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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

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The Trouble with Tiaras

MELANIE THIBEAULT
ARTS EDITOR

Since Pfizer's recent birth control blunder, I've given a lot of thought to what it would be like to have a kid. Would I want to take a risk and have her naturally, or genetically engineer her to be super intelligent and good-looking, so she'd never have to worry about finding a job? Either way, I know exactly how I would want to raise her: around the time she turned four, I would hand her a mini-sash and a bedazzled leotard and sign her up for the first toddler beauty pageant I could find (apparently they're everywhere in this country). I would watch with a tear in my eye as she Dougied across the stage in little oversized jeans and a baggy T-shirt that read "Fuck Swag" in front of a panel of judges who were thoroughly background-checked and found not to be pedophiles. I would look back on this as one of the proudest moments in my daughter's life, because, in about fourteen years, she would be smoking "the marijuana" in the back of her boyfriend's pick-up truck and flunking P.E.

If you think I've lost my mind, don't worry. I know my kid is going to be a spelling bee champion like Akeelah Anderson, not a hyperactive (bordering on psychopathic), sassy child pageant star like Alana Holler. For those of you who haven't been exposed to the latest TLC hit, I'm talking about *Toddlers and Tiaras*, which chronicles the lives of three young pageant stars every episode, and shows the seedy underbelly of child beauty pageants (while actually trying to make it look elite and glamorous). I originally believed the show was ironic, or at least assumed it would be a dramatic documentary that raised awareness about the borderline child abuse these toddlers suffer; they're forced to glam themselves up and compete against other youngsters to be crowned the most beautiful and talented five-year-old on the block. (For the record, when I was five, I still made mud pies and stuck a jellybean up my nose.) After a few episodes, it became clear that these parents were serious[ly deranged] and thought that putting their children through these pageants would somehow be beneficial, if not for the child, at least for the parents' egos, which needed about as much nursing as half the contestants.

I tweeted once, "This show is like a bad car accident." It was so terrible, but I couldn't look away from the screen. Toddlers, scantily dressed, throwing "sexy" glances to the camera, shaking their butts and flashing their stomachs for the judges. It was so...illegal? Some child pornography laws had to have been broken on

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No Laz Left Behind

The politics of alumni donations

JERELL MAYS
OPINIONS EDITOR

For those of you who never visited my brother's apartment circa 2009, let me give you an image: a modestly sized apartment, the linoleum floor cursed with a dirty-looking off-white color, the walls decorated with small, circular holes. The lock on the front door is broken (same as the bathroom) and the TV is the centerpiece of the entire flat. It sits on an entertainment center that looks sturdier and more valuable than the building itself, and it's the only part of the house that reminds you it isn't 1974. My brother managed to justify the irony of having an expensive luxury item sit in the midst of dilapidation by making extensive use of it, but the black screen

of the TV seemed to stare out at the flaws of the living room, highlighting them and making them appear even worse. Even on its worst day, Conn's beauty and quality of living far outdoes any bachelor pad I've entered. However, I can't help but feel vaguely reminded of my brother's apartment when it comes to our college's physical condition.

Each year, thousands of alumni make monetary donations to the school, thanks to the efforts of Alumni Relations. Once alumni decide to donate, they must then choose where their money goes.

"There are different areas where the money can be directed. Science education, residential life, internationalization, financial aid and unrestricted... those are some of the areas," said

Nick Rivera '07, Advancement Associate for Alumni Relations. Money given to the unrestricted section is handled by the school, which uses it to inject funds into whatever programs need it most.

According to Assistant Director of Annual Giving Samantha McCracking '10, Alumni Relations sets an annual goal, which is usually met. "Our goal [this year] is \$5.4 million. Our other [long term] goal is to help increase the community of alumni who donate, as well as their generosity." The goal changes slightly each year, but not by much, which explains the consistency of successful fundraising.

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FEBRUARY 13, 2012

THE COLLEGE VOICE

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Editorials

Connecticut College has made it into the news again, but for nothing unusual: just our price. For the umpteenth time since I've entered Conn, it has made another annual list of the most expensive colleges; this time, it was in a New York Times opinion blog. The Loyal Opposition (January 30, 2012).

"...You probably know that getting a Bachelor's is insanely expensive," writes columnist Andrew Rosenthal. "...But if you're not in college, and don't have a child who's in college or getting ready to go, you might not have a terribly specific understanding of just how expensive 'insanely expensive' really is."

After a few name drops (our peers—Bates, Middlebury and Colby— and similar schools like Union and Vassar) and the clarification that none of these schools are in the Ivy League (none of these schools, however, have neither the longevity nor the billions of dollars in endowment like Harvard or Yale), Rosenthal links to the Department of Education's transparency website. He includes it to inform readers how to keep tabs on the most and least expensive schools. It has better uses, presenting me with critical information about our school.

There are the numbers that we know: at the start of fall 2010, there were 1,880 undergraduates enrolled on campus, just a stone's throw from the oft-cited "a little under 2,000 students" statistic, and 196 full-time faculty members, giving us a student/faculty ratio of roughly 9.5-to-1. Sixty percent are women, forty percent are male.

There are the numbers that are unsurprising: 75% of the undergraduate population identifies as white, six percent Hispanic or Latino, four percent black and three percent Asian. (Zero percent are as American Indian or Alaskan Native, but this may mean a statistically insignificant number of students identify as such.) Ninety-eight percent are under 24 and seventy-seven percent live out-of-state.

Then are the numbers that you have to dig a little deeper to find: tuition for the 2011-2012 academic year is \$57,270 dollars, a 3.4 percent increase from last year (\$55,410), and about a 9.7 percent increase from my freshman year, 2008-2009 (\$51,685). (An interesting tidbit to go along with Libby Carberry's article "The Connecticut College Housing Crisis"—the cost of room and board has increased at the most rapid rate, starting at \$8,485 in the 2008-2009 academic year. It currently costs \$10,980, a 20.4 percent increase from last year. My apartment just lost heat.)

Finally, there are the numbers we don't often think about. During the 2009-2010 school year, approximately 800 students, 42 percent of Conn's population, received financial aid, including 260 freshmen (52% of their class). At Conn, financial aid can include scholarship aid, grants, loans and work study. Conn's website offers a more consistent set of statistics: 48% of students receive financial aid, and the average financial aid award is \$32,708. It can

be assumed that the other 52% of students take out independent loans, or pay full tuition.

Essentially, there is a large, unspoken gap between students: those whose family can pay in full for their education, and those whose family cannot.

This doesn't seem evident on the surface: expenses amongst students are largely similar. We pay for snacks, alcohol, laundry, books and the occasional Cro pizza. In our mostly homogenous bubble, our daily activities are so similar that differences in economic standing can easily be ignored, or manifest themselves solely in small social instances: someone offers to cover the check, a friend needs you to spot them for coffee, the girl down the hall has no issue racking up parking tickets because she can easily pay them.

This dichotomy may affect us in more ways than one: the New York Times recently published an article about the growing education gap between socioeconomic classes ("Education Gap Grows Between Rich and Poor, Studies Show," February 9, 2012).

