loves to cook, and it just so happens they do it down home style-free of pretension and pomp. And, isn't that the best way to do it after all?



Dinner for two: \$18  
Includes: Two omelets, and two coffees.

## Iron Harris

### Recipes for Conn Dining

BY HEATHER PETRUCCI '10

staff writer

I think I'll just come right out and say it: I'm no culinary genius. In fact, before recently, a gourmet meal from my hands comprised slicing strawberries into a bowl of Cheerios. Still, a girl can only take so many beatings to the palate when the parents aren't around to whip up something fantastic before throwing down her tray and taking matters into her own hands.

I imagine it's pretty safe to say we've all, at one time or another, made that fruitless expedition through Harris, frantically weaving through people, eyes glistening with the hope of finding something delicious, only to find that hope crushed under the weight of that suspiciously familiar-looking mystery meat. That's not to say there's anything wrong with the dining halls here. After all, who doesn't have an inordinate amount of love for stir-fry night or the froyo machine? I guess it's just that, after a year and a half of mindlessly slopping onto my plate whatever's there out of sheer laziness, I desire something more (without having to drop serious cash in downtown New Lo, of course), and I don't think I'm alone.

Therefore, rather than whining, why don't we try using the great resources we have to make our meals even more enjoyable? Yes, I know you want to get your food as quickly as possible to start discussing the latest Conn Coll Confessional, which is perfectly fine, but why not throw your taste buds a bone once in a while? Really, all it takes to spice things up is a little effort—a look at the menu ahead of time (check out <http://aspen.conncoll.edu/camelweb/menu/harris/>), a quick stroll around the dining hall, and a bit of imagination.

Now, unless you've been living under a rock, you probably know the classic dining hall concoctions that make us all feel like we're superstar chefs: the bowl of Rice Krispies treats, the milkshake, the quesadilla and the ever-epic pizza bagel. Still, there are so many more ways to get creative while still keeping things simple. For instance, why not try grilling your PB&J, or sticking mandarin oranges, raisins and walnuts, or guacamole in your salad? Practically anything savory can taste good dipped in hummus or salsa, and you can always find ways to go crazy with the condiments (think peanut butter or hot sauce...or both).

Still not fancy enough? No worries; I'm here to help. How does a Tropical Chicken Wrap or Pasta Primavera Alfredo followed by Cocobanana Ice Cream or a Cheesecake Sundae sound? Oh, I can almost *taste* your excitement.

All right, that was corny. To make up for it, here's something simple to hold you over until next week.

#### Snack Wrap Remix

##### Ingredients:

chicken patty  
wrap of your choice  
lettuce  
light ranch or honey mustard salad dressing

##### Directions:

Start by cutting the chicken patty into thin strips, and place those in the center of your wrap, toward the bottom, on top of some lettuce (use romaine leaves from the sandwich station if you want to get fancy). I personally like to throw on some olives and sprouts here, but it's not for everyone.

Next, just pour a little ranch or honey mustard over the chicken, adding some extra honey from the beverage area for a sweeter dressing, wrap, and enjoy. Totally wrapping-inept?

Try <http://billgrady.com/wp/2002/11/14/how-to-wrap-a-burrito/> and you'll think you just shelled out \$1.29 for the real thing.

And now, I say unto you in the words of that creepy chairman: Allez Cuisine!



## Coach's Corner: Swimming and Diving Team's Marc Benvenuti

BY ABIGAIL MAYER '10

staff writer

In his sixth season at Connecticut College, swim and diving coach Marc Benvenuti inspires his team and continues to improve the program through hard work.

The Waterford, Connecticut native's decision to coach derived from his experience at Tufts University. As a double major in biology and environmental science, Benvenuti swam for four years under his former coach. It was this man, whose career had flourished for thirty-three years, who drew Benvenuti to Tufts and ultimately encouraged his career choice.

"The biggest thing with my coach was not how hard he made us train, but how he treated everyone on the team," notes Benvenuti. "I had an experience there that I wanted to share."

Conn's program has no doubt progressed since Benvenuti's arrival. The team's ultimate success, however, lies in the NESCAC meets. Assistant Coach Will Wakefield joins the team this season and he contributes greatly to the team's dry-land training twice a week. Benvenuti says, "Will has helped translate our training in to fast swimming, without a doubt." With support from the administration and the athletic department, Benvenuti puts all of his energy into making this team a competitive force in the NESCAC.

As a former assistant coach at Princeton University, Benvenuti was familiar with Connecticut College from living in the area. He was interested in coming back home, but he was primarily drawn to the College because of the major building-process needed for the swim/dive program. Benvenuti recalls wondering, "[a] great school, a great facility, great athletes[...] Why hasn't something great happened to this swim team yet?"



Connecticut College's diving team (Temkin '10)

This initial curiosity led him to his position as Head Coach and ultimately won him great respect from his swimmers. "Since Coach swam the same events as me at Tufts, I have had a unique opportunity to learn from an All-American for four years," men's captain Kyle Barto '08 explains. "This advantage has gotten me where I am today in my swimming career."

Benvenuti attributes much of the team's success to the senior swimmers' mindfulness of the legacy they are leaving behind. It is an admiration for Benvenuti's commitment, however, which resonates in the words of students. Women's captain Katelyn Brochu '08 notes that "[h]e expects the very best from all of his swimmers, both in and out of the pool, and we know that in return he is giving each one of us his all. The time and effort Coach puts into the team is truly admirable. He pushes you to work your hardest, swim

your fastest, and to work together as a team to achieve greatness."

In the end, the Coach's love of the sport enables him to galvanize athletes to succeed during both practice and meets. Men's captain Alex Wood '08 captures this sentiment by remarking that "Coach Benvenuti's commitment to the team is what inspires the swimmers and divers...He loves the sport, which allows all of the swimmers to get excited, as well."

When asked what he would be doing if he had not chosen to coach, Benvenuti replied, "I only want to coach. I never thought about not coaching." With this dedication, there is no doubt that the Camels feel lucky to have him.

## Men's Basketball is Still Rolling after Setting Records

BY MATT FAVA '09

staff writer

Men's basketball had another impressive week and continues to make noise in NESCAC play. Sitting at 14-3, the team prepared to travel to Tufts and Bates over the weekend and return home to face Mitchell on Tuesday. The Camels knew that these games could greatly elevate their position in the standings as the regular starts to wind down.

