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This past weekend, the fall faculty dance department show, titled *Blur*, showcased nine beautifully individual pieces which included the choreography of five faculty members, two students, two guest artists, and one pre-show "bantaba."
CONTINUED IN ARTS, PAGE 9



MIGUEL SALCEDO / STAFF

The Dance Department Presents

BLUR

Harris Hours to be Extended to 8 P.M.

JOHN DODIG
OPINIONS EDITOR

"All I want is for Harris to stay open a little later. It could be for only a couple nights a week, even just until eight o'clock. I'm not expecting miracles here. I just want an extra half hour to sit down and eat dinner. Is that too much to ask?" This question was posed by Julia Cristofano in the October 25 issue of the *College Voice* in an article called "Harris: End the Early Bird Special!" It's a sentiment shared by a lot of Conn students, especially student-athletes, whose practices often prevent them from making it to Harris in time for the 7:30 PM close.

Well, if you're a Conn student and you're hungry between the hours of 7:30 and 8:00 PM, you are no longer relegated to paying for food at Cro with your dwindling dining dollars. Beginning on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

New London Police Visit Campus to Curb Underage Drinking

ELLIE BENNER
WEB CONTENT EDITOR

Last Friday night, a large group of Conn students gathered at Mambo Bar and Restaurant on Bank Street in downtown New London. This group was comprised of a mix of underclassmen and upperclassmen, some below the legal drinking age and some above it. Like other bar nights at this college, many underage students used either a friend's old driver's license or an entirely falsified ID to get into the bar and order drinks. As the crowd was beginning to leave, students came down from the upstairs dance floor and found officers from the New London Police Department at both exits. Students of age showed their IDs and tried to hail a taxi home, while students who

used fake IDs began to panic.

One underage senior barely avoided the police as she was leaving the bar. "I just snuck out," she said, "I knew they couldn't card everyone."

An underage sophomore was outside the bar with several friends when a police car approached them. The officer asked the girls whether they were over 21 and if they had been drinking. The student and her friends didn't reply. "All of a sudden, three other cops showed up," she said. "They took down our names and birth dates. We didn't think to give them fake names." When asked for identification, the girls showed their Connecticut College school IDs rather than their state-issued driver's licenses.

CONTINUED IN NEWS, PAGE 4

"Nut Lady's" life work inherited by Connecticut College

Contents include appx. 20 nuts, and hundreds of informational paintings, sculptures, letters, photographs and more

JULIA CRISTOFANO
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO FROM WEB

For years Christopher Steiner, art history professor and director of the Museum Studies Program at Conn, sent his students to visit The Nut Museum of Old Lyme, but he himself had never been. He had never met The Nut Lady, paid the \$3 and one nut entrance fee to the museum, or seen the infamous thirty-five-pound coco-de-mer nut which shares a disturbing resemblance

to a woman's behind. Yet for some reason, when the contents of the Museum were in danger, Professor Steiner negotiated with the town of Old Lyme to donate all of the museum's contents to Connecticut College. He and his students spent the next three years cataloguing the contents of the museum and showing the work in several exhibitions. So why, after never visiting the museum, did Professor Steiner save a stranger's life work? What was this woman's fascination with nuts? Or more importantly, who was The Nut Lady?

As students in the Museum Studies Program will agree, a trip to The Nut Museum was not the typical museum experience. There were no crowds of silent people milling about and whispering to one another in hushed tones, or no children getting antsy as their parents try to puzzle through the meaning of a Rothko. Rather, The Nut Museum was a different undertaking in and of itself, with Elizabeth Tashjian (a.k.a The Nut Lady) being an integral part of the experience, if not the highlight. After pay-

ing admission visitors would be given a personalized tour, led by Elizabeth, that covered the contents of the museum, her philosophy about nuts, and ended in a performance of her original anthem dedicated to nuts entitled, "Nuts Are Beautiful". However bizarre, this tour offered visitor's insight into the creation of the nut museum.

Ms. Tashjian had always been fascinated with nuts and as a young adult attended the National Academy of Design, a prestigious art school, in the 1930's. While a student there she began painting a variety of still lives all comprised of nuts and eventually began to paint magnifications of nuts as well. After graduating, she and her mother moved to a gothic mansion in Old Lyme, CT where they lived together until the 1950's when her mother died. Seeking a way to make money and follow her passion for nuts Elizabeth decided to open The Nut Museum and was henceforth known to most as The Nut Lady.

CONTINUED IN ARTS, PAGE 9

Red Tape Hits Housing Fifteen minutes of housing lottery

MATT MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

In one of the final study abroad meetings of the semester, many juniors brought with them a lot of anxiety and questions about leaving the continent. However, they were also introduced to a concept that many of them felt more surprising than travel concerns: the new electronic process for housing selection. Gone will be the worries of having to bind friends into the sometimes taxing contract of being proxies, and sending updates through Skype and email. But with it, students may lose the comfort and safety that the more drawn-out, manual process offers.

The previous housing selection process began with a quick online registration in mid-February, and the receipt of a lottery number in early April. Lower numbers

meant earlier dorm selection, while higher numbers meant earlier room selection, both respective to class year. A week would come in which each day was dedicated to a particular class, and on different sections of that day, students would go to the 1962 room to begin the first step of selecting their dorm.

During dorm selection, the 1962 Room was divided into two sides, the first of which was basically a waiting room. Each dorm was designated a certain number of spots for male and female students, and for a certain number of students from each class year. Housefellows, Floor Governors and other Residential Living staff oversaw the process. Students waited in chairs, praying for their number to be called while trying to calculate the difference

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Members of COAST (Coalition Against Slavery and Trafficking) stage a demonstration in Harris Dining Hall.

BRANDON MOSLEY / CONTRIBUTOR

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EDITORIALS/LETTERS

DECEMBER 13, 2010

contact@thecollegevoice.org

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Editorials

Many of us realize after our junior internships that the world out there is full of templates and politics. In here, we have freedoms: the freedom to avoid Friday class, the freedom to play our favorite songs on public radio, sometimes the freedom to fill our hallways with the scent of burning marijuana.

In here, Crozier-Williams 215 here, we have the freedom to be a student-run test kitchen. We can create personalities for ourselves in our writing without having to adhere too strongly to a confined style. We can brainstorm, compile and attempt our ideas on these pages before we have to make major career decisions. College is cool if you think of it as a microcosm where you can take on pseudo-leadership roles and emulate the real world in a sub-real way.

I was prepared to feel young at my internship this summer, as an editorial intern at a small magazine, but didn't realize how that feeling would materialize — my editors had kids my age. My voice sounded young on the phone. My idea pitches were a little bit off. This happens when you come into a place that's been doing what they do, and well, for 30 plus years.

But this is more fun, because it's *ours*. It's fun to be one of 15 students in charge of making something better. It's also fun to prove to ourselves that even 18-22 year olds can produce a content-filled, interesting weekly newspaper, with an interactive website and a good readership base.

In March of my freshman year, I walked into Cro

215 for the first time to offer to help with layout, and the Editor-in-Chief gave me the entire Opinions section. "We don't actually have an editor," she said. "It's just one page! Do you want it?" The page was almost impossible to fill, the Voice office was almost always empty, and the stereotype attached to the paper was simply that it was unread. We've improved since, each new Editor working off the other's progress. Ben Eagle made our office interactive and filled our sections with more professional writing. Claire Gould brought us online, upped our accuracy, and equipped us with a handful of social media tools. I'm just trying to just keep momentum rolling, and I am unrelentingly proud of our work. We've become a student forum for the buzzwords at hand: J-Board procedure, drinking policies, "where our money goes," Living and Learning, and a change in Harris Dining hours are addressed this issue alone. We have a staff of motivated, creative, thoughtful students who interview, write, edit, market, advertise, film, draw, design and hyperlink to create this publication. We're working to make small ideas run in big ways that could at worst do nothing, and at best positively affect the culture of this college.

Thank you for your readership. We will continue to produce issues we're proud of, and to welcome your submissions. Have a wonderful break.

- Lilah Raptopoulos
Editor-in-Chief

Poring over the menu at Paul's Pasta on Friday, I was torn between the Fettuccine Ragu and the Fettucini Alfredo, my perhaps-too-usual favorite dish.

Alfredo I can count on. Even after the time I finished an entire "large" on my birthday (at the suggestion that I wouldn't be able to), I've never doubted it. Some things are just *good*, and I have trouble passing up a sure thing for something new. Logically, the quality of the Fettuccine Alfredo, as well as the satisfaction of my non-Alfredotarian dinner companions, should present a strong argument in favor of branching out. How could other dishes not be at least comparably tasty?

Call it an issue of trust, call it a fear of change, but it comes down to commitment—an entrée is a serious step. Beyond noshing, beyond two- or three-bite shared appetizers, an entrée is your whole evening. I agonize especially over the choice for just this reason. Alfredo has never let me down. The rest of the menu, little more than twenty-word *ideas* of food, just don't offer the same security.

But perhaps I'm an anomaly. Perhaps I'm too faithful, too enamored of constancy and hot cheese sauce. Is that a thing?

Several years before last Friday, out to dinner with a friend and his parents at the Imperial Buffet in Plainville, Connecticut, I was faced with a different problem. Everything was laid out, hot line style, in warming trays with ladles, tongs, and little laminated labels. Teriaki Beefkebabs. Egg Rolls. Chicken Nuggets. Despite the vague Asian rainforest/fishtank theme, the cuisine was decidedly multinational. Buffalo Wings. Pizza.

At age fifteen, this arrangement was ideal. All options were visible and ready-to-eat, and there was no pressure—social, institutional, or cultural—to deter one from selecting *both* spring rolls and meat lovers' pizza, fistfuls of mozzarella sticks with a stack of pork dumplings, and none but your mother will grimace when you return with twenty-two buffalo wings (just drumsticks) and two shrimp wontons. Why submit to the paternalistic Fascism of pre-portioned *haute cuisine*, the buffet asks, when all the world's TV food is at your fingertips? In a comestible democracy such as the Imperial Buffet, anything goes.

Now, of course, in all my aged wisdom, I see the fundamental indignity of this. Aside from my personal belief that no one needs to eat a dozen buffalo wings in a sitting, the buffet absolves its patrons of committing at all. Foraging is passive at best.

- John Sherman
Managing Editor

FREE SPEECH

In response to "On Defining the Issue"

On Thursday, September 2nd, 2010 I delivered my convocation speech. Shortly thereafter Lilah Raptopoulos, the Editor-in-Chief of *The College Voice*, tweeted: "The was the best SGA president speech I've seen in my 4 years. Looks like Nate Cornell and I are committed to all the same things." But, after last week's editorial we are hard pressed to ask: what happened?

"The Issue" that Lilah brings up in her editorial, that of alcohol and underage drinking on campus, has always been tricky to define, due primarily to the variety of concerned parties on campus: the student body, faculty, staff and administrators, parents and alumni each have their own perspective on The Issue, with their own needs and concerns. Do we need to be told what the issue is? Or should we define it for ourselves?

In conceiving and planning the summit, the Student Government Association hopes to determine whether there is a problem with drinking on our campus. Do our practices and circumstances show us to be better or worse off than our peer institutions? Are students taking responsibility for their actions while under the influence of alcohol? What insights can we gain by engaging in conversation with other NESCAC schools?

The NESCAC Summit will allow us the opportunity to address these and other concerns having to

do with alcohol consumption on college campuses. It will allow us to do so in a manner of our own determination, in conversation with students who will bring a new perspective to the table. The summit is envisioned to be a conversation among students, where student leaders from a variety of colleges can share their perspectives without the "institutional condescension" otherwise present.

It is our hope that this summit can evolve in future years to tackle other common issues that confront Connecticut College and its peer institutions. If we spend this year addressing alcohol, next year we may discuss environmental sustainability, for example. If we can establish the summit as a productive environment for honest communication between student leaders, our campus and the NESCAC community will prosper.

If anyone on campus feels that the proposed summit will directly and negatively affect the student body, we encourage them to bring their concerns to our attention. SGA is here to serve the student body and to represent your interests, and if we are failing to do so, please let us know. Talk to your senator, contact sga@conncoll.edu, and make sure your voice is heard.