The article cites the waning attention to any achievement gap between black and white students, compared to the newfound interest of educational gaps between high-income and low-income students, due in part to the nationwide focus on income inequality.

According to a study by Stanford University sociologist Sean F. Reardon, the gap between high- and low-income students in standardized test scores has increased approximately thirty to forty percent than in the 1960s; a little closer to home, another study released by the University of Michigan reported that the difference of college graduation between high- and low-income students has increased by fifty percent. The article notes that the most recent data presented in the studies was in 2007 and 2008, before the full effect of the recession.

There are several reasons to explain this correlation between high income and high achievement between schooled children, yet college seems to serve as an academic equalizer. There are no fancy tutors for hire. We all use the same books. At the end of the day, we are all receiving the same education, but our outcome may vary greatly: income remains the most telling indicator of success in the work force.

Conn's allegiance to— and public love affair with— diversity is nothing to ignore. Diversity, however, is not limited to race and ethnicity: the numbers show that we have a vast socioeconomic diversity in our student body, and that affects us all. Though it may not be as pretty to photograph, it presents itself with both benefits and challenges that are integral to everyone's college experience. Why aren't we talking about it?

- Jazmine

World News

COMPILED BY IPEK BAKIR

THE AMERICAS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA-- The New York City sewage plant is offering tours on Valentine's Day, for couples who are looking to have a unique celebration. The tour might not be able to offer the scent of flowers, but it offers to show the interested couples the way that the sewage plant operated. The highlight of the tour is the plant's most crucial possession—the huge egg shaped digester, which is in charge of breaking down waste into harmless particles.

AFRICA

MOROCCO-- The biggest car factory in North Africa opened last week in Morocco. The French automobile company Renault opened its factory in Melloussa, a small town close to Tangiers. The company is built in the Moroccan city that is closest to Europe, so it can benefit from the special taxing system offered in Tangier. The factory will have around 2,000 workers and hopes to create around 6,000 jobs in the near future. The King Mohammed VI attended the opening of the factory alongside the trade minister and the company's head official.

ANTARCTICA

RUSSIA-- Scientists found a hidden lake under Antarctica. They have been drilling the same area for over two decades and they recently reached a mammoth freshwater source that has been hidden for almost twenty million years. So far the findings and studies around the recently located lake show that it might carry clues about life under water from millions of years ago.

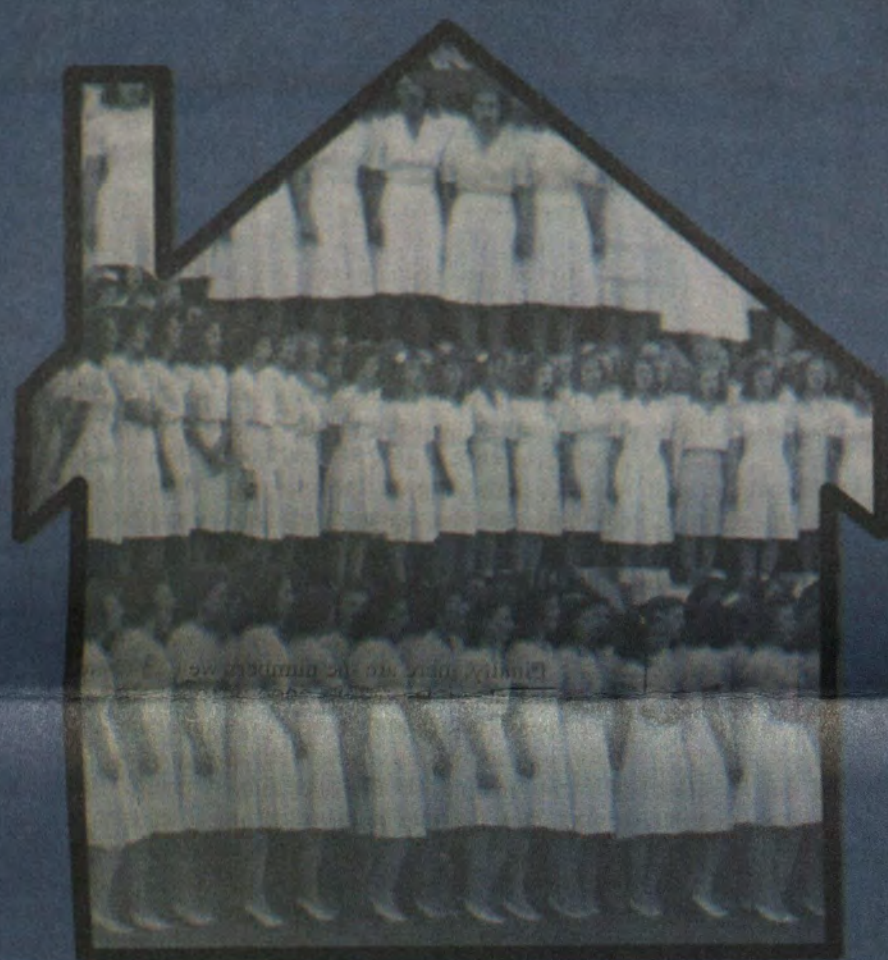
ASIA

CHINA--The CEO of Starbucks recently announced that China is on its way to becoming the largest market outside the U.S. There are already more than 500 Starbucks stores in China; they all have been generating more revenue than the stores in the U.S. The secret behind Starbucks' success found in the tea-drinking country is the way it altered its products to fit into the tea and coffee culture of the Chinese. Instead of selling many different ice-coffee options, Starbucks focuses on green tea-flavored coffee drinks for their stores in China.

EUROPE

FRANCE-- The mayor of Nogent-sur-Marne in east of Paris announced his plans to build the statue of Nicolas Sarkozy's wife Carli Bruni in honor of the Italian immigrants women in the region. The statue was supposed to be of Carla Bruni in worker clothes and over six-and-a-half feet tall. After further thinking, Bruni decided not to accept the proposition, since the design of the statue proved to be embarrassing. The statue was suppose to cost around 80,000 euros.

The Connecticut College Housing Crisis



AYANO ELSON

LIBBY CARBERRY
STAFF WRITER

As the spring semester began approaching this past January, Connecticut College found itself in a unique and uncomfortable situation; an unprecedented fifty fewer students were going abroad than the college had previously anticipated. The Office of Residential Education & Living took action to accommodate the influx of students on campus creating doubles in residence halls like Katherine Blunt and Harkness, furnishing apartments on Mohegan Ave and Nantux Street and opening up College House for residential living as well.

Many students were unhappy to find themselves without singles upon arriving back at school.

"My current roommates and I were all abroad fall semester and received a call from Res Life asking if we were interested in living in a new four-person apartment off campus," explained Mackenzie Lilly '13. "Originally we decided against it because we wanted to be on campus, but when I called the office back, was told that our alternative would most likely be forced doubles on campus. Needless to say, we took the apartment."