The trip to Medford, MA—the land of the Jumbos—started with quite a bang, as they jumped out to an early 10-0 lead. In the first half, the Camels expended their lead to 15 at times with a well-balanced scoring attack and a strong defensive effort. But Tufts closed the gap by the end of the half and kept it competitive throughout the second stanza. The Camels relied on powerful performances from Charles Stone '08, Shavar Bernier '10, and Jeff Young '08, who tallied 22, 21, and 17 points respectively. Earning a key win on the road, Conn improved to 15-3 and ventured to Lewiston, ME to face Bates the next day.

The two squads battled this game out from beginning to end. Holding on to a three-point-lead at half,

the Camels knew that they were going to have to play their best half of the season to hold on against this talented Bates squad. Although Conn trailed by eight with just 1:30 left in the game, the team battled back to a one-possession game with 21 seconds remaining. In the end, the Bobcats hit their free throws, and the Camels fell 67-73 for their fourth loss of the season.

There was no time for remorse, however, as they had to come home and battle their cross-town rivals in Mitchell College. From the opening tip, Christian Mosley '08 made it clear he was not going to be distracted by the hecklers in the stands, as he connected on his first two three-point attempts on the first two Camel possessions—giving his team an early 6-0 advantage. This trend continued, and quickly became the story of the game as Mosley finished the half 7-for-8 from three-point and accounted for 25 of the Camels' 39 points.

In just 20 minutes of play, Mosley had broken his career scoring high (previously 24 points) for an entire game and was just one three pointer away from the Conn record. Although he remained quiet for most of the second stanza—Mitchell made a point to blanket him on defense—Mosley made history with 7:20 left in the game. Getting the assist from his buddy and fel-

*With his eighth three-pointer, Mosley set the school record for most threes in a single game.*

low tri-captain Stone, Mosley hit his eighth three-pointer of the game and tied the school record for the most threes in a single game. Along with this accomplishment, Mosley set a new career high of 30 points and led the team to their 16th victory of the season.

With this 82-61 finish, the Camels have tied their highest win total since the 2001-2002 season, and have four more regular season games to surpass that mark. It all starts Friday, February 8, as they face the NCAA #1 and defending DIII National Champion Amherst Lord Jeffs. They will play Trinity the next day, and this contest will have significant post-season implications as well. It certainly should be an exciting weekend as the Camels search for wins 17 and 18.



# Player of the Week: Basketball Captain Katherine Serafin '08

BY STEVE BLOOM '10

staff writer

Katherine Serafin, 2008, from Yorktown Heights, New York has been named Player of the Week. Katherine is the leading scorer on the Connecticut College Women's Basketball Team. Steve Bloom attempts to find out what drives her greatness.

**Steve Bloom:** What was it like playing basketball in your hometown of Carmel growing up? Do a lot of kids play?

**Katherine Serafin:** I actually grew up in a town about twenty minutes from Carmel called Yorktown Heights. I grew up playing many sports, but basketball was always my family's favorite and my dad taught my twin sister and me to play. We started playing in a Recreational League Yorktown had for girls in 3rd grade.

**SB:** You recently scored your 1,200th point. What does this milestone mean to you?

**KS:** It's really an honor to have scored so many points. I never imagined I would be so high on the school's all time scorers list. In high school I never scored 1,000 points so it makes it that much more special.

**SB:** When you look back years from now, what will you remember most about your four years playing basketball here at Conn?

**KS:** Definitely my teammates. Not only are they my best friends, but they also make tough games and practices bearable. We've had a lot of fun times together whether it's just hanging out here at Conn or on team trips, like when we went to Florida.

**SB:** Tell me about "Think Pink" night. What inspired the idea?

**KS:** Think Pink was



Serafin finds time to smile for the camera. (Schuerhoff '10)

actually started last year (2007) by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) as a national initiative to raise breast cancer on campuses. Over 800 Division I, II, and III schools participated in it this year. Credit should actually go to Will Tomasian who actually found out about it. We were more than excited to participate.

**SB:** Obviously you are a very talented basketball player and very athletic. Do you play other sports as well? If not, what sport would you want to be great at if you could?

**KS:** I played almost every sport growing up, but settled on volleyball, basketball and soccer in high school. I'd love to play another sport here at Conn, but in the fall, I never wanted to risk injury. The winter's such a long season so afterwards, in the spring, it's always nice to have a break. I've played Club Soccer here on and off and generally I like playing pick up games of just about anything.

**SB:** What is your

## SEE CAPTAIN

major and do you have plans for after you graduate? Are you going to continue playing basketball in any form?

**KS:** I'm an Environmental Studies major here at Connecticut College. After I graduate I plan on taking a rest from basketball from a while and getting a job for a year before going back to graduate school for a degree in Oceanography. I would love to coach basketball at some point later in my life though.

**SB:** Who has influenced you most in your playing career?

**KS:** I would have to say my father and my brother. My father was the one who instilled the love of basketball in me when he taught my sister and me to play at an early age. He also helped us develop as players by coaching us in Rec, Travel and AAU teams up until high school. I chose Conn because it was close enough for my parents to come and watch me play, because that's always been important to me. My brother, who played basketball at NYU, was also a huge role model for

continued on page ten

# NESCAC Scoreboard

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY

	NESCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Middlebury	10	0	2	15	1	2
Amherst	9	0	3	13	3	3
Trinity	6	2	2	13	3	2
CONN	4	3	3	6	8	4
Colby	4	4	3	9	7	3
Hamilton	2	5	3	4	10	3
Bowdoin	2	6	3	5	8	3
Williams	1	10	1	1	15	2
Wesleyan	1	9	0	5	11	0

## MEN'S SWIMMING

Sa 1/26 at Wesleyan  
W 174-118  
vs. Colby-Sawyer  
W 217-58  
Sa 2/02 vs. Coast Guard  
W 176-112

## MEN'S HOCKEY

	NESCAC			OVERALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Middlebury	9	2	2	13	3	2
Colby	9	3	1	10	6	1
Amherst	8	3	2	10	5	3
Bowdoin	9	4	0	13	4	0
Wesleyan	5	5	3	7	7	3
Trinity	5	6	2	9	7	2
Williams	4	6	3	6	9	3
CONN	4	7	2	4	11	3
Tufts	4	8	1	6	11	1
Hamilton	2	10	1	3	14	1

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Sa 1/26 at Wesleyan  
W 165-134  
vs. Colby-Sawyer  
W 259-31  
Sa 2/02 vs. Coast Guard  
W 176-112

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Bowdoin	5	1	16	5
Tufts	4	1	18	1
Wesleyan	4	1	14	6
Williams	4	1	15	5
Amherst	4	2	19	2
Bates	2	3	12	8
Middlebury	2	3	11	9
Colby	2	4	7	12
CONN	0	5	10	10
Trinity	0	6	9	10