Thank you,

Nathan Cornell '11
SGA President

Jamison Hermann '11
SGA Vice President of Public Relations

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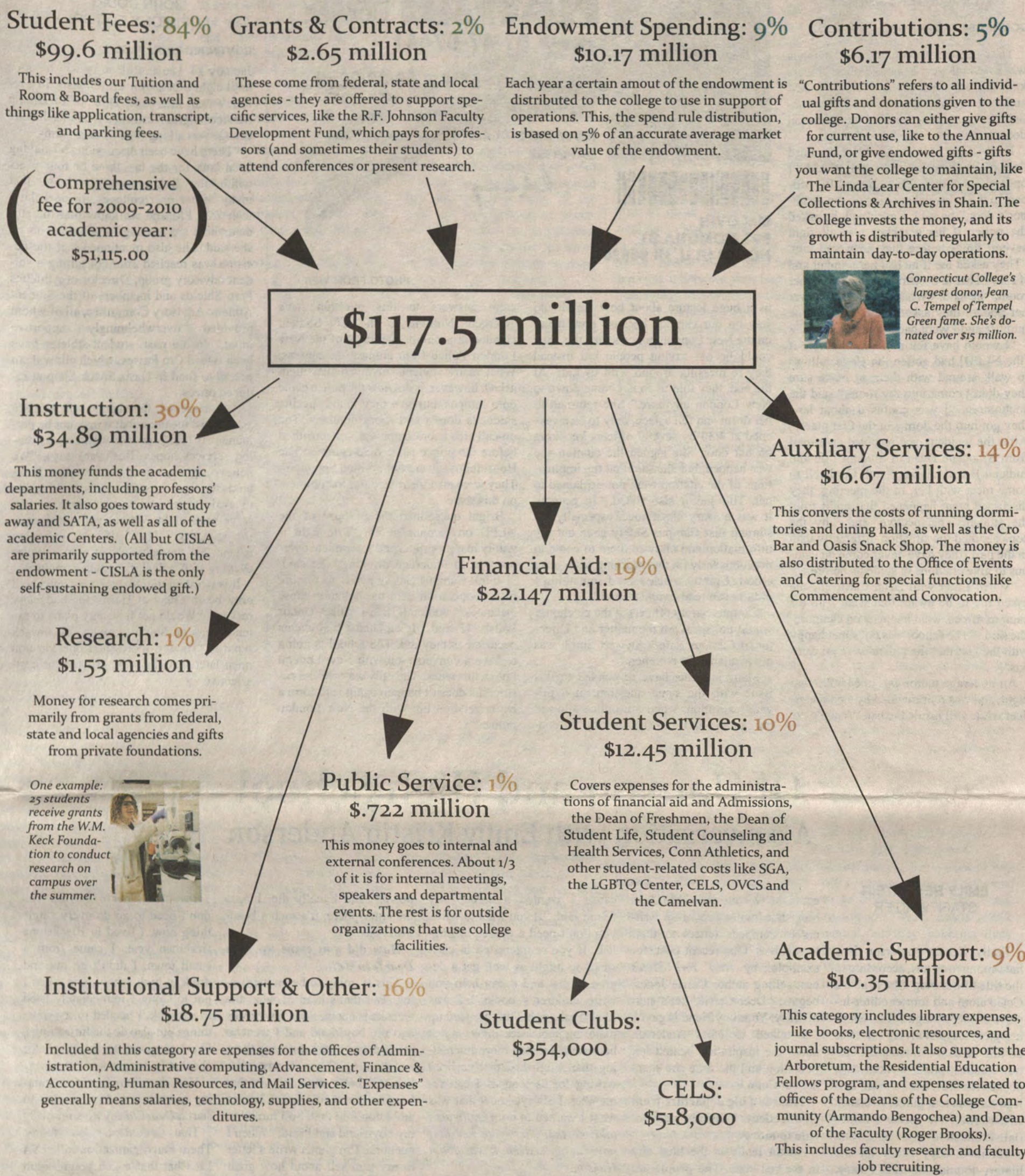
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Where the Money Goes

Financial breakdown of Connecticut College operations from 2010

COMPILED BY LILAH RAPTOPOULOS

After Jazmine Hughes' editorial on November 9th entitled "On Being Number One," we asked President Higdon if he could answer the question on many students' minds, "Where does our money go?" with a breakdown of the revenue that comes into the operating budget each year and where that money is then distributed. He agreed, and a week later we were sent pages of information from Mary Calarese, Director of Financial Planning, and Deb MacDonnell, Director of Public Relations. We have formatted the breakdown below based on the most recent complete numbers from the fiscal 2010 financial statements. We hope you find it as helpful and relevant as we do.



--- HOW THE BUDGET IS DECIDED ---

Departments apply to Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee (PPBC) for funding for initiatives that won't be covered by their current allotment.

PPBC advises President (Lee Higdon) on a budget that will support financial and institutional priorities by recommending a Budget plan.

President recommends budget to Board of Trustees, who make the final decision.

--- PPBC ---

5 members of the administration
(shown below in order)

- VP for Finance - Paul Maroni
- Dean of the Faculty - Roger Brooks
- Dean of the College - Armando Bengochea
- VP for Administration - Ulysses Hammond
- VP for Information Services/Librarian - Lee Hisle

3 Students
(SGA President and 2 students elected by SGA)

- Nate Cornell '11
- Randy Lovelace '11
- Gary Ng '11

2 Staff Members
(elected by staff)

- John Charland (Carpenter, Building Maintenance)
- Mary Devins (Associate Director of CISLA)

5 Faculty members

- Greg Bailey (Sculpture)
- Jeffrey Cole (Anthropology)
- Manuel Lizarralde (Ethnobotany)
- Midge Thomas (Chair of Music)
- Deb Eastman (Biology)
- Catherine Stock (Chair of American Studies)



Sidenote: when we say "the administration," this is who we're talking about: our Senior Administrators are the five at left, as well as the three at right: Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Martha Merrill '84, VP of College Relations Patricia Carey, and VP for College Advancement Greg Waldron.



New London Police Visit Campus to Curb Underage Drinking

ELLIE BENNER
WEB CONTENT EDITOR

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The incident continued on campus when several New London police officers knocked on dorm room doors at 4 AM and issued underage students \$200 citations for possessing falsified identification documents.

Nick Bright '11, a resident of the third floor of Freeman, woke up at 4:30 AM. "I opened my door and saw four NLPD officers in the hallway knocking on my neighbor's door," he said. Concerned, he asked the police if his neighbor was all right several times before they answered him. "They asked me if he had her number and if I'd call her to determine if she was in her room," he said. "When she didn't answer her phone, they asked me for her phone number and I went back to my room."

"I would have felt more comfortable if [the NLPD] had gotten the Housefellows to walk around with them to make sure they didn't come into my room," said the sophomore. "I was confused about how they got into the dorms in the first place." After the incident, she received an e-mail from Associate Dean of Student Life and Judicial Board adviser Sarah Cardwell to come meet with her. In the meeting, they discussed what happened that night from the students' perspective, and why the cops handled the situation differently than in the past (they have never come on campus to give citations to students before.)

"When I met with Dean Cardwell, she asked me to be aware that what I do off campus affects what happens on campus," she said. "The school was not super happy with the fact that the police were on campus."

An underage junior was at Mambo that night, and was reprimanded by a police officer while still inside the bar. "A cop gave



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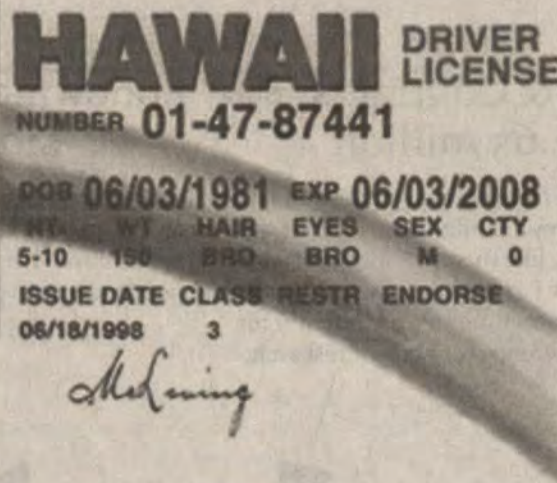


PHOTO FROM WEB

us a huge lecture about how we should stay on our campus because now we're on the New London police's turf, that they could be out saving people but instead they're messing around with us kids. At the end, they told us to not come down to New London anymore." She returned to her dorm and fell asleep, only to be awakened at 4:30 by several officers knocking on her door. She signed the citation she was handed, but she said that the implications of the citation were not explained to her. This junior also stated, "In general, it was a scary experience, especially assuming that Campus Safety gave out my information and allowed them to come to my room early [in the] morning without an escort. I pretty much signed something I didn't even read or understand."

Campus Safety officers at the gatehouse would not speak on the matter and Director of Campus Safety Stewart Smith was not available for comment.

Many students have responded to this issue with the same question: at a private institution, when are police allowed on campus and into the dorms? No con-

crete answers to this question have emerged. Nothing in the CC Student Handbook prohibits members of the New London Police from coming on campus. What many students involved that night asked, however, is not how the police came onto campus, but how they found specific student's dorms and room numbers. The on-call area coordinator was not consulted before the police came onto campus. The Housefellows were not notified that night. They were also instructed not to comment on this issue.

Bright questioned the purpose of the NLPD on campus at all. "I thought it wildly inappropriate, and a complete over-reaction to underage drinking," he said. "I think Campus Safety needs to rethink their cooperation with the police in these instances." Judicial Board Chair Conor Walsh '11 said, "It's a shame that events occurred as they did. The school is going to have a conversation with New London Police this week. The only way we can ensure this doesn't happen again is to form a better relationship with the New London police." •

Harris hours extended to 8 PM

JOHN DODIG
OPINIONS EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

January 24, Harris Refectory will be open until eight o'clock on a pilot basis. In a recent e-mail interview, Director of Dining Services Ingrid Bushwack explains that the change was a long time in the making.

"There have been discussions on staying open later for the last three or four years within the dining team. We know that many of our peer colleges are open later than 7:30 PM and we know that the students here are looking for similar hours," she said. She also mentioned that the decision was reached after consulting a student advisory group, Director of Athletics Fran Shields and members of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, all of whom provided "overwhelmingly supportive input." In the past, student-athletes have been issued Cro Passes, which allow them access to food in Oasis Snack Shop at reduced prices.

As mentioned, the change will be on a pilot basis, meaning that it may not be permanent if things do not work out as dining services hopes. Bushwack says, "We believe eight is a good place to start. It extends the time for students, we will be able to evaluate its effectiveness and we can serve until eight without additional costs for students." The half-hour extension means that the schedule of Harris' entire evening staff will shift by thirty minutes.

It is worth noting that the new hours will only be in effect at Harris for budgetary reasons. "We do not have any plans to extend hours on South Campus," Bushwack reports. "Having more than one location open later would not be efficient or cost-effective." •

Of Hanson and High School A conversation with Emily Kristin Anderson

EMILY BERNSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Emily Kristin Anderson is a hate-mongering tart, according to the title of her blog. She is also a CoCo alum and former editor-in-chief of the *College Voice*. Since her glory days studying classics on this verdant (or, recently, arctic) campus, she's worked as a post office aide, track coach, college campus tour guide, freelance writer, *The New Yorker's* Editorial Production Associate, and a volunteer copy editor for the literary journal *Mimesis Poetry*. Her poetry has been published in numerous literary journals and she has written several books.

Anderson now resides in Austin, Texas. Her most recent proj-

ect is the website *DearTeenMe*, a blog that invites grown-up writers to compose letters to their teen selves. One recent post, for example, by *New York Times* best-selling author Carrie Jones, begins: "Dear Carrie, Let's start off easy: Your boyfriend is gay."

I talked to Miss Anderson about the inspiration behind her new blog and the time she spent here at Conn.

Texas is a big departure from Connecticut. Why did you decide to move?

Austin really is the blue city in the red state. The people are not stereotypically Texan, like Texas Ranger Texan. Did you know that Chuck Norris just became an honorary Texas Ranger? Anyway, Austin is beautiful. I

moved here for someone I met online but SCBWI (the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators) was one of the main reasons I stayed. The writing community here is amazing. I really don't think you could find a better community anywhere. You know, not all writers are alcoholics who live in caves. The community is really important.

You studied classics but you're starting to establish a career in writing. What is it about writing that attracts you?

When I majored in classics it wasn't be-

cause I wanted a career. My friend said, "If you want to write, you don't need a degree in English. If you're interested in classics you might as well get a degree in that and it can help you write children's books." I was like "Yeah, right," but I ended up majoring in classics anyways just because it seemed more interesting than English. But I've been writing for as long as I can remember, I always knew that was what I wanted to do. (*Emily also told me that she wrote her first novel at age sixteen. It was about Hanson.*)

How have your experiences at Conn affected your writing?

Honestly, I think every experience in life effects your writing. I mean, your characters are always going to be a part of you. I came from a really small town. My high school had 125 people and about three black kids. When I went to Conn, I got to meet people from all over. I met kids from Ghana, Russia, Poland, I met Jews and wiccans. My classes affected the way I think, but the people really affected the way I see the world.

What do you miss most about Conn?

I miss Conn every day! I miss the dorms, I miss that community. I'm sorry. I'm sitting in a café and my friends are laughing at me. But it's true! I miss waking up and having my best friend next door. I miss Professor Held. He was like a grandpa to me. I remember one day I was in a really bad mood and I saw him in Cro and he was just like, "Calm

down!" and I really did. I miss the atmosphere; it's such a beautiful place.