However, once Lilly and her roommates accepted Res Life's offer, they were informed that their apartment was categorized as "quiet housing", and they would be living below a college staff member with a four-year old. Despite their situation, Lilly said that she and her roommates have "enjoyed having the space and our housemate has been really nice and everything has exceeded our expectations."

"Sometimes there's this expectation that when you get to your junior or senior year you get a certain kind of housing," Amy Gauthier, Director of Residential Education

& Living said. "But we're a residential college, we guarantee housing, we don't guarantee what kind of housing."

Gauthier, who was just as surprised with the bed shortage as students were, is not apathetic. "I appreciate everybody's patience with this. It was a tough situation for the students involved who were unhappy with their housing; we tried to do our best to remedy that for them. Some people we were able to fix right away, some we are still working with."

One student who had a successful experience with the Office of Residential Education & Living was Megan Maffucci '13. After originally being placed in a double for the semester, Maffucci contacted Housing, who she said "straightened it out very quickly and assigned me to a single in my first choice dorm."

"It was a bit frustrating," admitted Maffucci, "but housing was very helpful and apologetic about having to put any juniors in doubles in the first place."

Gauthier was quick to note that there are currently no forced doubles. Before school began, there were some forced doubles in Knowlton, but those rooms were converted back into singles as the semester started. If a junior was placed in a double it is because those rooms had been used as doubles in previous years.

Gauthier also spoke of Physical Plant's incredible cooperation. "Physical Plant went above and beyond, to secure furniture in a matter of a week and a half to make sure the apartments were ready ... to make sure the students return and are somewhat comfortable in their living spaces," she said.

In years past, the college has used a projection system that has

accurately predicted the number of students on campus. Gauthier explained that no one expected the projection system to be inaccurate. Even the Office of Study Abroad, currently packed with sophomores applying and planning for their abroad trips, had no answers to the question of why the bed shortage occurred.

Last Monday the office began a round of room change facilitation. Though the possibility of a room change is small, students can now fill out paperwork to at least make moves to make their living space more comfortable. Gauthier warns, though, "we don't have a lot of space to start moving people around. We utilized every space on campus."

The Office of Residential Education & Living, Study Abroad offices and Admission all were shocked by the bed shortage. All agree that it was an unprecedented occurrence solely based on fewer students going abroad in the spring than usual.

Rumors began that the college was beginning to expand incoming class size, leading to repercussions with residential housing. Cynthia Goheen, assistant director of Admission, is not aware and does not act on any such changes. "That's a major policy decision," she said, that would be taken to the students along with many other offices and groups around campus. "The students do have a voice here. They are consulted."

Though class size remains to hold steady at a round 500, there are talks of enhancing residential dormitories on campus; that is, refurbishing dorms still standing and perhaps adding a new dorm. Discussions have begun in SGA meetings over how to best tackle this huge move. Jane Addams senator Allie Munson '14 explained that

current students would not reap the benefits of newer dorms, as this type of project could take about a decade to complete. SGA discussed the possibility of a student survey that would ask students to describe a desirable but realistic dorm in order to keep students engaged in the developmental process even if they are not able to live out the benefits on campus.

The Office of Admissions was excited to hear news of these SGA talks, as housing is often an important aspect of a college for prospective students. Some worry that Conn's dorms do not stand up to those at competing schools, as Connecticut College has chosen to focus on supporting faculty and staff in the budget. This decision, though not very glamorous, has lessened the blows of the recent financial crisis on the college and prepared the school for stronger future investments.

There are some students, though, who are already to be taking advantage of the new housing options that the school has made available. When Hailey Fyfe '13 was placed in Park, she immediately went about trying to get in touch with anyone who would switch rooms with her. "Nothing against people who like the Plex," Fyfe clarified, "I just find it cold and sterile."

All of her leads fell through until, via Facebook, a girl who lived in College House contacted Fyfe wanting to switch rooms. "I contacted Res Life and told them that another girl and I were switching our singles and that I was moving into College House," said Fyfe. "I have no idea what to expect, except that I knew Parinda, Paige, and Zoe who were living there. I also knew there were hardwood floors, which was good enough for me."

Fyfe believes that switching to

College House is one of the best decisions she has made. "We have a giant living room with a bunch of crazy portraits of older women. As much as I hoped their ghosts would haunt the house, they really just make College House look like a sorority house. Coming back to it every night is so cozy... and we get to park right across from the house."

The only complaint Fyfe has is that she and her roommates are being watched by "a super stern eye by the school, which means no parties, no loud music - which is kind of a bummer." Besides that, though, Fyfe has found that living in College House has eased the transition between living independently abroad and coming back to school. Additionally, Fyfe stated that it is her "understanding that the college isn't going to offer college house as an option next year, which, frankly, makes this whole experience feel a little more special."

Though this is the only academic year that has seen such a severe deviation between the number of students going abroad during the fall and spring semesters, no one is ready to predict that this problem will not arise again. The popularity of fall abroad trips may just be a 2011-2012 fluke, but it is also possible that the preference to go abroad in the fall may be a rising tendency. "While in the past it's been typical that juniors coming back from abroad don't go into doubles, that might be the case in the future if we continue to see this trend," she said. "I think it'll be interesting to see what study abroad looks like in the future. Is this something that just happened one year, or will it start to be a trend?" As of now, nobody knows for sure.

The Designer Baby Debate



DAVE SHANFIELD

EMMALINE DEIHL
STAFF WRITER

"Designer babies" refers to the phenomenon of the genetic modification of children to either have or not have certain traits. This highly controversial topic was the subject of Tuesday night's Residential Education Fellows (REF) event, "The Sociological and Ethical Concerns Surrounding Designer Babies." The event consisted of a brief film screening followed by a discussion. Philosophy professor Simon Feldman and Sociology professor Ron Flores helped facilitate the discussion and provided insight from their areas of study.

This event was organized by Duncan Spaulding '13 as part of REF program. "It's essentially just a program that Res Life has to try to integrate professors more into the dorm life and to promote discussion like we had here tonight, and to blur the lines between the classroom and the residence halls," he explained.

For Spaulding, the topic represented an interesting mix of disciplines. "I'm majoring in physics and philoso-

phy, so it's the sciences and philosophy; how do you merge those two together? We were just brainstorming about ways to do that, I think Professor Flores actually brought up the topic of designer babies, and I went home and thought about it, and the more I kept thinking about it the more interesting it seemed, and I started looking into it."

Professor Flores said he collaborated with Spaulding on the planning: "We sat together and we thought out through all the different issues, and we decided that having a sociological and philosophical conversation would make the most sense. I let Duncan take the lead, and that's what we did."

This multi-disciplinary approach allowed students to think about the issue from different angles. To provide background knowledge and spark discussion an excerpt from the documentary *Who's Afraid of Designer Babies?* was shown.

The documentary focused on PGD, or Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis, also known as embryo screening and its various uses. For example, one couple was trying to have

a healthy baby with the right blood type in order to save their child who had a rare blood disease. Another mother with four sons wanted desperately to have a girl. Several doctors and ethicists gave their varying opinions, and the movie raised several points about PGD which acted as prompts for discussion.