## MEN'S SQUASH

M 1/21 v. Northwestern  
W 8-1  
vs. St. Lawrence  
L 9-0  
vs. Stanford  
L 6-3  
vs. Middlebury  
L 7-2

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Amherst	6	0	19	2
Bowdoin	4	2	17	4
Trinity	4	2	16	5
Bates	3	2	14	5
CONN	3	2	16	4
Middlebury	3	2	15	5
Williams	2	3	15	5
Wesleyan	1	4	8	12
Colby	1	5	11	10
Tufts	0	5	10	10

## WOMEN'S SQUASH

M 1/21 vs. Bowdoin  
L 9-0  
vs. Franklin & Marshall  
W 8-1  
vs. St. Lawrence  
L 6-3  
vs. Middlebury  
L 6-3



## CAPTAIN

*continued from page nine*

me. His work ethic taught me it was possible to play basketball in college if I really wanted to and worked hard enough for it.

**Correction:**

In Issue 13's sports teaser, the Player of the Week said "Abigail Van Slyke." The corrected Player of the Week is Kristin Van Slyke.

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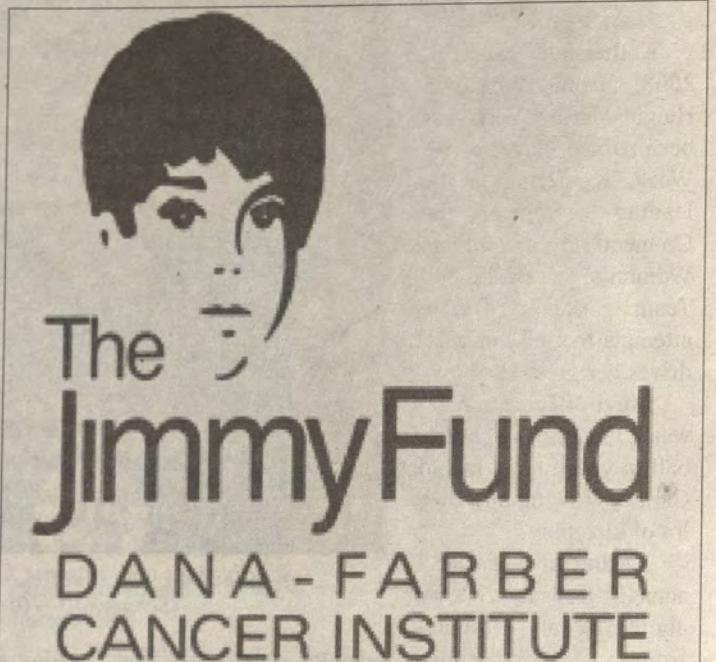
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There will be a 30 day fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund and the competition between the NESCAC schools is underway.

Let's make sure Connecticut College raises the most money! Look for tables outside of Harris to donate.

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## SOURCES

**Pressing Issues**

"Raising Dollars Overseas". By Leslie Wayne. Published, February 6, 2008 on [NYTimes.com](http://NYTimes.com)  
"Angry EU officials attack Serb's blocking of pact with Brussels". By Dan Bilefsky and Stephen Castle. Published, February 6, 2008 in the International Herald Tribune  
"U.S. Says It Accidentally Killed 9 Iraqi Civilians". By Solomon Moore and Qais Mizher. Published, February 4, 2008 on [NYTimes.com](http://NYTimes.com)  
[BBC.com](http://BBC.com)

**Why the Best Team Doesn't Always Win**

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**The Science of the Kiss**

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**The Whole World in Our Hands**

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# Why the Best Teams Don't Always Win

BY JASON STARR '09

sports editor



After the Patriots upset the Steelers in the 2002 AFC Championship Game, Pittsburgh's quarterback, Kordell "Slash" Stewart, responded

condescendingly to the loss by saying that "... the best team doesn't always win sometimes." Kordell disappeared from the NFL in 2005 after playing one more season with Pittsburgh, another in Chicago, and two more with Baltimore, while the Patriots would appear in four of the next seven Super Bowls.

I don't want to pull a Kordell when discussing the Super Bowl because he intended to discredit the Patriots with his remark. The Giants were the better team last Sunday and had an incredible post-season. Against the Patriots, the G-men had an excellent defensive game plan and put together a key drive to win the game. If tweaked properly, however, Kordell's comment raises a valid point about the nature of the NFL playoffs.

In the three other major team sports, the best teams during the regular season usually do win their respective championships. In baseball, a team must win a best-of-five series and two best-of-seven

series to become the World Series Champion. The playoffs in the NBA and the NHL consist of four rounds of best-of-seven. Only the NFL has a single game elimination playoff system.

Losing one postseason game in the MLB, NBA, or the NHL will not end your season, therefore it is not surprising that teams that perform exceptionally well during the regular season ('07 Red Sox, '05 White Sox, '95-96 Bulls) continue to excel in the playoffs. Major upsets do occur (Golden State over Dallas in '07 and the Marlins over the Yankees in '03), but the best teams generally prevail in a playoff series.

Since the NFL playoffs are single elimination, the teams with the best records do not always win the Super Bowl, and regular season success does not necessarily translate into a championship. It just takes one big play or turnover to change the course of a game which explains why the '96 Broncos, '05 Colts, and, yes, the '07 Patriots were not Super Bowl champions. These teams may have been better than their opponents, but one mistake in the postseason can cost you everything.

I did not watch any of the post-game coverage, so I don't know exactly what the big shots on the Giants like Plaxico Burress and Antonio Pierce said when they held the Lombardi trophy, but I imagine it was along the lines of "we were disrespected... everyone thought the

Patriots were great... no one believed we could do it." I also expect that Giants fans feels extremely vindicated because most analysts said the G-men had no chance.

It is wrong to criticize anyone who picked against the Giants because the outcome of the Super Bowl was decided by one play: Eli Manning's 32 yard pass to David Tyree. After Eli escaped from Adalius Thomas' grasp and Tyree miraculously caught the ball by trapping it up against his helmet, I knew that the Giants were going to win.

Up until this play, Pats fan should have been feeling confident: the Pats drove 80 yards to take the lead, pinned the Giants inside their 20 with just 2:42 left, and forced Eli to beat them through the air on 3rd and 5. If Eli gets sacked or if Tyree does not make the play, the game is probably over. If Rodney Harrison intercepts the ball, the game is definitely over.