How did you come up with *DearTeenMe*?

This is going to be embarrassing. But that's kind of what the website is about. So, a few weeks ago my boyfriend and I went to see Hanson. I was watching them and thinking, "I want to have your babies," but I wouldn't do that because that would wreck homes and I don't do that. So I turned to my boyfriend and I said, "When I get home I'm gonna write a letter to my teen self about how great this is." I got home and wrote it and I was talking to my friend Miranda Kenneally and we were like, "We should do something!" And of course my brain like explodes and I e-mail my 50 best friends in the writing community and all of a sudden I've got young adult writers, erotica writers, *New York Times* best sellers, Betsy Franco (James Franco's mom)—I've got people from up-and-comers to best selling authors. It's really cool.

I think the reason *DearTeenMe* is so important is because what makes teenagers feel so insecure is that adults are so ready to let go of what it feels like to be fourteen or sixteen or eighteen. For writers it's not so easy to let go. For teenagers, to see that people from five or ten or twenty years ago were feeling the same things that they're feeling is, I think, really important.

What would you say to your freshman Conn self?

I would tell her to chill out. You don't need to go do every single thing now. I lived in Blackstone freshman year. I came from a small town, I didn't go out and drink in high school, and when I got to Conn I immediately tried to network. I needed to try some things but also do the little things, like laying out on the green for absolutely no reason whatsoever.

Now that *DearTeenMe* is gaining momentum, do you plan to start a *DearElderlyMe* spin-off?

That would be so funny. There's an organization called YA Lit Chat that asked young adult readers to enter a contest where they write letters to their grown-up selves and the best ones get first-edition books. So...

You're one step ahead of me. Yeah, we try to be.

What would you say to your elderly self?

Don't forget what it's like, and don't be curmudgeony, and don't only listen to things from back in the day. And Hanson is awesome. Also, the things that are important to me now, even if they don't feel as important to elderly me, that doesn't mean they didn't feel as intense back then. I think that's something we need to understand in order to be better people, better parents, better mentors.

What would your elderly self say to you today?

Probably, "Get a job." I got laid off last year so I'm putting everything into my writing right now. But she would probably tell me to go fill out an application at McDonalds. •

PHOTO COURTESY OF E.K. ANDERSON



Anderson at a children's writers and illustrators conference. She calls this picture "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Crazy Person"

Attention students:

While self-scheduled final exams are in session, please check e-mail and the Emergency Weather Hotline (x5000) for any potential weather-related changes in time or location.

The Office of the Registrar

Red Tape Hits Housing

Months-long housing lottery process changes to 15 minutes

MATT MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

between their place in line and the number of available rooms in the dorms they wanted. After making their selection officially they proceeded to the other side of the room and signed their names to a list with the Housefellow of their chosen dorm.

Room selection was a different story. Students piled into their dorm common rooms and were called up one by one by original lottery number, to select a room from a dorm floor plan.

The new housing process will combine these two selection processes into a single event that can be done from any computer, be it in the basement of Larrabee, the second floor of Shain or an internet café in Ho Chi Minh City.

Each student's number will place him or her in a virtual queue of all students, including those who are applying for specialty housing. Marie Lalor, the Assistant Director of Residential Education and Living, offered me a chance to look at the new online registration process.

Now more of a questionnaire than anything, the online form has fields in which to enter a request for single-sex or specialty housing. This will replace the need for a written application, an idea Lalor seemed very happy about, as she pointed out the massive box on her shelf that held all of last year's applications. The registration form will be accessible through Self Service on CamelWeb, and at least 250 students have already used a more simplified version to register for Winter Break housing.

Additionally, upperclassmen will notice that "priority" has been removed from the housing selection process entirely. Priority was a promised boost in the lottery given to students living in basement rooms or in Lazarus House. Lalor believed priority didn't fit into their new system, and the need for such a boost seems to have faded. "The President invested a half million dollars in the basements," she explained, "and this year Lazarus filled completely voluntarily."

Housing selection will take place online over the course of a week, much like course registration, starting with a day for specialty housing and then opening up to each class in order of descending seniority. Students will be given a two-minute window of time based on their lottery number to select a dorm and room at the same time, a development that some see as unfair compared to the dual weighting of the previous lottery number system. Students may still make their choice after their two-minute window has passed, but with every subsequent two minutes, a new student will be added to the system. When asked about the psychological concerns of making such an important selection in such a short time, Lalor said she saw the new system as a means of deconstructing the larger frustrations of the older selection process.

"Instead of being anxious for a month and a half, they will simply have an intense 15 minutes," she said.

She considered the old system's multiple meetings to be drawing the focus of the student body for far too long a time.

Another popular concern has to do with something the creators of this new system seem to pride themselves on: the inclusion of study abroad students. Under the previous system, juniors abroad in the spring semester would have to find friends to serve as proxies for them, granting these friends the

power to make all of their housing decisions for them. The new system will be accessible by anyone with an Internet connection, and Lalor promised there will be a clock displaying the time at Connecticut College so students abroad may orient themselves easily. However, some students going farther away are worried about logistics. Lalita Russ '12 is going to Nepal this spring. There is a ten hour and forty-five minute time difference between Nepal and Eastern Standard Time. To make matters worse, she said, "We won't have internet in our house."

Last spring, the College, with

portant tool for students all year long. Self Service now includes a button labeled "MyHousing," which is a link to your current housing information. With all this information easily available online to students and Res. Life staff, processes that had previously taken weeks can now be done instantaneously. Lalor championed the software as giving students a higher level of involvement and more control over room management, and she stressed that the customizability of the software was helping to generate a lot of ideas for its potential uses. One such idea is one week in May devoted entirely to room exchange.

Formerly, students who were unsatisfied with their room would fill out an application to Res. Life and hope other students might be trying to switch as well. Now, students will be able to see the available rooms and do their swapping on Self Service.

Dan Whittington, '11, who has been through the housing selection process many times, believes that regardless of how good the software is, the real threat to the new process going smoothly is the

school's 100 MB/s network. With hundreds of students going on the network each day of the selection week, constantly refreshing Self Service, he considers people getting blocked out or the website crashing to be very likely.

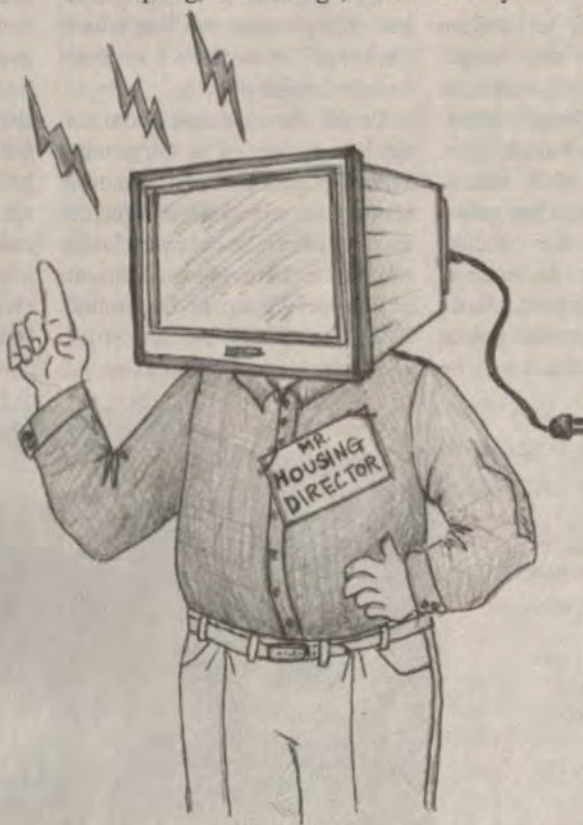
"When problems and lag still affect the course selection process," Whittington argued, "how could Res. Life not expect room selection to go worse?"

Still, while it's easy to focus on concerns over this new process, the student staff of Residential Education and Living had its fair share of difficulties surrounding last year's housing selection days. To them, the old system was being to show signs of straining. Alicia Rea '12, who has been a floor governor for two years, described the selection process as "utter chaos," from sixty-plus people all vying to snag the corner rooms of Wright, to people who had not signed a contract trying to sneak into the larger rooms of a substance-free floor in Smith.

"People would try to bribe you, or sweet talk their way into dorms," she said.

Rea also felt that this electronic method would make Housefellow's and Floor Governors' jobs easier. Lalor confirmed that the Residential Education and Living staff was working full-tilt, and that during the week of housing selection, students and other staff were working until midnight every night. Rea added that last year, residential staff had to begin planning for the housing process in early December.

As of now, electronic room selection has not been totally finalized. While some of these changes may be very new and surprising to people, they are still being tweaked, and Residential Education and Living seems willing to take any and all student feedback on the matter. The inconspicuous nature of its development was primarily because the Residential Life Advisory Committee still has many decisions to make about the process in general, as well as Lalor and staff's feeling that students already "had enough to worry about in December." •



ALICIA TOLDI / STAFF

the support of the Residential Life Advisory Committee, purchased software to create electronic housing registration, called The Housing Director, from Adirondack Solutions. The software seems to have a mixture of benefits and drawbacks, but the product is already in use at a variety of schools, including Quinnipiac University and URI, and Lalor says it is customizable enough that she hopes to work around these problems.

One necessary change was the designation of rooms in a dorm as class-specific, because The Housing Director cannot recognize fifteen rooms available to seniors in a given dorm, but rather must know which specific fifteen rooms are available. This year, the college is redoing its dorm floor plans, and with the software Res. Life will be able to integrate these images in the selection process to better inform students of their options.

The classification of rooms will be partially based on what students selected last year for rooms and partially based Res Life's assessment of appropriate rooms for each class year. When Russ heard about this at her meeting, she said the need for this was a shame, and that she had always felt it was "kind of cool to meet new people living around you just based on randomness." This stratification is not totally inflexible, as rising sophomores on the singles waiting list can still be given junior rooms that open up every semester.

In another case, students applying for group housing will have to pair with students in their own class year. While some students may be opposed to this change, the tradeoff is that groups will now have much more control over their end of the process. A number of spots in each dorm that would favor group housing have been reserved for them. Additionally, if a group is left only with their last-choice dorm, instead of being locked into that arrangement (as in the old process) they are given the ability to disband at the last minute to seek out individual rooms.

Lalor and the office of Residential Education and Living view The Housing Director as an im-

Dildos and Dialogue

Students gather in the Women's Center to learn about hot, safe sex

SHANNON KEATING
CONTRIBUTOR

KELSEY COHEN / STAFF



Oh Megan! presenting last year at Coffee Grounds.

Last Friday, everyone in the Women's Center clutched what looked like oversized plastic Easter eggs that were not filled with candy. Their workshop leader warned everyone not to open the packages prematurely; they were Tenga eggs, flexible and doughy masturbatory tools, part of a goodie assortment that also included various lubes.

"This isn't really the appropriate time to break them out," their workshop leader said. "Now, to get started, if you have a cell phone, please put it on vibrate and stick it between your legs." Last Friday, the Women's Center was overflowing with people trying not to sit on each other, all of them facing a table crowded with brightly colored sex toys and lube. They squeezed into the Smith/Burdick basement for a workshop by Oh Megan!, or Megan Andelloux, a board certified sexologist and nationally certified sex educator who came wielding tools of the trade to educate on "Supersex": safe sex that's hot and fun.

Skyler Volpe '13, a student coordinator of the Women's Center, said that Andelloux used to come to Conn through the Feminist Majority group, which has since been absorbed by the Women's Center. "Her presentations were always well attended and widely talked about, so we wanted to bring her back this year," she said. "She was glad to come back to Conn!"

"She eliminated all potential awkwardness for the audience from the beginning," said Rachel Saltzman '14. "By telling us about herself and her background from the start, we could think of her as a real person and not as this strange sex speaker."

Andelloux loosened up the crowd by chatting amiably about what led her to our campus. She worked for Planned Parenthood for nine years, but was "burned out by the bad stuff," like the onslaught of teen pregnancy and STDs. She now wants to teach young adults that there are ways to make safe sex exciting, no matter your gender or sexual orientation.

"I really enjoyed how diplomatic and sexually unbiased she was," said Alia Roth '14. Andelloux took the time to explain that she would differentiate between "penis-owners" and "vagina-owners," but these terms did not imply gender identity or sexual preference.

Her presentation commenced with a plush vulva puppet she named Veronica, the exploration of which allowed the audience to view a cartoonishly large, fluffy replica of the clitoris, the labia and even the G-spot (Stickers exclaiming "The G-spot does exist!" were included in the goodie collections).

Andelloux bluntly explained that "while deep-dicking sounds lovely," there are more nerve endings towards the front of the vagina, and fewer the deeper one ventures. Additionally, the clitoris is about six inches long; but can get up to eight when stimulated, and is most sensitive in its upper left quadrant.