Along with Professor Flores and Professor Feldman, students raised a variety of interesting points about the implications of PGD. One student criticized the movie for exaggerating our ability to effectively perform various PGD operations, saying that the technology has not actually reached that sophisticated point yet, and that the movie made some comparisons that seemed to be merely for "shock value."

While there was debate about the advantages and disadvantages of non-interference and "letting nature take its course," the majority of students seemed to feel concerned about the use of PGD. The debated issues ranged from larger societal implications to personal and family-oriented concerns.

One concern was the economic

aspect of PGD. It is an incredibly expensive process and is therefore primarily available to those who can afford it, potentially exacerbating existing economic inequalities. Also, those companies profiting from PGD operations would have a stake in the widespread use of PGD, leading to further economic and social implications and the dominance of certain companies.

The issue of who makes the decisions was also highlighted. Who is to decide what is or is not an illness or problem? Likewise, Professor Feldman touched on the point that "what counts as a disability is entirely socially determined." The term "disability" may mean different things to different people. An illuminating example from the documentary was a deaf couple who had a baby who was not deaf. As they believed that being deaf was an integral part of their identities, they would have liked to have had a deaf baby, highlighting the discrepancy between what society generally thinks of as disabilities and what individuals may think.

Gender-selection was another main topic of discussion. Professor

Flores pointed out that nature effectively balances the gender demographic, but if people continuously used PGD on a widespread level to select gender, it could easily lead to an imbalance and promote sexism.

The issue of gender tied in with social class and the ability to afford PGD could create enormous inequalities in society, and possibly lead down the "slippery slope" towards racism and further hierarchies. Some students compared PGD to the practice of eugenics. However, others also brought up the point that while PGD could theoretically be used as a form of eugenics, it is currently more often used on an individual level, and one of its main purposes is to save the lives of children.

This raised questions about the implications of PGD on family dynamics and the psychology of children either born from or helped by PGD. Both parents and children could be seriously affected, for better or worse, by the decision to use PGD, many of the discussants pointed out.

Floralia FUNdraising

ANDREA AMULIC
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Music, tents, lawn chairs, open containers of alcohol—here at Conn, these are a few of our favorite things, and they will all be on the agenda on May 5th. However, although Floralia is a magical day, this magic requires funding and therefore SAC has decided to significantly increase its fundraising and public relations efforts for Floralia 2012, in order to improve the overall quality of the event.

Variety Chair Katie Ketcham '13 explained the source of Floralia funding: "SAC is a branch of SGA, so we are allotted a budget at the start of the school year. We also earn money from ticket sales for guests on Floralia, and from fundraising and donations." In the past, SAC has not been as aggressive about fundraising efforts as it has this year, so some students may not have realized that a large part of the Floralia budget does traditionally come from fundraisers.

Ketcham said, "We have fundraisers every year. In the past, our main fundraisers have been Harvestfest, over alumni weekend, and the Concert for Conservation. Through this program, a certain portion of the money saved on energy costs on campus is allocated to the Floralia budget."

This year, however, students can expect to see many more fundraisers specifically geared towards Floralia, starting with a "Dinner and a Show" event on February

2012	???
2011	Matt and Kim
2010	Talib Kweli
2009	Santigold
2008	Ted Leo
2007	Girl Talk
Past Floralia Headliners	

24th, featuring musical performances and food from Paul's Pasta, The Pita Spot and Mirch Masala.

SAC's primary goal for its increased fundraising and PR efforts this year is to let students understand where their do-

nations are going. As Fundraising Chair Audrey Schlette '14 explained, "We have made a point of making all of our fundraising 'for Floralia,' in the hope that people would be more willing to donate." Ketcham expressed concern about stu-

dents potentially being unwilling to donate without knowing the answer to the age-old question of who will be playing. However, she expressed her hope that the student body will trust SAC to make the best decision.

"The reason we don't release the performers until close to the event itself has nothing to do with trying to make a big announcement. Rather, it is because booking artists is a difficult task, and sometimes plans that have been made fall through unexpectedly. We don't want to continuously re-announce new performers, as it would get very confusing and could lead to people being disappointed."

In terms of the specific allocation of funds, Schlette said, "A ton goes into Floralia that I don't think everybody takes into account. Yes, most of the money goes to music, but we also have to pay for the stage, lighting, sound, clean-up, food, drinks, security, all of the novelty items, lodging for the bands, etc. The list goes on and on. Fundraising probably won't get us Lady Gaga, but it will help cover all of the bases without cutting into the band funds."

Schlette also pointed out that SAC does not have a specific monetary goal for its fundraisers, and that any money donated would be extremely helpful: "If every student gave \$3, we could raise \$5,700, assuming we have 1900 students."

Schlette and the other SAC members stressed the distinction between voluntary donations and admission fees, and

noted that Floralia is still free. Ketcham said, "In past years, it has been suggested that we charge a small admission fee to help raise money, but we don't want to change the tradition of Floralia being a free event."

To students who may have never considered the cost of an event like Floralia, this increase in fundraising seems like an outrage. Mollie Doherty '12 expressed the commonly-held belief that the current student body is feeling the effects of the recession more so than previous classes: "It seems unfair that we're being asked to donate when other classes haven't had to."

Erin Doherty '12, for example, added, "What, like we're supposed to pay for the entertainment during the day-long booze fest ourselves? By donating a dollar here and an empty beer can there? Yeah, right."

According to SAC, however, Floralia is not to be taken for granted. PR Chair Virginia Blair West '14, said, "My feeling is that, in the past, students have seen Floralia as a sort of gift, but SAC and SGA have always fundraised in one way or another. What many students don't realize is the immense amount of work Floralia takes to put together, and everything that goes into the budget."

Other students feel less strongly about the change. As Allison Cahoon '12 said, "Floralia is fun. And the better it is, the better."

No Laz Left Behind

Jerrell Mays
examines the
politics
of alumni
donations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

So when the Athletic Center received \$1.6 million in alumni and parental donations to upgrade its locker rooms, I was initially confused. Clearly, these donors did not choose the unrestricted section on their donation cards, because the Athletic Center is certainly already one of the better funded places on campus. There's nothing wrong with this; the Athletic Center is one of the most widely utilized areas at Conn and arguably, every athlete who attends this school can attest to using it often. But one has to wonder why such a sizable donation would go to an already well-funded building while places like Lazarus, notorious even among its own residents for being overdue for renovations, go unchanged.

The answer lies in the donors themselves. There are two kinds of donations alumni can make: they can donate to the annual fund, or they can choose to make a capital gift.

"Capital gifts are budget enhancing gifts, while the annual fund is sustaining," said McCracking. "Capital and endowment gifts start at \$100,000, but annual gifts can be of any size."

The annual fund supports people and programs here at Conn, while the capital fund goes to whatever the donor wishes. In the case of the Athletic Center donation, the donors clearly thought that their money would be the most beneficial renovating locker rooms.