Somehow Eli does not get sacked and Tyree makes the miraculous catch with his helmet. If an improbable play like that is going to happen, the opposing team has no chance of winning. It doesn't matter if your record is 18-0, or if your quarterback is Tom Brady.

The Giants' defense was extraordinary and Belichick should not have waited until the fourth quarter to call all of those short passes, but the game came down to this play. While the Pats' four point lead didn't seem like much, it

would have been enough. I'm disappointed that the Pats didn't win, but I take some comfort in the fact that only a miracle play could defeat them.

The G-men are the '07 Super Bowl champions, but it would be a stretch to call them the best team of '07. Eli and Tyree were hardly spectacular during the regular season: Eli led the league in inter-



(Web)

ceptions with 20, and Tyree only had four receptions for 35 yards and no touchdowns. Kordell makes a good point: The best team does not always win, but being a Super Bowl champion is more important than being the best.

## The Long Knight

BY BEN EAGLE '09

sports editor



On the Monday after the Super Bowl, when all anyone wanted to think about was perfection (or perhaps lack thereof) one man, who had already achieved perfection decided to call it quits. Bobby Knight, the legendary college basketball coach—the last coach to lead a college team to a perfect season—submitted his letter of immediate resignation to Texas Tech.

No matter what your personal feelings about Robert Knight might be, you cannot deny that he is one of the best college basketball coaches of all time. Knight got his start at Army where he led a relatively untalented team to 102 wins in six years. With his coaching star shining brightly, Knight garnered the attention of Indiana when the team was looking for a new coach in 1971.

At Indiana, Knight finally had the athletic talent to match his coaching aptitude. Using a motion offense that emphasizes off-ball movement and unselfish play, Knight led the Hoosiers to two national championships, a NIT championship, and one undefeated season.

Accolades and records, however, are not the first thing that comes to mind when talking about Coach Knight. In 1985, during a game against Purdue, Knight disagreed with one of the referee's calls. Like most coaches, Knight felt the referees were not being judicious with their calls. Unlike most coaches, Knight responded by throwing a chair across the court.

These controversies followed Knight throughout his career and shaped many people's opinions of him. But was Knight really that bad?

The current landscape of college coaching is rife with scumbags and two-faced liars. Just two years ago Bobby Petrino signed a 10-year, \$25.5 million contract with Louisville that supposedly would end the annual lure of the NFL for Petrino. After a



(Web)

highly successful 12-1 season, he left Louisville and became the head coach of the Atlanta Falcons in 2007. As if this didn't expose Petrino's selfish nature, he abandoned the struggling Falcons and resigned after 13 games.

Football isn't the only college sport that is struggling with a morality battle. Basketball has its own cast of sinners. These transgressions range from Billy Donovan and his flirtations with the NBA to Michigan paying their players. It is difficult to find an honest coach nowadays.

And this is what makes Knight all the more refreshing. No one needs to ask him to be more honest; his interview history is marked by moments when he should have shut his mouth. Down to his final speech at Indiana, where he told a crowd of rabid Indiana fans that he wants to be buried upside down so that his critics can kiss his ass, if anything, Bobby Knight was honest to a fault.



## More Blood For Oil

By Ian Barnes '09



Exxon Mobil recently set a record for the largest quarterly profit ever produced by a U.S. company, with fourth quarter earnings coming in at \$11.66 billion. For the entire year, Exxon averaged \$1,300 of profit every second.

The logic regarding supply and demand seems fairly straight-forward. When the supply of oil is low, as it supposedly is now, and demand is high, oil companies increase prices of gasoline to offset the increased cost of acquiring and refining crude oil.

Am I ignoring some important nuances of the oil industry? Undoubtedly. Do I care? No. Those are

things for economists to *revel* in. I'm a philosopher, damn it. I don't deal with facts; I deal in frivolity.

I'm just not sure how much sense it makes for gas prices to increase and oil companies to claim that new sources of oil are increasingly difficult to locate and acquire while simultaneously posting all-time profit records. One of these things does not fit with the others. I'm beginning to get the feeling we're being sodomized and we don't even know it.

The automobile industry is constantly pushing hybrid cars and fuel-cell technology to combat the economic juggernaut that is the oil industry, but it's not enough. Adapting our current way of life slightly will not work, people are stubborn - no one wants a Ferrari that runs on an electric motor. It'd be more fun to cram your hand into a sliding door.

We need new and exciting ways to beat the oil industry. Hybrid cars don't exactly strike fear into the heart of oil executives. We need new and revolutionary solutions.

First of all, combustion engines need to be done away with completely, as do hybrids and fuel-cell cars. Secondly, research and development needs to begin immediately on a new method of powering our cars and cities.

Specifically, we need to develop a way to convert the spilled blood of slain oil executives into sweet, consumable energy. I'm not sure what sort of technology would be involved with this, but clearly we need some new invention; just pouring the blood directly into the gas tank and expecting results would be crazy.

You might think this a little unortho-

dox, or perhaps even cruel, but I would halt you at that thought. It's not. Going after their first-born when we've extinguished the supply of executives would be cruel. I'm not suggesting that - this isn't the Bible.

If new sources of oil are hard to acquire, we should have less oil. But no one is going to gas stations and being turned away. Yet prices continue to climb while someone is lining their pockets and it's not us. Cue pitchforks and bloodlust.

Above all, one thing is certain: we need to reduce our dependency on oil and increase our dependency on CEO blood. Therefore, next time you see an oil company executive, do your part to save the environment - gut them like a fish.

## The Science of the Kiss

By Andrew Margenot '10



You may or may not have heard about a species of ape that, for one reason or another engages in a puzzling form of behavior that scientists are just beginning to understand. It involves placing the orbicularis oris (look it up) onto the orbicularis oris of another primate. The act often includes fluid exchange and may transmit viral infections. Who and what is going on? Nope, it's not a chimpanzee bestiality flick. It's us—*Homo sapiens*—and that thing we do with our lips that, back in the days of third grade, seemed so repulsive: kissing.

Little kids have an instinctively knack for perceiving certain things: that Daddy doesn't love them or that Bobby ate peanut butter *and* marshmallow fluff for lunch. They may be also right about kissing. Why do it? I hope that as a rational individual you, dear reader, at least consider the reasons for doing something. So tell me, why do you kiss? Give me a rational explanation (hint: scientific) and not a mushy, lovey-dovey crap one.