Sequentially, Andelloux hefted out an alarmingly large and apparently rare uncircumcised dildo to educate about the penis. She explained that circumcision was not the only method originally employed to suppress children's sexual desires: the blandness of Kellogg's Corn Flakes and graham crackers were also used. They, as she pointed out, did not work.

Andelloux shared other "fun facts" throughout the presentation, including a few on the penis: length is not as

important to vaginal stimulation as girth, the average speed of ejaculation is thirty five miles per hour (though the shots can reach eighty), the scrotum is constantly moving, and (lightly!) pulling down on the sack during foreplay or intercourse, will delay orgasm. This last one was particularly useful information, because Andelloux then indicated that the average national penis-owner "lasts" about two minutes.

To demonstrate, three volunteers were called to the front of the room and instructed to thrust with invisible partners, persistently.

"You're doing it wrong!" Andelloux yelled at them as she stood aside, smirking. "You're not going fast enough! Faster! Ow, you're hurting me!" The crowd was atwitter and the volunteers were panting and laughing when she called Time; they had cleared a mere 46 seconds.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of the orgasm, which Andelloux indicated to be very healthy for the body: it lowers stress, helps sleep, can alleviate mild depression, and even allows wounds to heal faster.

She then transitioned into a talk on vibrators, tools originally created as a treatment for hysteria.

"Some people don't want to use them because they say they want to do it 'the natural way,'" said Andelloux. "Well, toilets aren't natural, but they make our lives better."

Vagina-owners on average take ten to twenty minutes to get off, which means the best way they can achieve orgasm during intercourse is through practice with self-stimulation first. "The G-spot is not like the Staples 'Easy' button," said Andelloux.

The workshop drew to a close after an extensive run-through of sex toys and supplements, from lubes (the water-based kind can increase STI transmission, she cautioned; go with silicon-based instead) to strap-ons (Volpe unabashedly volunteered to wear it as Andelloux demonstrated applying a condom with her mouth) to whips and funky vibrators. A crowd favorite was OhMiBod, a dildo that syncs up with your iPod and vibrates to the beat of the song of your choice.

Andelloux took some questions the audience had written anonymously on note cards. One asked for blowjob and handjob tips. She taught some moves — the "bottle-cap" and the "octopus" among them — but added, "Be confident, and be enthusiastic. You'd be amazed by how far that goes."

"The center was packed, and people looked genuinely enthusiastic and interested in her presentation," said Volpe. "It was also really cool to see so many people in the Center. It's a beautiful space that doesn't see nearly enough love from the campus community."

Said Peter Herron '14, "Andelloux knew exactly what she was doing. I would thoroughly recommend that girls learn from the vast wisdom this amazing woman has to offer. I definitely learned a thing or two myself." •

Common Rooms as Classrooms

JERELL MAYES
STAFF WRITER

I remember during freshman orientation (in the looming shadow of finals, let's remember the good old days) there was a super entertaining skit performed by students that took place in a freshman seminar. Slapstick (but still appreciated) humor aside, the major implication was that freshman seminars are often filled with the kind of students who wake up three minutes prior to the beginning of class and run downstairs to their common room with a pencil and a single piece of paper before falling asleep during the ensuing discussion. So basically, they're filled with first year students, as the name of the class would imply. Part of this problem might be that some freshmen refuse to wear anything more business-casual than pajama pants in class. The other problem, some have suggested, could be the location of the classroom itself.

Freshman seminars have only been taught for the past few years,

and have met in the common rooms of residential houses for an even shorter period of time. Not all of these classes are held inside dorms, but mine is. We meet in the Larrabee common room, which, aside from having the best Festivus decorations on campus, is spacious and has a large table that is theoretically conducive to a class discussion. Every other weekday I, along with about a dozen other students, sit down in Larrabee for class. Most of us live only a couple floors away, although a handful are from different houses. Does this mean that no one has ever been late? Absolutely not. I've seen people who live less than a minute away from class stumble in ten minutes late without a book in hand. Even I have cut it pretty close sometimes, under the ironic assumption that because it's so close by, there's no way I could ever end up being late. If having class literally in your own dorm doesn't eliminate lateness, nothing will. On top of this, what's the real point of having a class in a common

room? Is it the coziness aspect? Cozy is good, but let's flash to a couple weeks ago.

The class decided one day, due to a unanimous vote, to sit on the couches and chairs instead of at the table. This was fine with me, until I sat down on the couch and

Could our common room usage be a sign of our burgeoning school population?

spent the next hour and fifteen minutes doing the ritual head-dipping-and-swaying technique of the exhausted college student. I probably wasn't alone in this. Who is to blame? Well, technically I was for not having gotten enough sleep, but the couches probably didn't help. As much as I hate to admit it, the hard, plastic penance devices that the public school system calls chairs may be

the only way I can get my brain into thinking order, even though comparably luxurious couches are now available. Of course, the next time the class sat at the couches, I managed to stay alert, so who knows?

I asked some fellow freshmen how they felt about having class in the common room. A couple gave me the usual, "It's great! I can roll out of bed, walk down the hall and be on time!" I share that opinion, but Molly Bienstock '14, answered my question with a question. When I asked her what she thought of classes held in common rooms, she responded with, "I guess it makes sense, but is it because we don't have the space?" Now there's an idea I hadn't thought of.

Could our common room usage be a sign of a burgeoning school population? By the time senior year comes around for my class, will we be forcing classes to meet at the outdoor classroom on Tempel Green in December? In all probability, no, not at all. "I mean, I'm not complaining,"

Bienstock added, "the negative [aspects] aren't really negatives." Perhaps it's a matter of space, perhaps not. I know that English professor Jeff Strabone, my freshman seminar professor, has expressed discontentment about certain aspects of teaching in a common room, mainly the lack of access to a projector, something he claims he was told would be provided to him.

All in all, do the pros of teaching and learning in a physically comfortable environment outweigh the cons of teaching and learning in what can sometimes be a mentally lethargic environment? I say yes. Other students say yes. One student says she guesses so, and a professor wants a projector. I think this means that the idea works for the most part, but there's always room for improvement. If some small alterations are made, I think next year's freshmen might find their freshman seminar among their favorite classes. Well, their favorite classroom environments at least. •



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONN COLLEGE ARCHIVES

The common room of Windham House, 1933 (left) and 2010 (right).

The 2010 version just might be your classroom next semester.



LILAH RAPTOPOULOS / EIC

What the Zuck, Mark?

MELANIE THIBEAULT
STAFF WRITER
SARAH SHANKEL
CONTRIBUTOR

Editor's note: Neither Sarah Shankel nor Melanie Thibault has ever met Mark Zuckerberg. This is a satirical interview and is not meant to be taken literally.

I'm willing to bet anyone who is reading this (and who has a Facebook account) has signed on to Facebook one day, expecting to see the usual format and maybe a few new notifications, only to discover that Mark Zuckerberg, once again bored with his own life, has updated everything. Facebook seems to be receiving facial reconstruction, but instead of actually making anything better, it seems to be aggravating its users and making them uncomfortable.

Recently, Facebook has been adopting many changes to its format, causing confusion and

uproar among users as they sign on and see the adjustments for the first time. Curious and slightly annoyed, I wanted to get into the mind of its ingenious, albeit strange, creator, so I sat down with Zuckerberg at his office in Palo Alto, California to discuss the recent changes to the website, his take on the release of *The Social Network* and his plans for the future (Is he plotting to take over the world? Or at least the Internet?) In between games of speed chess with his co-workers, Zuckerberg answered a few of my questions and tried to parry the rest.

Let's start off with a simple question: Why all the recent changes to Facebook?

Well, you see, the real question is "why not all the changes?" I mean, you can't take away the only thing I have in life, which is my power over Facebook. If I weren't sitting around in my office all day, playing speed chess, seeing how long I can go without blinking and editing the privacy controls and layout of Facebook, what would I be doing? Using traditional methods to stalk people, like following people home and creeping outside their windows seems unacceptable today.

What was the idea behind the new friendship pages where you can see the connections between any two people? It seems a tad creepy.

I don't like to think of anything on Facebook as "creepy."

The friendship pages are just another way for friends to connect and see how much they actually have in common. Maybe you and your best friend aren't as close as you thought. Facebook can help you realize this and strengthen or destroy your friendship. Or maybe you and that quiet kid in your biology class like a lot of similar things; a love connection might be made, all thanks to the friendship pages.

Not being a very photogenic person, I can't say I'm a fan of the new reel of five pictures that appears at the top of my profile now.

Well, I knew that it might not please everyone, but the purpose was to display photos that really represent who one is as a person. Personally, I wanted everyone to see the pictures of me and my mom and my friends—so my mom and our cats.

I liked having witty sayings or quotes in the "about me" box under my profile picture, but it seems you have taken that away from us, too. What's the deal?

I felt that having an "about me" section seemed a little too vain for the social networking scene. One's character is revealed through their status updates, photos and the information section. Also, this section was the most heavily hit by Facebook friend hackers and pranksters. After receiving numerous complaints from nerds and hipsters alike, I opted to eliminate it.

You've added a section called "philosophy," which includes a space entitled "People Who Inspire You." Who inspires you, Mark?

Bill Gates, definitely. I see a lot of myself in him; we're both pale and overwhelmingly attractive. Geek chic, that's what's up these

days. Also, I really look up to Andy Samberg, mostly because of his outstanding portrayal of me on *Saturday Night Live*.

A friend of mine has asked me to relay this question: "Why is it that Facebook allows Klingon as an actual language, but when I want to change my language to Parseltongue it doesn't work. Why not?" I sense some favoritism.

Harry Potter only had two friends. That's completely against all that Facebook stands for. I believe Parseltongue is a very exclusive language, something that negates the mission statement of expanding your network and circle of friends.

If I'm correct in my understanding, there is a new thing on Facebook that allows you to rate your friends or organize your top friends. Did you wake up one morning and say, "You know what was a good idea? MySpace. Let's bring that back?"

Blasphemy. That's the first thing that comes to mind. MySpace is for emo bands and twelve-year-old girls looking for illicit relationships. Facebook is a more sophisticated form of social networking open to anyone and everyone. We're not looking to create a hierarchy of friends; Facebook is a place of equal opportunity, much like the fraternities I rushed. That is until I was rejected from most of them. On second thought, there is no place quite as equal as Facebook.

How do you feel about *The Social Network*?

You know, I think it was a pretty accurate portrayal, except I wish they had chosen someone more attractive to play me. I was thinking Robert Pattinson. I feel as though I give off that sexy,

pasty, disheveled British vibe. And I'm not just saying that because I'm a huge *Twilight* fan. Huge. In fact, I think I'll add Stephenie Meyer to my "People Who Inspire You" page.

Let's be honest, Mark. Are you trying to take over the world?

(Mark begins to sweat profusely, but still refuses to blink.) By taking over the world, do you mean creating many several thousands of deep friendships? Strengthened by the hundreds of moments we share through uploaded photos and videos of drunken nights at the club where skinny white boys show us all how to Dougie? Then, yes, I'm taking over the world, and thank God I am, because where would we all be without Facebook? Still on MySpace with the creepers, that's where.

What are you thinking about for the future of Facebook?

Well, I was thinking about a new relationship status, mainly for myself and...well, just myself: "awaiting shipment of mail order bride."

Well folks, there you have it. Mark Zuckerberg in all his glory. Why did he make all these recent changes to Facebook? It's all part of his quest to take over the social networking world and bring people closer together than they've ever been or want to be. In the process, more people will be stalked, more profiles will be crept upon, and more embarrassing photos will be posted, causing people to question their decisions the next day. But in the meantime, there's really nothing we can do about it because Zuckerberg, the twenty-six-year-old mastermind, has us all in the palm of his hand. Dislike. •



PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Facebook's thoughtful Mark Zuckerberg

RateMyProfessors Doesn't Make the Grade

The screenshot shows the RateMyProfessors website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the text "Enter a professor name" and buttons for "Search" and "Web". Below the search bar are navigation links: "Home", "Forum", and "Blog". A user greeting says "Hi, Guest! Create an account or login". The main content area shows a profile for "Connecticut College" with a "No Photo" placeholder and a "3.59 PROFESSOR AVERAGE" badge. Text next to the badge includes "School's Webpage: http://camel.conncoll.edu/", "New London, Connecticut", "Wrong school? Find your school", and "Total professors: 279". There is also a "Get RSS Updates" button.

SAM NORCROSS STAFF WRITER

How much faith can one have in a teacher-rating system that takes "hotness" into account? I had never even heard of RateMyProfessors.com until just a few weeks ago, during registration, when scores from one to five were being thrown into conversation as legitimate factors in considering what classes to take. I checked it out just to see how my second semester professors stacked up. The numbers ranged from encouraging to a little scary. Little emoticon faces lined my professors' names—one yellow with glee, one blue with misery and a couple that were green with... some sort of ambivalence, I think. But beneath these surface scores and cartoon faces were comments that rarely seemed objective or helpful. Surfing through the ratings of random professors, it didn't take me long to realize that the site is flawed and that to take it seriously would be a mistake.