I suppose what I'm having the most trouble understanding is why. When making such a sizable donation, why choose to "renovate" an area on campus that is perhaps in the least need of a renovation?

One reason is that alumni are more likely to donate to the areas on campus they remember most. If you spent a lot of time on the treadmills at the AC, then you probably wouldn't want your money being poured into somewhere you never went. But what if the somewhere you never went really needed the money? When do the personal preference of the donor and the physical needs of the school come into conflict?

You may well be aware already that Conn's endowment is low in comparison to other NESCAC schools, so why's the money going where it isn't always needed?

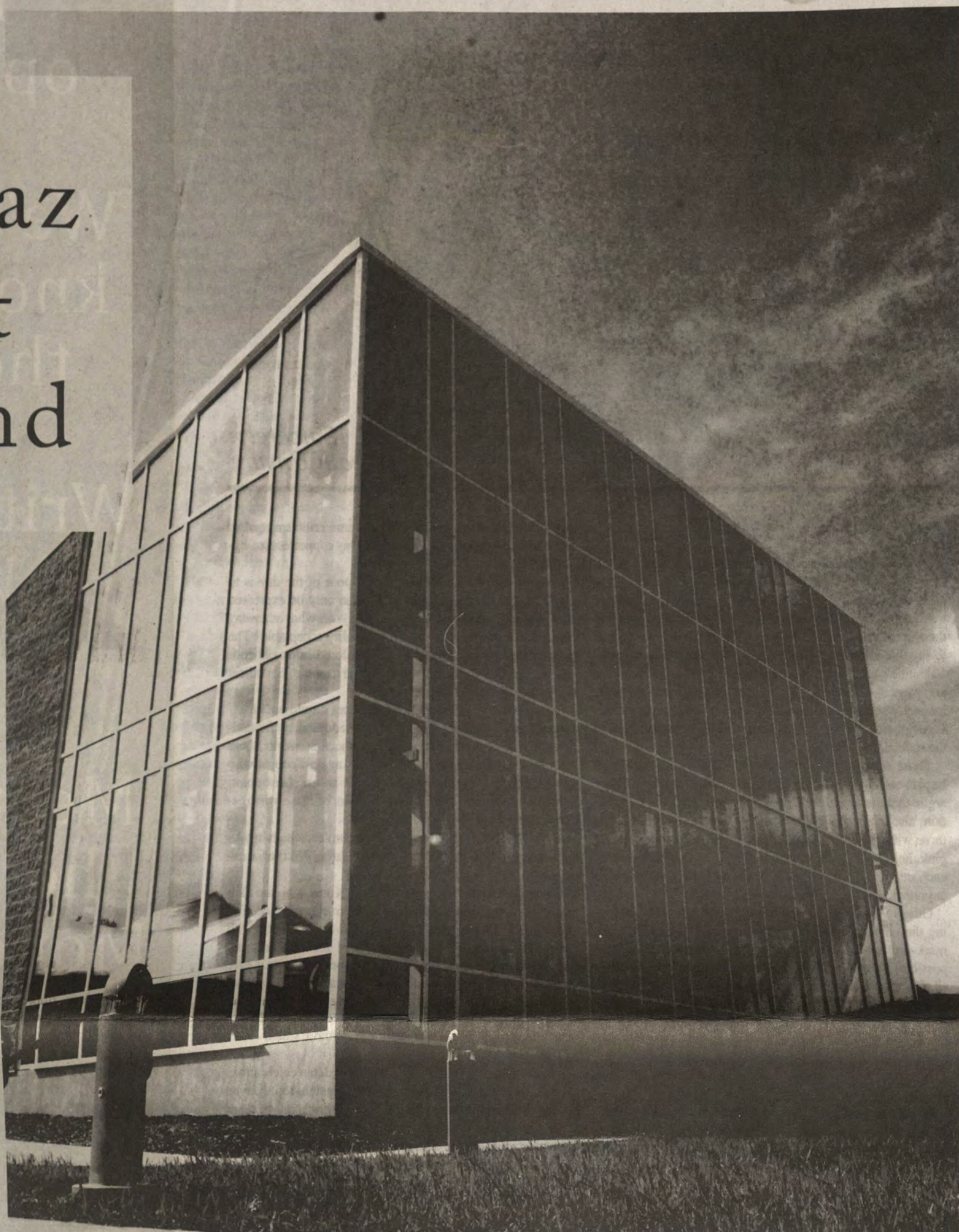
"Conn is a young school, and it [wasn't always] co-ed," said McCracking. This might seem like a rather simplistic answer, but she's right. Schools like Hamilton have been around a bit longer (the school is celebrating its bicentennial this year). As such, they've had much more time to build a community of alumni and multi-generational students who are more likely to, at some point in their lives, make a donation. Conn has only just reached the 100-year landmark,

and it will take some time for that community to grow. Another reason may have to do with our past as an all-women's college; it's possible that many of Conn's graduates may have gotten married and became part of a "collective," with donations going to the husband's alma mater instead.

That being said, until Conn's endowment reaches a level that is on par with other NESCAC schools, I would have to urge alumni to consider their donation choices carefully. Let me be

perfectly clear that I am in no way suggesting that the Athletic Center is receiving special treatment, nor am I saying that Conn looks like a rundown apartment or that the donors are making the "wrong" decision. Conn was built on a history of generous donations from devoted townsfolk and eccentric millionaires (Morton Plant, who donated one million dollars, which paid for, among other things, the creation of Plant and Branford dorms); we've always relied on do-

nations as a school, as do all private, liberal arts colleges. But if I were a wealthy donor and saw an area of the school that needed enhancement, I would probably direct my funds toward it, regardless of whether or not I myself made great use of it during my time at Conn. After all, the donations are about making the school better as a whole, and I would hate to see generous gifts go to the program and places that need them the least. •



KELSEY COHEN



KARAM SETHI

Right Said Fred!

Dear Fred,

Valentine's Day is coming up next week. My girlfriend and I plan to celebrate the holiday, but I have my qualms about it. I am divided on whether or not it is a good thing. What do you think?



ALICIA TOLDI

Sincerely,
Team Unsure

Dear Team Unsure,

Of all of the American holidays, none evokes more polarized opinions than Valentine's Day. With under a week left, no issue fills up my Facebook newsfeed more frequently or trends on Twitter more often than various people presenting their opinions about the February 14 holiday. I don't want to say that I am "Team Valentine's Day" or "Team Against-Valentine's Day," but I do see legitimacy in both sides of the argument. As the one day out of the year devoted to romantic interest, a part of me adores the upcoming holiday. However, I cannot stomach the heteronormativity and materialism of the special day.

Those who are against Valentine's Day cite the holiday's impact on members of the population who are single. They argue that the unsightly amount of public displays of affection, also known as "PDA," make the event unbearable to those without someone by their side. With everyone pecking pink, holding hands, exchanging gifts and publicly pecking each other, it is not difficult to see why this would irritate anyone desiring a significant other.