Ok, one line space should have given you ample time to think. So, what's the reason we humans kiss each other? There are two schools of thought on tonsil hockey, one arguing that it is learned and thus a cultural notion, and the other claiming that it is simply instinct. One problem with the instinctive theory is that not all humans kiss. I'm not just talking about the poor souls who at age forty live in their parents' basement playing WoW all day (and night). There are entire cultures that simply don't kiss—only 90 percent of all humans kiss. The other 10 percent, cultural kissers

argue, have not developed the act. But, the instinctive kissers reply, it is the *lack* of smooching in a culture that is, well, cultural. In other words, the fact that some cultures don't swap spit is a learned behavior.

The instinctive theory holds that a kiss is literally a chemical test. While it is debated whether humans respond to the chemical mating signals known as pheromones, the most plausible theory on wetting lips is that it allows two humans to check each other out—in a chemical way. Pheromones, which are odorless, are Nature's way of match making. If a potential mate's pheromones match the pheromone receptors in your nose, bingo. If you peruse the ads in the back of military history magazines, you'll find a slew of "Pheromone-in-a-Bottle" advertisements for old men (who else reads *WWII?*), right next to the ad for Viagra or its cheap knock-offs.

How does grandpa relate to kissing as an instinctive behavior? Besides playing a central role in the love lives of elderly men, pheromones are also thought to be highly detectable in the act of kissing. It's all about the noses. When else do you have your nose buried next to your mate's own nose (please don't answer)? By placing pheromone receptors in close proximity to another set of pheromones receptors, an equal opportunity for pheromone exchange is thought to occur. By this theory, the right way to introduce yourself to potential partners would be with a kiss, not a stale "How are you?"

Whether it is cultural or instinctive, scientists agree that the smooch began as a form of regurgitation. It is thought that our early ancestors fed their toothless young by chewing up food and passing it to their infants' mouths. What, then, of cheek kissing? Again,

scientists think that mothers would continue to press their lips on the faces of their children after they had toothed as a means of comforting them. If so, then all forms of kissing have their origins in maternal behavior. Someone call Freud.

Of course, there are other theories that litter *teh Interwebz* (it's serious business, folks) on why our species of monkeys kiss. I took a stroll on a few seedy websites to see what popular 'science' thinks. Amidst the purple hearts and unnecessarily erotic phrases of Live2Love.com, ("You feel the firm touch of your girlfriend's full, soft lips pressed tightly upon your own. Maybe there's even a little tongue involved. You're feeling pretty good. And you want more.") I eventually dug up this plausibly scientific idea: Kissing triggers the same neurological pathways that release the "feel good" chemicals produced by physical activities of bungee jumping and distance running. The three main neurochemicals are thought to be norepinephrine, dopamine and phenylethylami. All three of these produce a feeling of elation and jubilation. The only problem with this is that running a marathon or jumping off a cliff (with something tied to you, hopefully) produces much larger amounts of these chemicals than a smooch. Then again, the website cited a professor from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; God—rather, Aphrodite— knows who the research subjects were.

The College Voice is looking for a female writer for its Opinion section.  
Want to be that voice?

Please contact Claire at [cdowd@conncoll.edu](mailto:cdowd@conncoll.edu)



# The Whole World In Our Hands

By Alex Krogh-Grabbe '08



It's important to look at problems as holistically as you can. Take the problem of creating mandatory international greenhouse gas regulations. The primary bastions of resistance to mandatory carbon caps (and, incidentally, also the two biggest greenhouse gas emitters), China and the United States, are in stalemate, neither desiring to commit to such restrictions until the other does.

As Professor Frasure pointed out in the Focus the Nation panel on January 31st, there are good reasons for both sides' resistance. Millions of people in China still live in abject poverty and their recent explosion of development, powered by large amounts of dirty coal, is expected to trickle higher living conditions down to much of the population. Calls from the West to constrict China's emissions seem as if we either don't care about or aren't considering their need to industrialize, or even worse, don't want them to industrialize at all.

On the side of our own country, it's not as simple as acting on a moral imperative, nor is it as simple as passing off the initiation of change to the market, while we wait until our political leaders feel like doing something. Yes, we have a moral imperative to do everything we can to address climate change. Yes, we also have a moral imperative to make sure that our economy does not suffer as a result. The situation isn't purely one way or the other.

There are a few important things to think about, however. First, prominent corporate consulting firms have concluded that the U.S. can make huge reductions in greenhouse gas emissions at small cost to the economy. Perhaps even more persuasive are studies indicating that the cost to the economy will only increase the longer we wait before imposing restrictions.

Frasure argued that these things may all be true, but the reality is that Congress will not vote to support any international agreement that does not include China. He knows what he's talking about; this is likely the case. But that's a problem that many refer to as lack of political will, and as Al Gore is so fond of saying, that is a renewable resource.

But getting politicians to act morally can be a difficult and grueling process, so what do we do while we're waiting for our efforts to convince them? Well, it's important that China subscribe to any climate agreement as well. But how can we help China continue its development while at the same time steering away from dirty fuel? Developing nations frequently argue that advocating for their use of renewable energy ignores the fact that all these technologies are patented in Europe and the US. So then, if we really want a global solution to this global problem, we have to ramp up our domestic pressure on political leaders and also push for some technology transfer program. Only by dispensing tunnel vision and seeing all facets of our problems can we come to a good solution.

## Middle East Studies: A Lack of Funding?

BY NOUR GODA '08

*contributing writer*

Last week's headlines were attention-grabbing for numerous reasons. My initial response was, this is a column not about 9/11, terrorism, or updates on international affairs in the Middle East, but about our college's potential attitude about the Middle East and its categories. The informative article written by and including reports from students as well as faculty who are raising the issue of a non-existent Middle Eastern or Arabic studies program at Conn is nudging.

In the early 2000s, the College was experiencing a serious budget crisis that forced the administration to trim academic areas. This included foreign language departments, and the attempt to establish an Arabic language studies program seemed risky. "It was an atmosphere of contraction, not of expansion," says Andrea Lanoux, professor of Slavic Studies. Lanoux joined the Connecticut College faculty in 1999 and has witnessed the prolonged process of establishing a Middle Eastern Studies or Arabic Studies department. "The mood, reality, and atmosphere was different then. We don't necessarily need to give up anything now in order to get Arabic. There are tons of grants for language study that the College could tap into."

It should be noted, however, that this is neither the first, nor the second attempt to develop a Middle Eastern and/or Arabic studies program at our institution.