Some of my favorite things to ignore on the Internet are user ratings. Usually placed next to reviews written by professionals, these appraisals of movies, books, video games and countless other items and content are often wildly biased and full of the nonsense that goes along with Internet anonymity. And this is part

of the problem with RateMyProfessors. There are no set criteria in place for evaluating a professor, so we're left with the ideas of nameless, faceless people whose opinions are often extreme enough to warrant posting on the site. Most students seem to think that the comments are more useful to read than just the numerical ratings. These let the user get a sense of why a given professor is loved or hated, but the comments themselves are still hard to take seriously, especially the negative reviews. The web site does not allow "libelous comments," but there are still many that are ridiculous and cruel.

"Absolutely worthless. The day [this professor] retires will be the best thing to happen to Connecticut College in years," was a choice example I came across. Another was, "I only wear slip-on shoes to [this professor's] class because I would probably hang myself if I had some laces." Comments like these are more common than you'd think, but thankfully it seems that most students understand not to take every rating at face value.

"You have to take it all with a grain of salt," said Hannah Jeffrey '14. "Sometimes you'll see a super enthusiastic rating, and all the rest are just average, and you know to take the average ones

more seriously." Strength in the number of opinions seems to be a popular way to find the most accurate one.

Alison Carpenter '13 said, "I know some people are biased, but if ten people say the same bad thing about a professor then there must be some truth to it."

But I would still disagree. I'm sure there are cases where a professor deserves all of his or her bad ratings, but I'm also sure that there are many more cases where the only students who bothered to rate the professor were the ones that had very negative (or very positive) feelings about the class. This is due to many factors, teaching ability be-

There are no set criteria for evaluating a professor, so we're left with the ideas of nameless, faceless people whose opinions are extreme enough to warrant posting on the site.

ing only one among them. I found that many negative reviews were the product of the difficulty of a class's subject matter and many positive reviews that seemed to be the result of teaching gimmicks like singing or other activities that have nothing to do with teaching or learning.

Another question I asked students was whether they believed that professors checked their own ratings regularly and actually took them into consideration. Many students believed that professors did, but that doesn't seem to be the case. Professor Joseph Schroeder of the neuroscience department said that he's visited

the site maybe six times since he started teaching, and doesn't pay very close attention to it.

"If the site were fair and more objective, then it would be a useful tool. But at this point you only get the two extremes in the ratings," Schroeder also mentioned his problems with the ambiguity of the rating system. "The three or four categories [easiness, clarity, helpfulness] are too vague to make much sense," he said. "I believe there's a section for easiness. What does a high score in easiness mean? That you're easy, or hard or fair?"

Philosophy professor Derek Turner says he hasn't checked his score in years and also doesn't think the site is particularly useful as a tool to students or teachers. "When you think about how a class went in retrospect, it's really important to look at the whole picture," he says. He thinks that a quantification of this is hard to find on a website which in general uses a very small sample size.

An idea I had while thinking about this article was to provide a similar, but more useful resource for Conn students by making the evaluations which students fill out at the end of each semester public online. I posed this idea to Dr. Turner and he informed me that many schools do just that, but that process would not be so simple at Conn. "As it stands now, each department has its own individual rating system and if the evaluations were all made public, it would be hard to make sense of them."

But TJ Wellman of the religious studies department seemed to agree with this idea, and took it even farther. "What I would like to see is a more public forum" he said, suggesting not only that the evaluations be made public, but also that professors be able to comment on them, and maybe even have peer reviews between

professors. As far as RateMyProfessors goes, Wellman agrees that it has flaws.

"The danger is that some of the professors that are most effective aren't the most popular." Wellman also agreed that most professors at Conn pay little attention to the site. "It seems to be a culture at some schools, where it is widely used, but not here. At a school this small, I think word of mouth is the most effective tool."

All three professors said they do pay serious attention to the course evaluations returned at the end of the semester. These write-ups are important enough to be taken into consideration when a professor is eligible for tenure, and Wellman said he has used the evaluations to change his course material. Perhaps a public forum system, as Wellman suggests, would lead to even more productive changes in teaching style and course material based on student suggestion.

Through my interviews with professors, I learned that the faculty is currently considering the standardization of the student evaluations. Although I don't entirely agree with the execution of RateMyProfessor, I do think that it's a good idea. If these standardized evaluations come to fruition, then Conn would be in a position to adapt the RateMyProfessor idea into a smaller, more controlled system with ratings that would be much more accurate. Students would be able to see clearly which professors are truly passionate and dedicated to teaching and professors would be able to defend themselves against unfounded claims, or even adapt their future classes to student suggestions. The quality of a teacher is a delicate thing to quantify, and to do so properly requires a more controlled and complete method than RateMyProfessor.com has to offer. All we need are a larger sample size, a better method of evaluation and no more smiley face-based ratings. •

Nothing Happened in the Alice Johnson Room

A freshman's memories of her first J-Board hearing

EMILY BERNSTEIN STAFF WRITER

I was expecting a judge on a high podium, or a jury of my peers, or at least some gavel banging. What I saw, as I poked my head in the door of the Alice Johnson room, was a table manned by two kids I'd seen in Harris and at parties and a woman I didn't recognize. Across from them was a table reserved for the accused party with three places set with identical laminated Honor Code cards.

As I sat waiting for my accomplices, I thought about the crime that had landed me before three pairs of eyes, measuring me from across the table. The case report describes how the security officers found us, "creating music with guitars and a drum set... The three students were found in possession of six unopened cans of Narragansett Beer (from an opened 18 pack) and admitted that they were drinking... The three students complied with the orders given to empty the six cans of beer. The students were asked to end their music practice for the night, and the building was secured."

In e-mailed statements submitted to the Judicial Board we explained ourselves: the box had not been full when we brought it there, one of us had not, in fact, been drinking, the other two (myself included) had consumed two to three beers over the course of two hours. As a freshman, I didn't know what to expect in terms of repercussions. When I didn't receive a response to my e-mail for

about a month, I assumed that the ridiculousness of the charges had caused them to be dropped. Then, just before Thanksgiving break, we were summoned to an Adjudication Team hearing.

It was kind of funny up until this point. Okay, J-Board, I'll write you guys a remorseful confession begging you to forgive me for the two beers that I consumed. I'll take whatever slap on the wrist you deem necessary to punish me for this blatant violation of the Honor Code. But telling me that the names of "my witnesses," if any, must be submitted "at least twenty-four hours in advance of the hearing" makes it pretty hard for me to take you seriously. Especially when, the night after my run-in with Campus Safety, I saw the same officers confront some considerably more intoxicated students outside of a dorm and ask them to pour out their beers without writing them up.

In preparation for the hearing, we were required to prepare "a brief statement (it must be typed, double-spaced, and preferably no longer than one page) in response to the alleged infractions" and advised to "be knowledgeable of the contents of the Student Handbook located on CamelWeb." After my accomplices arrived in the Alice Johnson room and took their seats next to me, a tape recorder was switched on and our statements were read aloud by one of the kids across the table. Next we were asked to read the honor code

cards before us out loud.

"In unison?" one of my tablemates asked.

"Sure," said the boy across the table.

Together we pledged to uphold the honor and integrity of our school, as well as our own beliefs, and respect the community

I'm ready to start being treated like an adult. To me, that means evaluating the gravity of my infraction before churning me through a judicial system that lands me in a workshop that ends up telling me that the "choices" that put me there were exactly the kind that would be expected of a responsible adult.

that we are so proud to be a part of. After a brief period of questioning and disapproving glares, the hearing concluded.

"Until a verdict is reached, you are not permitted to speak to anyone about this hearing," we were warned. "You may not mention what was said or who you saw here. Nothing happened this morning in this conference room."

As we stood to leave, one of my fellow delinquents, who was written up four days before his twenty-first birthday, couldn't help but remark, "You know, this is straight out of Dante's *Inferno*. The cards? In hell, in Dante's *Inferno*, there are scenes carved into the ground so that as the sinners walk through they look down and

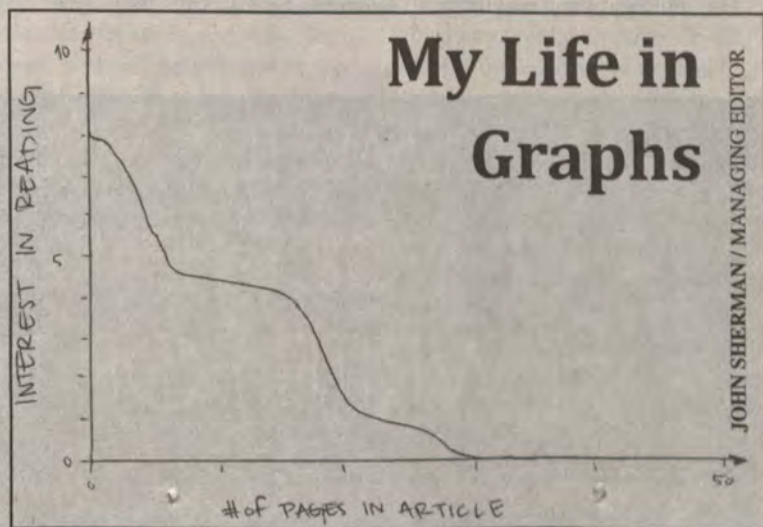
are forced to contemplate their sins."

The Adjudication team was not amused by this parallel.

I understand that my actions were illegal but I don't feel that they were irresponsible. If I am going to be judged by a panel (mostly of kids about my age) instead of the law, I would expect a little more thought and understanding to go into my punishment. The card I received from the Choices workshop (which I was sanctioned to attend as punishment) tells me that consuming two drinks in two hours keeps me in "the green zone" of dangerous alcohol consumption (the blue zone corresponds to Thursday night shenanigans and the red zone is near death). My age and circumstances afford me the privilege of living in a bubble where my

actions are not punished by law. However, I'm ready to start being treated like an adult. To me, that means evaluating the gravity of my infraction before churning me through a judicial system that lands me in a workshop that ends up telling me that the "choices" that put me there were exactly the kind that would be expected of a responsible adult.

I understand that I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. I also understand that I'm not the first person to complain about the judicial process and that it is currently being revised. I hope that the changes made will help to foster the spirit of mutual respect and integrity that our school is based upon rather than perpetuate a hypocritical, overly dramatic system that inspires more snide literary comparisons than it does respect. •



CC Orchestra Spreads Classical Christmas Cheer

JERELL MAYS
STAFF WRITER

Music elitists would have you believe that there are only two kinds of music worth listening to: compositions written by centuries-dead European men and Meshuggah. The fact that you have Rataat and Florence and the Machine on your iPod means that you are a mainstream loving zombie with no personal taste. After all, if you don't like the same compositions every other music elitist likes, how can you be an individual like them? That being said, I enjoy classical music and I attended the Connecticut College Orchestra in Concert on Tuesday and was sincerely impressed, even if I feel I have no right whatsoever to be listening to it since I can't spend hours discussing the unique timbre of the trombone during section six of *Symphony Number Whatever* in *Z minor*.

There's something inherently fancy about going to see a music show at Conn, assuming that music is being played in Evans Hall, which is where the orches-

tra played. Seeing a full music ensemble made up of a whopping thirteen violinists, two double bassists, a horn player, an oboist, three flutists, three cellists, two clarinetists, three trombonists, four violinists, two bassoonists, two trumpeters, a tuba player, two percussionists and a conductor is a sight to behold. If you haven't seen an orchestral performance, I would suggest going to at least one. To me, there are few things more impressive than watching over three dozen musicians play their instruments at the same time and produce an amazing, layered work of art.

But what about the pieces, you ask? While sitting in a completely-empty-except-for-myself row of Evans, I was treated to classic favorites such as *La Forza del Destino* and *Symphony No. 94* and *St. Paul Suite*. Sound familiar? No? Well, how about "Gavotte" from *Musette* from the *Third English Suite*? It was written by J.S. Bach, and even I know who that is. There was also "Final Scene" from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, which required the ad-

dition of six singers, who did a splendid job. At first I was miffed that the ending would be spoiled for me since I've never seen the opera, or any other opera for that matter, but I sighed with relief when I realized that the entire thing was sung in Italian.

I should mention something: when going to an orchestra, you would be wise not to schedule anything directly afterward, as the time can vary greatly, depending on the pieces being played. For example, *Symphony No. 94* stopped so many times during the performance that I thought I was hearing ten different compositions. But I wasn't! In fact, another quick tip for all concertgoers: don't start clapping until after the conductor stops conducting, turns around and bows. Apparently, and one would think that I would think that this was obvious, this signals the end of the piece, and thus, the proper time to applaud.