Others worry that the materialism of the holiday is ruining the emotional aspect of the day. They argue that Hallmark—and others—exploit love to make as much money as possible. Television networks, candy companies and florists all make Valentine's Day into a billion dollar enterprise, with little regard for the actual feeling of love. It is also accurate that they do this by promoting monogamous, heterosexual-ity with little attention paid to sexual minorities and alternate relationships.

A blogger at Feministing has started an "Occupy Valentines Day" movement, stating:

My position on Valentine's Day has always been pretty mixed—it bothers my cool sensibilities because I think it is corny, but I'm also a little corny and I like celebrating and expressing love and the politics it represents leave a lot to be desired. Being a single lady on the holiday that commemorates heteronormativity in its purest form, has not always been easy. It's hard to feel OK about a holiday that is so limiting in its purview of the appropriate and authentic ways to express love.

Molly Ashmore '15 even goes as far as to proclaim, "Bullshit—there is no emotional aspect to [Valentine's

Day.]" She, of course, represents extreme criticism against the holiday. However, the Valentine's Day supporters strongly disagree.

According to its supporters, the purpose of the day is to celebrate love with an openness that can only be expressed once a year. On this end, they are right—on what other day are such outward expressions of sensuality acceptable? The heart-shaped box of chocolates, pink-colored cards and endless sales of carnations may seem cliché to some, but others enjoy these time-honored traditions.

Supporters also point out that detractors should not be expressing their loneliness so vocally. In addition to the anti-Valentine's Day sentiment on Internet social networks, there is also an anti-anti-Valentine's backlash against people who hate Valentine's Day. Maybe they raise an excellent point: should happy couples be in the crosshairs of those who dislike the holiday itself? Of course not.

South Korea has an interesting compromise, which breaks the celebration up over three separate days. Wikipedia explains:

White Day is also observed in South Korea with the men paying back women who have given them chocolate on Valentine's Day with usually candy instead of chocolate, with an additional later Black Day observed for those sharing singleness. Aside from the blatant heteronormativity, I love the way that this Korean celebration manages to encompass all members of their society, regardless of relationship status. Unfortunately, however, Americans are less likely to change their time-honored tradition, even if it would fix their issues with the holiday.

I do not think Valentine's Day should end, but celebrations should take other points of view into consideration. Maybe kissing your significant other could wait until you two are alone, away from an area that may make other people feel uncomfortable. People should consider trying to give gifts based on their level of emotional significance rather than trying to spend more money than what is sensible. On the other side of things, people who dislike Valentine's Day don't necessarily need to show their hate on full display—after February 14 it's an entire year before the next celebration.

And, on February 15, all of the candy goes on sale. Who can complain about that?

Happy Valentine's Day, everyone! •

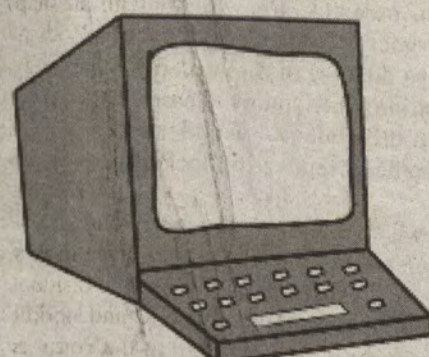
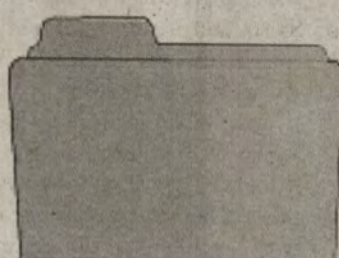
We know you
have
opinions.

We'd like to
know what
they are.

Write for the
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Meetings are
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Monday at 10
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PERSONAL ASSISTANT NEEDED



Outgoing personal assistant needed for \$650 per week
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It's Me, Anonymous

CHRIS GIRI
STAFF WRITER

As the reach of government has gradually extended over society, we've been increasingly fascinated with those individuals that operate beyond the law. Be it John Brown in his famous raid on Harper's Ferry, bootleggers during the prohibition, or even revered characters like Batman, people who break laws they deem unjust have always held a unique place in culture. Though such actions are by no means universally accepted, it often takes civil disobedience to uphold and perhaps define a higher moral standard.

In a lot of ways, the web collective 'hacktivist' group Anonymous fits this bill. As its name suggests, the members of the group are by and large anonymous web users, connected only through the Internet. Their activities range from over-stressing websites through distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks to collecting and leaking confidential documents, even accessing Bank of America and Syrian Ministry e-mail servers.

Though Anonymous has existed in some sense since 2003, born in the depths of beloved Internet community 4Chan, only recently has the group received widespread media attention. Largely, this growth is a result of the political climate of today—Anonymous helped bring widespread attention to the Occupy Wall Street movement, with Anon's signature Guy Fawkes mask coming to represent OWS as a whole. Moreover, the group has been a primary force of opposition against Internet censorship such as ACTA, SOPA, and PIPA (all anti-piracy agreements that could significantly alter the face of the internet) and the recent shutdown of Megaupload. Even if you've never heard of Anonymous, you're likely familiar with SOPA due to the Internet blackout in January, in which the group played an integral role.

While the aforementioned support of OWS

and the SOPA blackout were not particularly controversial, what makes Anonymous so intriguing is its use of anonymity to break the law with few repercussions. The shutdown of Megaupload, for example, led to attacks on media and government websites that left them crippled for days. The group has attacked the web presence of the Tunisian, Algerian and Egyptian governments in solidarity with the Arab Spring movement as well as major banks and credit card companies to protest their freezing of WikiLeaks donation channels. Anonymous has even been known for its cyber-assaults on the much-reviled Westboro Baptist Church.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle for Anonymous lies in its namesake—the anonymity of the group makes it difficult for truly coordinated action to occur, and it often seems that out-of-character actions are associated with the group. For example, the group was recently linked to attempted extortion from anti-virus software provider Symantec in the face of a leak of some of the company's source code. Attacks on Westboro Baptist Church also sent a mixed message; while many members acknowledged the Church's right to free speech, the site faced DDoS attacks attributed to Anonymous regardless.

In some ways, the PR struggle of Anonymous mirrors that of Occupy Wall Street in its extreme populism. Without a clear message, it's difficult for the group to take a firm hold; while alleged spokesperson Trent Peacock once commented that Anonymous was merely "doing it for teh lulz [sic]," the group often represents itself as a sort of egalitarian vanguard against corruption and corporate interests.

At times, sure, Anonymous can seem like a disorganized mess. The very nature of the group's anonymity means that anyone can associate their actions with it to get a little extra publicity (a quick check of Google Trends



SAM MAUCK

shows that searches for the word "anonymous" have spiked in the past year or so). In a way though, this isn't a false attribution—the group really does serve as a blanket term for whoever chooses to use the anonymity of the Internet to mask their activity.