In 2002, former Professor of Religious Studies and Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life, Patrice Brodeur, taught Islamic studies and served as director of the Pluralism Project at Connecticut College. Lanoux explained that Brodeur initially approached fellow faculty with the idea and due to the discouraging atmosphere that engulfed creative efforts, Brodeur himself became discouraged and the idea fell by the way side. The Arabic Report was submitted to the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee on May 22, 2002, and after six months of work done by fourteen members of the faculty and staff, the report too was pushed aside.

Lanoux also mentioned that one of the disadvantages now facing students who are trying to develop this area of study is that they do not have a faculty head assisting them in steering this proposal. "In the past, what usually happens is a faculty member proposes an idea and it's considered. That's what happened with Patrice Brodeur. Now, students are bringing up the idea on their own and it's something to think about." When it comes to the content of academics at a college, Lanoux explained "it is our job to provide a curriculum and one that will draw students." In addition, the process of developing areas of study is a task featuring two bodies of power: faculty and the Dean of the Faculty, as each possess, as part of their duties, the authority to make decisions that lead up to establishments of areas of study.

The reason behind hesitation to develop this particular area of study had much to do with the lack of fund-

ing. Yet, the College is no doubt rapidly redeeming itself from the early 2000 slump. President of the College, Lee Higdon, and Dean of the College Community, Armando Bengochea, have been working momentarily on strategic ways of developing the College's endowment and to make it an up-and-coming living and learning environment. There is brainstorming about an international commons being developed on campus and additional centers that cater to this idea of living and learning. So, does it seem like the timing is just right to finally establish a department on Middle Eastern Studies?

If providing Middle Eastern studies courses and Arabic at Connecticut College caused hesitation in the time immediately preceding September 11th, our current situation in 2008 seems to be suggesting a different sort of action. The lack of knowledge about the Middle East and knowledge of the Arabic language is striking considering the United States' current political realities and the force with which students across the nation are applying on their home academic institutions to provide such courses. Issues relating to the Middle East encompass newspapers daily, and yet our liberal arts institution that is trying to compete with other colleges in the northeast does not have a Middle Eastern or Arabic studies program. The matter is far beyond being counter-intuitive. The question our College is being asked right now, as Lanoux raised is, What will it cost not to have these programs?

**Children's author Faith Ringgold will be speaking at Connecticut College on Wednesday, February 13th, in Palmer Auditorium at 4:30 p.m.**

She will be giving a multimedia community presentation entitled "Faith Ringgold: More Than Fifty Years." This event is sponsored by Connecticut College's Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, the Black History Month Committee, and co-sponsored by the Kente Cultural Center.

*The event is free and open to the public.*



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

### Part III of III

BY BEN FISHER '08

staff writer

In theater, and indeed in every art form, the young generation of writers, like the generation before them, often seek to distinguish themselves by behaving differently from their predecessors. Rejecting convention, they construct plays that experiment not only with the style of writing, but preconceived notions about what defines theatricality and the relationship between the audience and the material. The two productions I have reviewed earlier in this series, *The Homecoming* and *August: Osage County*, are these sorts of plays. Pinter rejected the association between language and meaning to unlock the power of silence and explore the frontier of the Theater of the Absurd. Letts' play, while strongly routed in the sensibilities of classic American dramas like *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, puts a 21st century spin on things by placing the kitchen sink drama on an epic scale. I enjoy the avant-garde, and am thrilled by productions that challenge the audience and challenge the way we think about the medium.

With this focus on the new, however, we sometimes put ourselves at risk to forget the old. Very rarely will a new playwright look back on the legacy of dramatic writing and construct a piece using the rules of a

style that is no longer experimental. If and when such a play is written well, watching it is like rediscovering a beautiful relic. It's simplicity reminds us that good theater does not need any frills – that strong writing, strong direction, and strong acting are more engaging than a new style. *The Seafarer*, the latest play written and directed by Conor McPherson, a playwright whose work, until very recently would have been considered experimental, is such a play. It is pure, simple, and elegant. It is also the best thing I have ever seen on Broadway. Period. Go and see it now. Hurry. It closes March 30th.

There is nothing "new" about *The Seafarer*. Sure, it's set in the present day, but a few minor changes in the text could place it at any time. Conor McPherson describes it as his attempt at a "well-made play" – a term that has, sadly, taken on a negative connotation. Well-made plays are stories with simple, tight plots, clear climaxes, easily identifiable protagonists, and rooted in realism. *The Seafarer* takes some liberties in that last regard, but its supernatural element – the presence of the devil – is a story that has been used over and over. What makes *The Seafarer* so great is that it does so much with so little, that so much emotion is packed into such a small length of time. At no point does the audience's attention lag. You

enjoy every moment while simultaneously hanging on every word.

The play is set on Christmas Eve day in Dublin. The protagonist, Sharky (David Morse), a recovering alcoholic, has returned home to care for his blind brother, Richard (Jim Norton). It is clear from Morse's weary expression and slow, deliberate movements that Sharky would rather spend the holiday quietly, but Richard has other ideas – extensive drinking with his buddy Ivan (Conleth Hill), some bar hopping, and a late poker game. When its time to play cards, two more men arrive – Nicky (Sean Mahon), who is now dating Sharky's ex-wife, and the sinister Mr. Lockhart (Ciarán Hinds). I'm not spoiling much when I tell you that Mr. Lockhart isn't just some random guy, and that what's at stake for Sharky isn't just a few euros. McPherson says he took the idea of a card game with the devil from Irish legend, but watching the play it doesn't seem legendary. It seems immediate and terrifying.

The acting is superb all the way around. Morse's Sharky is tight lipped and aloof, but his pacing and physicality communicates incredible emotional turmoil. Norton is not only able to pull off the most convincing depiction of a blind person I have ever seen onstage, but balances the character's hysterical language with superb gentle-

ness. Hill similarly proves he is capable of handling uproarious comedy and communicating a full emotional range, especially in a monologue when an ashamed Ivan describes running into his wife and children drunk on Christmas. Mahon gives Nicky a nice depth behind his irritability, but the real one to watch is Hinds. Playing the devil is an impossible task, yet the actor manages to strike a sweet spot, maintaining an eerie composure while communicating a ravenous, sometimes even gleeful, demonic thirst. This double bind makes the struggle between Lockhart and Sharky dynamic. The advantage is constantly shifting, but the pressure remains.