As for the highlight reel, the last two pieces were my favorite. Alfred Reed's *Russian Christmas Music*, aside from having a really pragmatic name, started off very good, turning dark and menacing in the beginning, in the middle and then again in the end. Christmas in Russia is clearly not as jolly a holiday as it is elsewhere in the world. As to make up for this, the final song of the evening was "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson, a Christmas classic. Don't remember that one? It's the one with the lyrics no one really comprehends except for "giddy up, giddy up, giddy up-let's go!"

Before the piece was played, the conductor, James E. Jackson III, turned to the audience and commended the orchestra for their hard work and talent, and then asked if we, the audi-

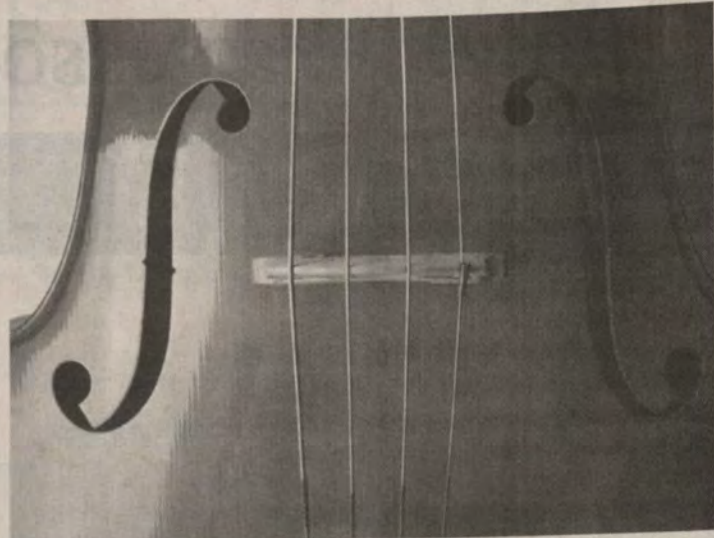


PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ence, had any keys. All twenty or so of us did, except for me, whose single room key jingled dully and probably couldn't inspire Christmas cheer in Buddy the Elf. He told us that we were going to be the sleigh bells. A musical performance with audience participation? If orchestral arrangements ever go 3-D, this will be how they do it.

So for the entire song, which was longer than I remember, the audience jangled their keys high above their heads, losing spirit at a rate of two audience members per thirty seconds until the conductor, with his keen ears, turned around in mid-motion to signal us to keep going and brought it all on track again. Leave it to an audience to be too lazy to shake keys in the air for a single song, even though the first chair violinist has been positively throwing down

for the last two hours and hasn't even broken a sweat.

For those of you wondering if this has been a satirical piece or not, let me clarify: I'm not sure. Do I like classical music? Yes. Do I enjoy watching orchestras perform? Yes. Do I appreciate the colossal amount of effort that goes into them? Yes! The Connecticut College Orchestra is a talented group of young men and women who are all obviously very good at what they do, and what disappointed me was the fact that by the time intermission was over there were actually more performers on stage than there were audience members, and that's messed up. It's free of charge to Conn students and it's a good show. So the next time the Connecticut College Orchestra is in concert, get out there and support them. And bring more than one key. •

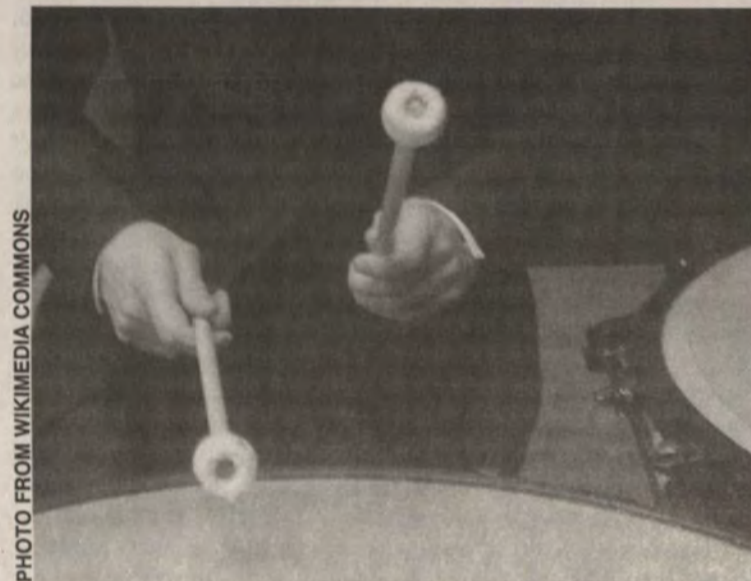


PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

An Appeal to the Community

RON BIRNKRANT
CONTRIBUTOR

There has been much discussion in the past couple months about whether alcohol and drug violations should be classified under the Honor Code or college policy. To me, this is an issue of mere semantics and is not all that important. What is of importance is the climate of fear perpetuated by Campus Safety's enforcement of the college's policies. The Student Bill of Rights entitles students to "an environment in which the college takes reasonable measures to offer students protection from foreseeable danger" (Student Bill of Rights, Article 7, page 9). The administration and Campus Safety have failed the student body in this respect.

Frequently, students who are caught smoking marijuana receive multiple charges, including creating dangerous or unhealthy conditions. Students smoke indoors out of fear of the potential consequences of being caught by Campus Safety officers. This in turn jeopardizes the welfare college property, and more importantly, everyone in that building. I propose that Campus Safety employ its discretion and simply confiscate marijuana being smoked outside of the dorms. This will help satisfy Rights 7 of the Student Bill of Rights.

The college can no longer

take a naïve stance on substance use. They must accept that students will smoke marijuana and engage in underage drinking. However, they can ensure that these substances are consumed responsibly. I am not advocating that the school rewrite the law: the sale and distribution of illegal drugs is a serious offense and should be adjudicated appropriately. I also think that if the college changes its policy, then creating dangerous and/or unhealthy conditions should be seen as a greater offense. Smoking indoors is unacceptable and should not be tolerated; it displays a lack of concern for the welfare of one's peers.

Most Campus Safety officers instruct students who are carrying an open container of alcohol outdoors to dispose of their drink, regardless of whether they are of age or not. My proposal is analogous to the college's current alcohol policy, and yet binge drinking continues to be a campus-wide problem. All college students are capable of drinking responsibly, but many do not. I would argue that a lack of transparency in the college's directives to Campus Safety creates a climate of fear. Students are unwilling to roll the dice and carry alcohol between houses and parties. Instead, they choose to consume large amounts of alcohol in very short amounts of time to avoid encounters with Campus Safety officers. We

do not want students only to feel safe in the confines of their room, because that will fail to teach students to drink responsibly in social settings.

This is an invitation to the administration, staff, faculty and students to engage in a dialogue on how we can create a safe environment that teaches students how to act responsibly and maturely. We must employ a realist perspective and accept that many college students, regardless of age, drink alcohol and smoke marijuana. We must now figure out how we can promote a safe environment where students can engage in these activities responsibly. I am not asking the college to condone them, but to use its discretion in terms of enforcement.

Campus Safety officers are not police or law enforcement officers. Their objective is to promote a safe environment at the school. The choice to call them Campus Safety officers reiterates this distinction in itself. If the college would like to redefine their role, then campus safety officers should be held to the same high standards as police officers. Until then, college policies will continue to create friction between students and Campus Safety. Students will continue to be afraid of getting in trouble and this will lead to dangerous conditions for our peers. •

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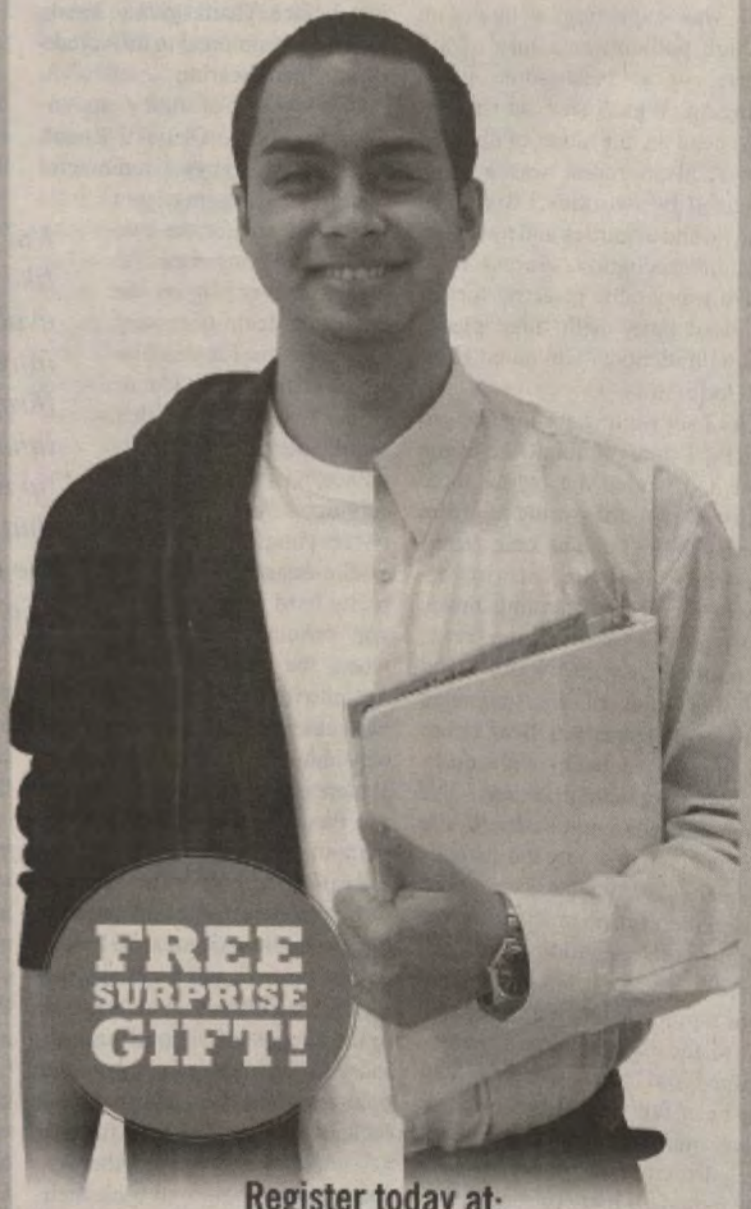
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DECEMBER 13, 2010

Wendy and Lucy and Kelly

Independent filmmaker to visit Conn

RACINE OXTOBY
A&E EDITOR

Exams and essays are piling up – it's an unfortunate fact. It would therefore seem unwise to spare oneself a few hours to go see a movie. However, Conn's film department has managed to tempt the student body with a tantalizing offer not worth giving up: award-winning filmmaker Kelly Reichardt will be on campus for an intimate Q&A session, as well as to screen her 2008 film *Wendy and Lucy*.

Following department-sponsored appearances by Betsey Biggs and Academy Award winning animator John Canemaker, as well as Jennie Livingston's own Q&A and film screening, Reichardt's event will feature the final independent artist hosted by Livingston, who, thanks to a grant, has been teaching at Conn for this past semester.

"I had my Independent Film students see *Old Joy*," Livingston says, referring to Reichardt's first film. "When I saw it at Sundance, I was thrilled. Later that day I ran into A.O. Scott (the *New York Times* film critic)... and I said 'You have to see this film!' Generally... it's best to steer clear of advocating any particular films or filmmakers, but in this case I was enthused and enthralled and had to say something."

Wendy and Lucy, the film screening after the Q&A session, was released in 2008 to rave reviews. It was nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards, Best Picture and Best Female Performance for star Michelle Williams. Throughout the 2008-2009 awards season, Williams was considered a strong contender for the Best Actress Oscar.

In the film, Williams's character Wendy journeys towards Alaska with little money and her trusty dog Lucy. "[The film] is about what happens to someone who's alone and has to make her way alone in contemporary America," explains Livingston. "It's a quiet film and... a terribly smart, beautiful film."

Reichardt's latest film, *Meek's Cutoff*, starring Michelle Williams and Paul Dano, recently screened at the New York Film Festival. As Livingston explains it, the film is "all about families crossing Oregon in covered wagons who get lost. It's not like too many Westerns, doesn't reify the grand myths of conquest that so many Westerns are about, nor is it self-consciously political, at least not in ways that aren't subtle and smart and unpredictable."

Of course, Reichardt's accolades should not be the film's only defining feature. "Though Reichardt is a woman director," says Livingston, "and women make only 6% of features, and we often think of female filmmakers as being interested in 'relationship' pictures, her films aren't like that at all. When *Meek's Cutoff* played at the NY Film Festival, the curator introduced Reichardt as one of the best filmmakers working in the U.S. today, and that's not an exaggeration."

The screening is a welcome study break for film lovers of all ages, and it's not every day that students have the opportunity to have a well-respected independent filmmaker on campus. "Why would anyone who loves film miss this opportunity?" asks Livingston. "And who doesn't love film?"

Wendy and Lucy is screening on Wednesday, December 15, at 4:30 PM in Olin 014. The Q&A session will immediately follow the movie.