Despite the group's shortcomings, there's such an inherent sense of justice in some of their actions that it's hard to stand against them. In the case of the government and bank cooperation to blockade funding to WikiLeaks it felt a lot like the public was having the wool pulled over their eyes. Enter Operation Payback, the group's mass DDoS attacks on banks worldwide, as well as the Swedish prosecutor's

office. In a time when channels of freedom begin to feel throttled, the Internet is the final frontier of people's action against injustice.

Perhaps it's best to take any failures allegedly linked to the group in stride and appreciate the fact that they are often looking out for the masses. In a time of all time lows in congressional approval, massive organized protests against corporate influence on government and threats of internet censorship from democratic governments worldwide, it's reassuring to know that there is at least some sort of organized presence looking out for our freedoms when established systems don't. •

Patriotism, Hope and Clint Eastwood's Chrysler Commercial

NICK SALESE
CONTRIBUTOR

By the time the second quarter ended, my Super Bowl party was in full swing. Fingers sticky with buffalo sauce, I was passionately arguing that the game ultimately depended on the efficiency of the Giant's defensive line. The room was filled with raucous laughter, taunting, boasting and a mathematically improbable quantity of food. It was in the midst of all of this happy chaos that a lone voice, raspy and guttural, cut across the room. Daddy was home; Clint Eastwood was speaking.

If any actor wants to know how to develop a character, I urge them to follow Eastwood's career. Over the course of a film career beginning with *Man With No Name* in 1963, he has become an enduring cultural icon, representing masculinity through cowboys, boxers, police officers and generally gruff old men. That is why Eastwood, a lifetime resident of California and former mayor of Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, was selected by Chrysler to narrate its heavily pro-Detroit commercial.

As images representing the last four years since the 2008 economic crisis flashed across the screen, Eastwood remarked that, like the Giants and Patriots, America is at halftime and is determined to "win the game." After nearly collapsing completely in 2008, the Detroit automobile industry has slowly regained stability. Chrysler has recently come under the control of Fiat and has managed an impressive financial turnaround, and America is also showing signs of increasing financial stability. The "Great Recession" seems to be loosening its stranglehold on the American labor market, with unemployment falling to 8.3%, the lowest it's been since February

of 2009, and increasing market confidence across many sectors. Chrysler's overarching message is that just as Chrysler has turned around, America will as well, ultimately "getting right back up again, and when we do the world is going to hear the roar of our engines."

With growing anxiety about America's possible future as a struggling superpower in a post-Cold War climate, any attempt to unite the American people, even in a gesture as superficial as a Chrysler advertisement encouraging support of American industry, is to be commended. The commercial had only passing references to any car brands; the main message was a patriotic, nationalist stab into American culture with an inspiring speech right out of a Rocky or Rudy.

At my Super Bowl party, the commercial was considered silently, and as the final phrase, "It's halftime America. And our second half is about to begin," echoed alongside somber brass tones, an idea took shape. "Eastwood for President," we said laughing and nodding. An easy joke, as the commercial had all the hallmarks of a modern political ad, showing scenes of Americans rising in the morning to begin daily work, accompanied by cinematic music and an inspiring narration.

Considering Eastwood's former political life in California and the political success of previous Western stars (although I think the general superiority of an Eastwood cowboy flick over a Reagan cowboy flick is basically undisputable) the idea is just short of completely impossible. It seems we were not the only ones to feel that way. When I went to tweet about the Giants success after the game, I was shocked to see that the popular Conn College twitter CamelProblems,

along with many other users, had tweeted "#clinteastwoodforpresident" and the hashtag has been trending since the game, even re-emerging after Romney's disappointing results in Tuesday's Republican primaries.

Not everyone seems to be in on the joke, however. I'm not suggesting that that I know the mind of Clint Eastwood, but I doubt he had any political motivation to do this commercial other than perhaps some affinity for American cars. "I was, frankly, offended by it," said Karl Rove, former Deputy Chair of Staff under the Bush administration, on Fox News this past Monday. "I'm a huge fan of Clint Eastwood, I thought it was an extremely well-done ad, but it is a sign of what happens when Chicago-style politics, and the president of the United States and his political minions are, in essence, using our tax dollars to buy corporate advertising." While some, like Rove, viewed the advertisement as an offensive, government-financed political ad, others could see that hard-line Republicans are upset with the recovering economy because optimism is resurfacing and nothing helps an incumbent like optimism; Americans are unlikely to replace a working part.

The only truly noteworthy aspect of the Eastwood commercial (aside from the irony of an American spaghetti-western star as the spokesperson for an Italian-bought American company) is its indication of the growing trend in political rhetoric. Things are turning around—the worst times are behind us. Unemployment is going down, inflation is low and although millions of Americans are still struggling, the general trend is upward. Hope is back, and in some small way, Chrysler captured that mood. •

Peckin' On Facebook's IPO

IPEK BAKIR
MANAGING EDITOR

Facebook announced its mammoth initial public offering (IPO) last Wednesday. For those who are unfamiliar with IPOs, it's the initial value of a private company's stock announced to the general public. Companies looking to increase capital do so by opening up their stocks for the public to trade and release IPOs.

The \$5 billion offering has set up the social media company to enter the stock market with one of the highest values in history. Some of the other companies that have made fashionably expensive offers to the public have been General Motors, AT&T Wireless and Visa Inc., with over \$10 billion IPOs; these are companies that have a central role in generating huge sums of capital into the U.S. economy. Facebook is now among these multinational titans of the business world in terms of value and importance. By opening up to the public, Facebook is not only showing that it has acknowledged its fame, but it's also accepting to take the traditional path toward becoming a global business entity. Facebook has already been enjoying the type of profit that global businesses make: it made \$1 billion in profit last year and has been able to marionette its users to instigate massive social movements. So why not make it official by going public?

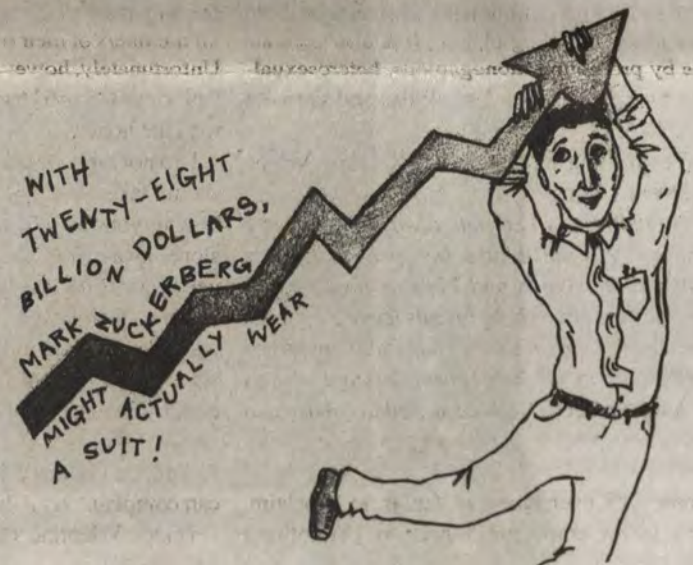
The flip side of going public contains the not-so-positive changes it brings into the business culture of any company who decides to release its IPO. At this point, Facebook has to find a way

to juggle between maintaining its social media quality and its profitability. Facebook is the preeminent social media outlet the world over; citizens in every country share photos, thoughts, articles and basically their lives with the people they connect with on Facebook. Therefore one of the most crucial capitals Facebook holds is our personal information. Facebook is valued at \$5 billion because it has made itself a popular stock in the last eight years, while making high annual revenue throughout those years. However, we shouldn't overlook the fact that Facebook generates most of its revenue from online advertisements. In 2011, 85% of its revenue came from ads. Ads are crucial for Facebook's livelihood because the company has designed the website to react directly to our consumption habits and interests. By using (and abusing) our personal information, Facebook has been able to generate ads that appeal to our online behavior. For example, the right side of my profile page is filled with advertisements about graduate school and pictures of puppies because I have been voraciously researching post-college opportunities, and after I get nervous about the future I resort to looking at cute animals for a while to cool off. Facebook knows that and polities my page with this knowledge by trying to market things to me related to grad school and adorable doggies.