What the actors do onstage, however, is really just bring out the beauty and sophistication of the writing. McPherson is one of those rare writers who can get away with being incredibly musical without having the language sound "theatric." Dialogue is simple, swift, and economic, but characters also long into elegant, extended arias of monologues without ever throwing the audience. These are the moments that are the most moving. I hope hell is not the way that Lockhart describes it, because if it is, it is more terrifying than anything I've seen other authors dream up. In addition to this musicality, McPherson is adept at juxtaposing comedy and tragedy together – in the true Irish fashion – so that the audience feels the full force of both. The blind character, Richard, is a very compelling dramatic device. While Lockhart and Sharky stare one another down, both aware of what is at stake, Richard, unable to see, babbles hysterically about his brother, about proper conduct, and, mostly, about how they should all get much, much drunker. Laughing uncontrollably while your stomach churns in fear is an unusual sensation, but a vastly pleasing one.



I walked out of *The Seafarer* more energized than I have ever felt leaving a theater. It gives me hope with the art form. This is a play that has done so much with such a basic structure, with no special effects, no fancy camera angles, no great mystery or plot twist. Gems like this come only once in a great while.

## Sexy, Soulful Songbird

BY GABRIELLA GEISINGER '11

staff writer

Tucked away on east 23rd street is the unassuming Blender Theatre at the Gramercy in New York City. The small venue practically began to burst at the seams when Dana Fuchs stepped on stage and threatened to bring the walls down with her soul-piercing powerful voice. Her presence, even silent, on stage is enough to make your jaw drop. She exudes the aura of a strong woman not to be reckoned with, who lived through much and came out on top. Being part of the audience gives you a minute to benefit from her wisdom and experience. And leaves you completely awe struck by her voice.

Dana Fuchs, originally from a small town in Florida, has been part of the NYC music scene for quite a while, and has also been involved in theater, starring in a play called *Love, Janis*. Her most recent 'big break' was being cast as Sadie in Julie Taymor's Beatles-based musical *Across the Universe*. The emotion and passion



in her performance in Taymor's film transcend the screen. When I stood outside in the cold waiting for the doors to open, a woman behind me asked if Dana Fuchs was similar to her character of Sadie – a volatile whirlwind of pain and love all combined into a human being. It seemed the answer would be yes.

I soon found out that whatever power Dana Fuchs wielded behind the camera as 'Sexy Sadie' was ten times stronger in person. She informed us that her set list that evening was built by requests via e-mail and MySpace. Fuchs' opening song, "Lonely for a Lifetime," set a bar that seemed almost impossible for her to top. And yet, with every note she managed to knock that bar higher and higher up. Each song she performed came with its own back story, but Fuchs invited us to seek our own meaning in her words. "Songbird

(Fly Me To Sleep)" is a perfect example of Fuchs' ability to take a personal experience and open it up for everyone to find themselves in. And we did, for when Fuchs' held the microphone out to the audience we chomped on and on: "Songbird, fly me to sleep," because somehow we each knew what that meant to us. The concert wound its way through melancholy to joy, with the fulfillment of my request, her classic southern-church-root song, "Bible Baby," whose bittersweet yet uplifting message is 'hallelujah you're alive'. The concert came to its end with her bone-vibrating version of "Helter Skelter" (one of her feature songs in *Across the Universe*). For her demanded-by-the-audience encore, she performed "Strung Out," a painful lament of love and self-recognition.

It was hard to believe that The Dana Fuchs Band was just the opening act. Luckily, she's headlining at The Highline Ballroom on April 17, where the rest of her songs will be showcased for eager and awaiting ears. Whatever damages my ear drums sustained by being so close to the stage was well worth it, if only for the fact that I got to actually experience that raw power that is Dana Fuchs.



## What A Wonderful Band

BY CLAIRE DOWD '08

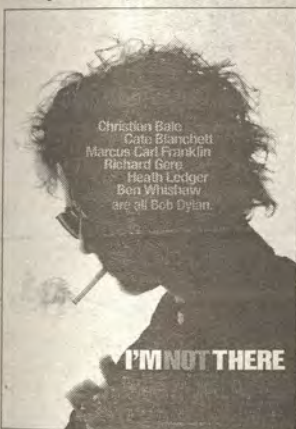
editor-in-chief



The 2005 album, *Z*, by My Morning Jacket, was obsessively lauded in the various music publications I read, but the tag "southern rock" made me stay away.

But, southern rock they are not. Being from the South and making rock music does not equal Lynyrd Skynyrd. This error exemplifies one of the many reasons I hate critics that divvy up bands into genres of rock 'n roll. It's one thing to describe a sound, but how is "reverb-heavy, eclectic mix of indie, southern, and jam band rock" helpful?

Along the way, I dropped *Z* into my iTunes library, knowing that I would eventually grow to love it – at first listen, though, I didn't get it. I was still hung up on this "southern rock" categorization, expecting Allman Brothers-esque blues. It was not until I saw Todd Haynes' *I'm Not There* that I became ready for My Morning Jacket.



Jim James, the lead singer and songwriter of My Morning Jacket, is featured in the film, singing a glorious rendition of Dylan's

"Going to Acapulco." The way in which James stares through the screen and the watery, pure pitch of his voice really cut to the core (excuse my cliché). *I'm Not There* is haunting in so many ways, but James' performance was the most pow-

erful moment of the film.

Immediately following that screening, I dove headfirst into *Z* and haven't come up for air yet. Another reason why categorizing a band is completely counter-productive is that if they are good enough, each song should defy any genre placed on them. *Z* flows from ambient, keyboard-heavy, space songs to crazy upbeat, pop to slow-burning love ballads, all executed and produced to perfection. The album sounds totally polished, creating the illusion of overdubbing and studio trickery, but on their live album, *Okonokos*, *Z*'s purity is no figment of the imagination. The band replicates the album's sound beautifully in the live setting.

Despite the excellent instrumentation on *Z*, most of the glory lies in Jim James' voice. There are few voices in rock 'n roll that work by sounding "pretty," but James has one of the prettiest voices in popular music. It is so clear, slightly weird, and definitely unique.

The latest album by My Morning Jacket, entitled *Evil Urges*, is slated for release in June, and so far, it is the album I am most looking forward to in 2008. It will be one of those records that I will actually travel to a store for on the day of its release. Those moments have become rare for me; I reserve them for music that I feel is truly important.

Although my love affair with My Morning Jacket has so far been brief, waiting until I was good and ready for *Z* was the only way to do it. You can't force yourself to like something just because it is deemed "good" or "worthwhile" by the press (which I am doing now). I usually miss out on most of the trends in popular music, and I'm totally fine with it. I know I will find the good music...I'm in no rush.

## Saunders Sweeps New York

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief



Riding a swarm of rave reviews for his last presentation in September, Jonathan Saunders' relocation to New York via London ushered an autumn 2008 runway presentation that surpassed expectations.