"Nut Lady's" Life Work Inherited by CC



JULIA CRISTOFANO
STAFF WRITER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But Tashjian had a larger goal in mind than to simply hoard a variety of nuts and nut-inspired chotchskies. She was actually a devoted Christian Scientist who believed that her passion for nuts served a greater purpose. Contrary to what you may think, the double entendre associated with the word "nut" was not lost on The Nut Lady herself. She was no fool, although she did not believe in evolution and expressed a belief that perhaps we originated from nuts. Rather, she embraced the idea of being associated with both the edible morsel and the slang term for insane. She believed that society did a terrible wrong by marginalizing individuals who were unusual, unique or nutty. She saw her collection of nuts as a way to help those cast aside by society. Hopefully, by elevating and promoting the nut, she could reach out to millions.

Tashjian continued this mission for many years until, one day in 2002, she lapsed into a coma. Doctors believed that she did not stand a good chance of recovery since she was nearly ninety and, as a Christian Scientist, eschewed modern medicine. To make matters worse, while in her coma, the state looked into her finances and found she owed so many back taxes that they put her house, and its contents, on the market to pay off her debt. Luckily, a real es-

tate agent and friend of Steiner's alerted the professor and asked if he was interested in checking out the museum before it was auctioned off. Seeing this as his last opportunity to experience the museum, Steiner visited the gothic mansion and decided to negotiate with the town of Old Lyme to donate the museum to Conn. Two weeks later, by a medical miracle, The Nut Lady awoke from her coma outraged at the loss of her home but grateful that Conn and Steiner had saved her life's work.

Although she was moved to a nursing home in Old Saybrook, Tashjian spent the next few years working with museum studies students to go through the contents of the museum. Rather ironically though, most of the items from the museum were not actual nuts, as she only had around twenty of them. Instead, the students sorted through over one hundred paintings, twenty aluminum sculptures, and countless boxes filled with letters, newspaper clippings, and photos about the museum and nuts. These students also helped to put on a small show in Shain Library in 2003, followed by a larger, better publicized show at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum the following year.

Despite her eccentric nature, Tashjian and the students greatly enjoyed working together. She found the students unjaded and endowed with exuberant creativity while they described her as intelligent and quick witted. She also was a supporter of Steiner's,

since he was the one who saved her museum; however, their relationship grew tense towards the end of her life. Steiner explained, "Elizabeth was always looking for the next project, the next step for the nuts, but after Shain and the Lyman Allyn there wasn't anything else" so she began to grow disheartened. Another strain on their relationship resulted when Steiner expressed his interest in writing a book about the nut museum. Tashjian was upset because the professors proposed book would not focus solely on the nut museum and, presumably, because she didn't want any competition when she got around to writing a book about herself. Only now that she has passed on has Steiner resumed work on his book "Performing the Nut Museum: Elizabeth Tashjian and the Art of the Double Entendre".

As for The Nut Lady, who died at age 94, she accomplished her dream of spreading her love for nuts. After the Old Lyme Nut Museum was well established, she became a frequent guest on many television and radio shows including those of Johnny Carson, David Letterman, Jay Leno, Howard Stern and Chevy Chase. When she died, on January 28 2007, she was even honored with a fairly lengthy obituary in *The New York Times*. The Nut Lady became an endearing figure to many. She embodied everything we love in an artist: passion, commitment and a little bit of spunk.

Blur

Dance Department show wows crowd with variety

RYANNE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

This past weekend, the fall faculty dance department show *Blur* showcased nine beautifully individual pieces, which included the choreography of five faculty members, two students, two guest artists, and one pre-show "bantaba." The diverse and imaginative choreography performed on the stage of Palmer Auditorium captured the creative minds of the choreographers, sharing their vision to a multitude of dancers and their audience.

Blur began with an energetic West African "bantaba" choreographed by faculty members Shani Collins Achille and Susan Connelly. The dance consisted of twelve dancers costumed in brightly-colored traditional West African clothing. With the accompaniment of Issa Coulibaly and other percussionists on stage, the polyrhythmic and dynamic movement of the dance only further developed the audience's excitement and anticipation for a fantastic show.

The chair of the dance department, David Dorfman, before introducing the show, mentioned that he didn't need to ask the audience how they felt - it was obvious we were all excited for the

impressive dancing soon to come. I know I was.

After Dorfman's heart-felt and humorous introduction, the curtain was raised to two dancers on stage in silence. In "Wrapped," choreographed by faculty member Lisa Race, the dancers were all wearing the same costume: black shirt, black leggings, and black skirt with a crinkly white paper scarf wrapped around the neck of the dancers. The piece was broken up into three sections, making it the dancers' responsibility to perform a cohesive and splendid opening. The dancers were all paired off, performing similar choreography in groups—until they finally came together into one big circle and tied their paper scarves together. With an audible "go," the dancers threw the paper up and leapt underneath, catching the paper at the last moment.

Breaking the connectivity of all the dancers in the circle, Khadija Griffith '11 and visiting student from Boston University Stuart Meyers '12 tangled themselves around the circle whirling towards the front of the stage, collecting all the scarves on their way and dismissing the other dancers as they went along. As the dancers met in the middle, they

stopped moving, head-to-toe covered in paper. Trying to dance all wrapped up, their frustration with the paper translated into the relationship with each other. Eventually two other dancers returned back on stage to strip the paper off of Griffith and Meyers and suggest other articles of clothing for the dancers to wear. After a change of clothes, the third section of the piece consisted of a jovial and festive wedding-like dance to the song "Hit 'Em Up Style," composed by Dallas Austin and performed by the Carolina Chocolate Drops. As the dancers peeled off by twos, shimmying down the center, the piece fades out with the image of half of the cast spinning upside down in a split held by the arms of the other dancers.

Every fall dance department show, the faculty selects two student-choreographed works that originally debuted in the semester's Dance Club show. The next piece was "The Strange Meeting of Slim, Ferdinand and Cody O'Neil" by senior dance major Kim Lusk. Wayne Ong '11, wore a hat with horns transforming him into a bull with Ellie Whiteford '11 as his Matador. They danced and chased each other around, as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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The Last Five Years

Two differing reviews for Wig & Candle's two-person musical

CAROLINE MILLS
STAFF WRITER

The Last Five Years is a musical about a relationship. It is odd, then, that the audience rarely sees the two characters together. Jamie (Grant Jacoby '13) and Cathy (Talia Curtin, '13), tell their story in a series of fourteen songs. Of these, only three are duets, and only one is sung in such a way that the couple acknowledges each other's existence. The harmony is lovely, but it is purely musical. Even in the best of times, there is little love visible in this relationship. Rather, we are presented with two different stories: one of Jamie, the writer, whose meteoric rise to literary success inflates his ego to disgusting proportions; and Cathy, his less-successful actress girlfriend (later wife) whose devotion is rewarded with betrayal.

Alone, these stories could be compelling. Both characters have their dreams come true right away, only to have them dashed soon after. There is a rise and fall; a recognizable arc. If playwright Jason Robert Brown had chosen to he could have told the stories of both characters, emphasizing how they were intertwined by their relationship and by circumstance. Instead, he complicates things by presenting two different timelines. Jamie tells his side of the story in chronological order, beginning where he first met Cathy and ending as he leaves her. Cathy, however, begins at the end of the relationship and moves backward, ending on the evening after their first date. This configuration ensures that the couple is only really together once (though they share the stage for the majority of the play). This moment is "The Next Ten Minutes," a beautiful duet in which Jamie proposes to Cathy and they marry. Had we ever seen the couple together before, or had an idea of the progression of their relationship, this scene could have been much more affecting. Instead, it is merely a pretty song.

There are quite a few pretty songs in *The Last Five Years*, in genres ranging from pop to jazz to klezmer. The two actors handle what seems to be difficult material quite well, backed by a small but talented pit orchestra. Aside from some minor out-of-tune moments, the music keeps the show from becoming tedious. Most of Jamie's songs in the first half are confident, upbeat

and occasionally a little silly. His arrogance is softened by Jacoby's delightful comic timing, which helps humanize his character. "The Schmel Song" is one of Jamie's standout numbers. It takes place on the couple's first Christmas together, as he tells a story he wrote recently of an old tailor who makes a deal with time. Not only is Jacoby an engaging storyteller, but one of very few moments of genuine sweetness occurs as Jamie expresses his wish to give Cathy the gift of unlimited time to make her own dreams come true.

As the show goes on, however, it becomes more and more difficult to sympathize with either Cathy or Jamie. The latter complains about being constantly hit on by attractive women post-marriage, portraying a caricature of the oversexed male in "A Miracle Would Happen." Cathy, on the other hand, is still in the early stages of the relationship. In her self-satisfied state, she sings "I Can Do Better Than That" in reference to the way her high school friends have gotten married and settled down into domestic life. By this point, the dissolution of the relationship that we witnessed at the beginning of the play seems inevitable - and perhaps for the best.

Thus, the heartbreaking final scene seems to have been wasted on a couple the audience has little reason to care about. As Cathy sits on her bed, starry eyed after her first date with Jamie and sings "Goodbye Until Tomorrow," Jamie leaves a note and his wedding ring and walks out on the relationship singing "I Could Never Rescue You." Once again, the duet is beautiful and performed well, and in theory the scene is incredibly sad. It is possible this single scene was the whole reason for the oddball chronology. Unfortunately, it leaves the audience more or less empty handed. It is as if Mr. Brown



Grant Jacoby '13 and Talia Curtin '13 perform.

ANDREW NATHANSON / CONTRIBUTOR

ANNIE MITCHELL
CONTRIBUTOR

The musical *The Last Five Years* by Jason Robert Brown is an intriguing

story of a couple's relationship as it spans from beginning to end, told from two distinct simultaneous perspectives. Last weekend, the recently-revived theater group Wig and Candle brought the musical to Tansill Theater, and the show did not disappoint.

The show tells the story of Jamie and Cathy as they meet, start dating, get married and ultimately divorce. The timeline, however, is not chronological - Jamie (Grant Jacoby '13) tells his story from the relationship's beginning to its end, while Cathy (Talia Curtin '13) sings her first song about their divorce and her last about the first time they met. The most interesting thing about this show is the fact that the two opposing timelines intersect only in "The Next Ten Minutes," which tells the story of Jamie's proposal and the couple's subsequent marriage. Otherwise, Jamie and Cathy don't acknowledge each other at all on stage, though they are both present for the majority of the show. The musical truly comes full circle when the audience realizes that the last scene, in which Jamie leaves a parting note and his wedding ring on his and Cathy's bed, is the same scene that Cathy experiences in the opening song of the show.

Jacoby and Curtin did a remarkable job in portraying the roles of two people who, for one reason or another, simply grow apart. The show's atypical timeline contributed significantly to the audience's perception of the characters, since they were able to effectively hear both sides of the story at separate times. Cathy faces disappointment after disappointment in her acting career while Jamie progressively becomes a renowned author, but it's easy to sympathize with both characters.

In Jamie's ballad "If I Didn't Believe In You," he sings, "I will not lose because you can't win," as he expresses the difficulty of living with somebody who is seemingly always frustrated with his success. Through no fault of his own, Jamie becomes more successful than Cathy, and this ultimately contributes to the couple's divorce. The most poignant moment of the show occurs when Cathy, doe-eyed and flirtatious, sings tenderly about her newfound love in "Goodbye Until Tomorrow" at the exact same moment that Jamie is leaving his wedding ring on their bed and walking out the door in his closing song "I Could Never Rescue You."

Because of the opposing timelines, *The Last Five Years* is certainly not an easy show to perform, but Jacoby and Curtin made it seem effortless. They exceeded expectations and beautifully portrayed every emotion required of their roles, from head-over-heels bliss to utter disappointment, from guilt to betrayal and from confident independence to dejected solidarity as their relationship naturally runs its course. I had nothing but wonderful things to say as I left Tansill Theater that night, and the only complaint I could possibly muster up was that the pit orchestra was noticeably out of tune in more than one piece. Having said that, I believe that *The Last Five Years* was one of the best shows I've seen at Conn to date.



Dance Department Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Jacob Rosenbaum '14 sat on a chair and read excerpts from Edgar Allan Poe and Ernest Hemingway. There was one point in the performance when Ong and Whiteford interjected his reading, forcing Rosenbaum to stop reading and sit on Ong's lap. Rosenbaum's reaction was fearful until the dancers leapt away, at which point he continued reading. The piece remained just as humorous as it originally was in the dance club show.

"Una Fantasia" involved different types of handicap equipment: crutches, a long elastic band, a rolling board, and forearm crutches. Each dancer had their own movement phrase, choreographed so the dancer could never leave and was dependent upon their objects. It was intriguing to see crutches used so gracefully, as an extension of the dancer's body, but I think the concept was a little over my head.