Adulations aside, the Scottish Glasgow School of Art graduate with an M.A. from Central Saint Martins is not a trained designer, but his career is about to skyrocket after steadily impressing buyers since his first collection in 2004 and paying his debts with prize money from the first Fashion Enterprise Award presented by the British Fashion Council this past summer.

Cathy Horyn, one of fashion journalism's preeminent reporters, wrote on her blog, "On the Runway," that the "tailoring with soft pieces... asymmetrical black chiffon skirts... jolts of turquoise and chartreuse" are elements Karl Lagerfeld championed. Horyn and Laird Borrelli-Persson, on *style.com*, saw the references to Constantin Brancusi's sculptures and Irving Penn's sand collages. Both commented Saunders had a tendency to over-design these looks, but perhaps his art is beginning to look more like art than "just clothes," as some people regard fashion.

The printmaker metamorphosed into a ready-to-wear maestro hypnotizing the audience with his earthy hues at the presentation on February 3rd. Column dresses clung to all the right places and inventive flourishes were added to transport the exquisite collection to the extraordinary. Breaking up solid fabric, Saunders embedded panels of other materials to contrast colors and textures. In a gutsy move, he put aside fears of presenting a collection deemed too com-

plicated, and he showed his genre-defying ideal woman as an artsy provocateur wrapped in slim minimalist lines, seamlessly joined with un-minimalist touches like strategically placed accentual pieces, pleating and lush folds.

Why would a London-based designer move to New York though? What is it about the American market and is the American market specifically what Saunders is targeting in a global industry like fashion? Or does he want the attention that New York Fashion Week brings, which is generally more than those of London and shows earlier in the schedule?

American boutique Ikram felt the shifting tides of fashion and supported then-unknown Saunders' line since 2006. Ikram Goldman said that despite the high price-point, the range appealed to her because, his "fit was impeccable, and women of all ages loved it." Whatever his motivations for presenting in New York, the evening looks for autumn 2008 promise to get the attention of buyers and consumers either in-store or from red-carpet events.

### Fashion has a Heart

If you're like me and always have loads of things to carry, always want a new bag, and are looking for something different, then check out Nicola Johnson's Naea handbag line. Johnson, with her mom, a casting director, put the line together. When Liya Kebede was cast for *The Good Shepherd* by Johnson's mom, Kebede suggested the mother-daughter duo base production in her hometown of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, and they agreed. Using traditional textiles, women in Addis Ababa have more opportunities to work and to maintain their culture. Spread the love. Available at Barneys New York.

## From Van Explosions To Full Length Success

BY RICH ABATE '10

staff writer

With CD sales on the decline and the increase in the number of indie labels scattered about the country, many bands have come to rely heavily on a do-it-yourself attitude and web networking to distribute their music to the masses. Now, more than ever, bands must have the perfect mixture of talent, ingenuity and a deep relationship with their fans to get by the ever-changing music industry. One of the newest bands to have figured out this recipe is The Morning Of.

For fans of Something Corporate, Paramore, and Straylight Run, The Morning Of blends piano driven emotive rock with pop beats and melodies to produce a distinctive sound that allows them to stand out among the countless bands that fall under the modern alterna-

tive category. What truly enables The Morning Of to stand out is their unique combination of male and female vocal parts. Lead singers Justin Wiley and Jessica Leplon complement each other's vocal range while simultaneously coming together to add the defining touch to the band's innovative sound.

While The Morning Of has achieved widespread success with the release of their first full-length album *The World As We Know It*, their journey has by no means been an easy one. Between a near fatal van explosion that almost took the lives of bassist Abir Hossain and guitarist Chris Petrosino, and the departure of two of the band's founding members, how The Morning Of would continue to make music was a question that puzzled the remaining members as well as fans. Yet with new drummer Jimmi Kane and the arrival of Wiley and Leplon, their future has never looked brighter.

But how, after such turmoil within the past eight

months, has The Morning Of been able to pick itself off of the ground? The answer lies within the enormous fan base that they have acquired through constant touring and open communication with their fans via the Internet. Furthermore, prior to their full-length album, the band released an eight song EP entitled *Welcome Change, Goodbye Gravity* and a short digital EP, including dance mixes of several of their songs. These releases have allowed The Morning Of to extend their fan base while keeping their devout followers entertained.

So what's on the horizon for Smartpunk.com's #4 top-selling band? To promote their new album, The Morning Of will be touring the northeast for the next two months, including a stop in Shelton, Connecticut on February 20th. Head on over to [www.myspace.com/themorningofrock](http://www.myspace.com/themorningofrock) to check out their tour schedule, or check out [www.purevolume.com/themorningof](http://www.purevolume.com/themorningof) to stream their new album in its entirety.



# WEEKLY CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 19

### WEDNESDAY

#### EXHIBIT

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

#### EVENT

Faith Ringgold: More than 50 Years - Celebrate Black History Month, Palmer, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Roman Catholic Lenten Weekday Mass, Chapel, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

#### EVENT

Sex Without Love: Historical Precedents, Conn Practices, Main Street West, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



(Thomas '10)

### THURSDAY

#### FITNESS

Personal Trainer, Fitness Center, noon

#### EVENT

"Is Aging a Gift?: Bioconservatism and the Ethics of Gratitude," Blaustein Faculty Lounge, 4:00 - 6:15 p.m.

#### LECTURE

Transgender Identity, Olin 113, 11:45 am - 1:15 p.m.

### SATURDAY

#### SPORTS

Women's Basketball vs. Middlebury, Luce Fieldhouse, 3:00 p.m.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Roman Catholic Mass, Chapel, 5 p.m.

### TUESDAY

#### LECTURE

Overcoming Fear: Illness, Spirit Possession and Mono no ke in Eleventh-century Japan, Blaustein 211, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

#### FITNESS

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

#### EVENT

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

### FRIDAY

#### EVENT

Common Hour: Exhibiting Activism - "Teaching in America: a Report Card from the Field," Chu Room, 12 p.m.

"Smoking Cessation"  
Haines Room, 12 p.m.

"Life After Liberal Arts" Alumni Panel  
Chu Room, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Shabbat Dinner, Freeman, 6 p.m.

#### SPORTS

Women's Basketball vs. Williams, Luce Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

### SUNDAY

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICE

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

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

### MONDAY

#### FITNESS

Personal Trainer, Fitness Center, 12 p.m.

Your photo could be featured on our  
backpage!

Send your best shot of campus,  
athletics or an event to  
[camelphoto@gmail.com!](mailto:camelphoto@gmail.com)