Adele Myers choreographed a dance titled "This dance is what you see." The piece was created as part of the Sherman Fairchild collaboration, attributing thanks to Conn professors like Blanche Boyd, Ariana Hamidi, and Joe Schroeder. Following Myers's piece was "Spelling," choreographed by David Dorfman. "Spelling" involved twenty-two dancers rocking out to the songs "Spell" and "Gloria," both by Patti Smith.

After the intermission, the curtain reopened to the sounds of purring and bubbly cooing. The lights slowly revealed Laura Chrisinger '13 as the source of the noises as she scrambled around a large wooden table, screaming bewildering sounds while making ridiculous gestures to the eight other dancers. The absurd rambling noises that came out of mouth made Chrisinger uproarious to watch. The other dancers were not completely sane either, as they grabbed their chests and seduced each other from across the stage. As the dance progressed, Chrisinger crawled as she tried to vigorously scrub the dancers clean. The table was eventually turned upside down, creating a flat surface for the dancers to eat spaghetti, served by Chrisinger on plastic plates. "Lust and Leftovers" by the guest artist Gabri Christa was comically ridiculous, and probably my favorite piece.



Kim Lusk '11 performs in "Una Fantasia," choreographed by Robyne Watkin and inspired by choreographer Marie Chouinard.

CECELIA BROWN / STAFF

Following "Lust and Leftovers" was "adoringly, agnes and aaron" the second student-choreographed piece selected from this semester's dance club show. The piece was choreographed by senior dance major Emma Judkins. Many people might recognize the song "Rodeo IV: Hoe Down" from the "Beef - It's What's for Dinner" TV ads. Judkins, once again, performed this piece with the amusing grandeur I remembered from the dance club show.

"Lullen in a New Plantation Economy," choreographed by dance department faculty Shani Collins Achille, featured thirteen dancers gathered together to sing a call-and-response gospel song. Aaron Davis '14 ran for almost the entire length of the piece, stopping only to sing the end of the song. After running for about ten minutes, I would not be able to start singing that beautifully without gasping for air.

The final piece of the show, "Celebrity Function: Excerpts of Live!" was choreographed by guest artist Kyle Abraham, a dancer in David Dorfman's dance company. The piece, about fame and performing, featured dancers wearing black outfits with gold and blue sequined backs that "Glitter-ed" on stage. The music was a combination of Mariah Carey, Pan Sonic, Nirvana and Lauryn Hill. It had a lot of static but a contemporary vibe. The eight dancers popped and locked around the stage until one last dancer basked in the ending spotlight. It was a sparkly finale to the phenomenal dance department show. •

Additional reporting by Ayano Elson.

The Shock of Words, Words, Words



ANDREW NATHANSON / CONTRIBUTOR

Wig & Candle's one-act festival took place on Friday and Saturday nights. The plays were directed by Kristin Kerr '11 (*Words, Words, Words, The Philadelphia, Sure Thing*) and Adam Berard '11 (*The Shock of Recognition, I'm Herbert*).

TOP: Rebecca Horan '13, Molly Shimko '13, and Racine Oxtoby '11 in *Words, Words, Words*.
BOTTOM: Jake Kringdon '14 in *The Shock of Recognition*.

Winnie Edmed vacates position as head Women's Soccer coach

NICK WOOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

Last week, a surprising statement was released on the College's website. It announced the imminent departure of Winnie Edmed from her position as head coach of the women's soccer team.

According to the statement, Edmed decided to relinquish her position after five years with the program; however, she will stay at the college as an instructor in the physical education department.

The first big question, of course, is why did she decide to depart so suddenly?

Chelsea Johnson '11, one of the team's midfielders, said that Coach Edmed told the team about her decision during a meeting in Cro's Nest, which took place a week before Thanksgiving. Edmed told her players that she "didn't know if [coaching the team] was her calling," according to Johnson. With two young children to look after and a four-year contract coming to an end, Edmed also mentioned that she needs to focus more of her attention on her family.

This announcement at the team meeting happened before Edmed told athletic director Fran Shields. Johnson said the team appreciated this gesture and was supportive of their coach's decision.

It is no secret that the women's soccer

team did not enjoy a lot of success in the NESCAC league during Edmed's tenure as head coach. During her five seasons at Conn, the team had a conference record of 3-36-6. This did not seem to be a factor in her departure, but a fresh start with a new head coach could be just what the Camels need to break out in league play next year.

The second big question is who will be this team's new head coach?

The athletic department's statement mentions that Shields will be conducting a "national search for a replacement head coach." One of the candidates will be assistant coach Joe Mendonca, who just finished his first season at the position.

Johnson believes that he has an advantage over the rest of the competition because "he did so much to improve our defense this year. We allowed fewer goals this season than we did last season." Indeed, while the Camels gave up a total of 36 goals to opponents in 2009, they only allowed 19 goals in 2010. Such drastic improvement seems to be partly attributable to Coach Mendonca's new strategies.

With the women's team behind their assistant head coach's candidacy, it seems likely that Mendonca will be a front-runner to replace Edmed as the new head coach. •

Men's Basketball Going Strong

Consecutive wins streak at four in a row



Conn players fight for the rebound against John Jay College. DUNCAN SPAULDING/PHOTO EDITOR

MIKE FLINT
SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday, the men's basketball team won their fourth game in a row, narrowly defeating Salve Regina 80-78 at the Luce Field House. After starting the season 1-3, the Camels have hit their stride heading into the winter break. With only one game remaining before a few week pause for the holidays, Conn is rolling with a 5-3 record.

The winning-streak began on December 3, when the Camels took down John Jay College 77-61. Earlier in the week, Conn had fallen in overtime to Eastern Connecticut State- at the time it was the Camels' third loss in a row.

The great effort and victory over John Jay was the perfect way to sort out some problems and gain confidence. Conn played well on both ends of the floor with Matt Vadas '14 leading Camel scoring with 24 points and 8 rebounds.

"We are extremely pleased to get the win," said head coach Tom Satran after the game. "I thought we did a good job keeping John Jay on the perimeter and making them take tough perimeter shots. We also ran the offense well which is good to see... We are making progress every day and I hope the guys will continue to be patient with me and one another."

Conn solidified the strong weekend the next day, beating Medgar Evers College 62-54 over at the Coast Guard Academy. The was the second in a row for the Camels and got them back up to .500 at 3-3 on the sea-

son. Vadas continued his stellar play, netting at game-high 25 points in the win.

The Camels pushed their winning-streak up to three games on December 7 when the team defeated Wentworth Institute of Technology 66-52 at home. Vadas had 16 points, 6 rebounds and 2 assists, while Rob Harrigan '13 added 13 points, 9 rebounds and 4 assists. It was not the prettiest victory of the year for Conn, but a win is a win, and this one pushed the Camels above .500 for the first time since the opening game of the season.

This past weekend, the Camels made it four in a row, taking down Salve Regina in a shootout at Luce. Although Conn trailed 49-46 with fourteen minutes left in the game, the Camels rallied for a 10-0 run over the next four minutes and never looked back. Harrigan led the way with 22 points and 14 rebounds, including 5 three-pointers. Boris Jeremic '13 scored 21 points in the win, while Vadas added 18 points and fellow freshman Taylor Hanson scored 12 points.

Next up for the Camels is an away game at Springfield College on Tuesday, December 14. It is their final game before a two and a half week break for the holidays. Conn will return to action on January 4 at home against Eastern Nazarene College. The Camels' first NESCAC contest is not until January 14, when they will take on Amherst at home. •

Additional reporting done by William Tomasian.

Information Services News and Events

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This Week at the AC



QIMENG ZHAO/STAFF

(Left) The Men's and Women's Rowing Team spend the entire winter season in Winter Training, sharing the rowing tanks in the Christoffers Rowing Training Room below the basketball courts in Luce Field House. In these tanks they focus on fitness, form and coordination. They will resume their season in March, just in time for Spring Break, which they spend training on the Thames.

(Right top): Women's Basketball (2-6) was interrupted during their game against Roger Williams for a fire alarm, so the teams huddled to strategize. Back on the court, Conn lost 58-65 in overtime.

(Right bottom): Are you a star broomball player? Do you like running around on the ice skate-less? Are you from Canada? Well if so, you're in luck, because Conn has its very own broomball club. On Friday nights at 10:30, trek down to Dayton Arena and you'll find a group of our college's finest athletes playing this popular Canadian game, wielding modified brooms as they chase down a small rubber ball. What could be more fun? While some liken it to soccer and lacrosse, broomball is played in most similar fashion to hockey: two teams try to hit the ball past each other's goaltender into a net. So the next time you want more out of your Friday night, bundle up and bring your game face down to the ice rink and engage in this exciting mélange of your favorite athletic activities.



DUNCAN SPAULDING/PHOTO EDITOR



TANAHA SIMON/PHOTO EDITOR

Women's Hockey Hitting Stride

Sit in middle of NESCAC going into winter break

EMILY WEBB
STAFF WRITER

This season, the women's hockey team is heading into their final weekend of play prior to winter break with a 4-5 record (3-3 in NESCAC). Currently tied for fifth place out of nine teams in the conference, the Camels are holding onto solid middle ground, leaving them in a good position to compete for a tournament seed at the end of the season.

NESCAC standings, however, are notorious for changing throughout the season, making it possible for the women's team to surge ahead and host a first round tournament game. Thus far, they have earned league wins against Williams, Wesleyan and Colby, while falling to Trinity, Bowdoin and Middlebury.

According to Coach Kristen Steele (in her tenth season with the Camels), the team "is always looking to make the NESCAC [tournament] and win. With three wins in

the league so far and the three losses in NESCAC by one goal, I feel we're making headway." In the past three years, the team has made it into the tournament, with their most successful season culminating in a trip to the semi-finals before they fell to Amherst 6-1 in 2009.

This season the team is focusing a lot on defensive support, which Steele explains is typical for the Camels. Additionally, puck movement and power play are important components of their strategy. On defense, Sam Schuffenecker '13 has been a force to be reckoned with, providing outstanding play in several games. She also provides support for the Camels on offense. Also in the back, Kelsey Kirker '11, Jill Doliff '12 and Sam Schoenberger '13 have "become defensive stoppers and really pen the other team into their own zone." Additionally, Steele notes that defender Katelyn Driscoll '12 "has really stepped up [her game] from last season."

On offense, the Camels have been led by three newcomers to the team: Courtney Dumont '14, Olivia Farrell '14 and Caroline Corbett '13. Working well together to form a "formidable offensive trio," these

The Camels have been led by three newcomers to the team: Courtney Dumont '14, Olivia Farrell '14 and Caroline Corbett '13

women are among the leaders in both team and league statistics. That being said, the team boasts a highly competitive atmosphere, with leaders from last year working hard to contend for a starting position and playing time.

One such player is Abby Hine '11, who is coming off an extremely successful

field hockey season during which she was named to First Team All-NESCAC and to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA)/Longstreath Division III All-America Team. While the transition from turf to ice generally takes some time, Steele acknowledges that "Abby gets stronger and stronger [as the season goes on]. Seven games in, she is starting to hit her stride."

Another notable player is Amy Leichter '13, who is a goalkeeper for the Camels. Despite playing with a broken rib for most of the season, she has continued to work hard and has come up with some key saves.

Steele believes that it is the talent and depth of this team that makes it unique. She says, "I think this team generally has a really hardworking blue collar feel, which I favor...we have good depth, which we've had over the past few years, but now we have some scoring knack to go along with our strong leadership." •

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Men's Basketball (5-3):

12/7 Conn 66 - 52 Wentworth
12/11 Conn 80 - 78 Salve Regina

Women's Basketball (2-6):

12/7 Conn 58 - 65 (OT) Roger Williams

Swimming and Diving:

12/11 Men 135 - 202 Williams
12/11 Women 107 - 223 Williams

Men's Ice Hockey (3-3):

12/7 Conn 2 - 3 Manhattanville
12/11 Conn 4 - 3 Tufts

Women's Ice Hockey (4-5):

12/7 Conn 2 - 4 Holy Cross
12/10 Conn 5 - 3 Salve Regina
12/11 Conn 0 - 5 Nuemann University

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Men's Basketball:

vs. Eastern Nazarene College: Tuesday, Dec. 14 @ 6 PM in Luce Field House

Women's Basketball

vs. Albertus Magnus: Tuesday, Jan. 25 @ 7 PM in Luce Field House

Men's Ice Hockey:

vs. BOWDOIN: Saturday, Jan. 22 @ 3 PM in Dayton Arena

Women's Ice Hockey:

vs. Manhattanville: Tuesday, Jan. 25 @ 7 PM in Dayton Arena

vs. Univ. Southern Maine: Friday, Jan. 28 @ 7 PM in Dayton Arena

vs. Univ. Southern Maine: Saturday, Jan. 29 @ 3 PM in Dayton Arena

Swimming and Diving:

vs. WESLEYAN: Saturday, Jan. 22 @ 1 PM in Lott Natatorium