Zuckerberg has been famously reluctant about having Facebook go public. His fear was that the focus of the company would shift from excelling in social me-

dia products to focusing on stock value. It seems like his fears are founded in truth. Immediately, the company has to find ways to maintain the value of the IPO and its ability to generate high revenues. This means that they have to be looking at ways to utilize their best source of revenue—advertisements—in a better way. In order to maintain and bring about more than 85% of the revenue from ads, Facebook has to change the way it monitors and utilizes user interface. One other option for Facebook is to reserve more than just the side columns for ads. Facebook has already been habitually fine-tuning privacy settings in order to gain more information from its users. Further intervention into user profiles might change the personality and the objective of the company for the worse.

It seems like there are more issues to "poke" at than there are to "like" about Facebook's IPO. Facebook does not hold eternal fame and user loyalty the way we may sometimes think it does. Yahoo! once seemed unstoppable, until a couple dudes came up with the idea for something called Google. IPO is a potentially great business step, especially if its initial value is at a jaw-dropping \$5 billion. However, it also changes the game for Facebook. The steps that Facebook will decide to take should be curiously appointed by all of us, not just the stockholders. Facebook's stock value might seem irrelevant to us, but it will indirectly affect the privacy we may hold on the social networking site. •



ALICIA TOLDI

Arts & Entertainment



Shaking Up Shakespeare

The Q Brothers bring their hip-hoptations to Conn

KURT REINMUND
STAFF WRITER

"Yo, I'm Beatrice a.k.a MC Lady B. I'm the woman every woman ever wants to be. It's MC Benedict that I scorn, that's 'cause he's 'been a dick' since he was born," rapped GQ of the Q Brothers, who performed at Conn this past Wednesday. The Q Brothers consist of Gregory J. Qiayum (GQ), his brother Jeffrey Allen Qiayum (JAQ), Jackson Doran and Postell Pringle. They are a theater group based out of Chicago and perform "hip-hoptations" of Shakespeare's plays, meaning they write rap songs based on the plays of William Shakespeare.

Before the Q Brothers existed, GQ performed on his own. He was a senior at the Experimental Theatre Wing of NYU when he first thought of rapping Shakespeare. "I wanted to do an independent project when I graduated in '98 that [would] incorporate hip-hop and theater," said GQ.

Going off of this idea, GQ and his group of friends, who were also emcees, wrote and performed *The Bomb-itty of Errors*, which was produced off-Broadway. Soon after, GQ starred alongside Nick Cannon in *Drumline* (he was the white guy). GQ was also in *Taxi* starring Queen Latifah and Jimmy Fallon and *Rescue Dawn* with Christian Bale. He has put his illustrious film career on hold, at least for now, in order to return to his passion for hip-hop Shakespeare. In 2008, GQ returned to The Q Brothers in Chicago where they wrote and performed *Funk It Up About Nothin'*, which is based on Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. It was highly acclaimed during its time in Chicago as well as during its stint in Australia.

Thanks to the Sherman Fairchild Grant for the Sustainability of the Arts, Professor Nancy Hoffman of the Theater Department

was able to have The Q Brothers perform at Conn. Hoffman said, "They're taking something old and making it new again for us now, and that says something about sustainability."

Cro's Nest was stuffed to the brim with students, teachers, and even some parents. The Q Brothers began the show by performing a snippet from *Funk It Up About Nothin'* to introduce the premise of hip-hop Shakespeare. There is no denying that the idea of hip-hop Shakespeare is unorthodox, but for some reason rap and Shakespeare just kind of work together. The lyrics to their songs show that The Q Brothers have a clear understanding of the literature. Their songs follow the exact stories of Shakespeare's plays: "I got an idea, tonight the boys are wearing masks. Let's head to their party and mess wit their ass."

This, however, was when the show started to nose-dive. While GQ was rapping, he missed one of his lyrics and had to rewind the song so he could try it again. He tried to laugh it off by saying he "funkt up," but the audience just awkwardly laughed. Then, he tried the line for a second time, but still could not get it. Finally, JQ had to feed him the line. Next up was JQ, who although he remembered all of his lines, got a little too excited to be rapping and started jumping around on stage like a headless chicken.

After their three minute performance, they taught the audience how to rap by doing a repeat-after-me game with their Shakespeare rap lyrics. But once again GQ could not remember the lyrics, despite the fact that he had them on the page in front of him. The audience thought it was funny and seemed to enjoy rapping nonetheless. During the next part of the show, the audience was free to ask the group questions; this turned into a half hour lecture by The Q Brothers. Several people went to this event thinking that it would be an hour long performance show when in reality The Q Brothers only performed for a half hour and lectured for forty-five

minutes. "It was interesting, but not the performance show I was expecting," said one audience member.

Little did the audience know that the lecture was not the worst part of the show; that title was saved for their freestyling. When people refer to themselves as emcees you assume that they are at least decent at rapping. This was not the case, however, with The Q Brothers. An audience member even went as far as to say, "They're one step above anti-drug rapping groups." First, they asked the audience for three random words on which to base their improvised song. The words were: doctor, blue walls and grapefruit. Postell went first, "Yeah. You'll never find another doctor like me, because I give you grapefruit to make ya healthy. It's got vitamin-C, it's got antioxidants, yo! I ain't saying s*** to you, I'm just saying put it in you. And later on you'll be feeling so good. Even when you take a doo-doo it'll be coming out so eloquently. Yo, I'm speaking to you so evidently." This went on for a while, but I'll spare you. For four guys who said they rapped on the streets of New York, their freestyling skills were subpar. Good freestyling comes from steady rhythm and clever lyrics that rhyme, not the ridiculous ramblings of an emcee who cannot even keep a beat.

Despite their abysmal freestyling, The Q Brothers are a talented group who are good at what they do. When they performed their material from *Funk It Up About Nothin'*, it was pretty good. Given the choice between seeing a four hour performance of *King Lear* or seeing *Funk It Up About Nothin'*, which runs for an hour and ten minutes, I'd choose the latter. The only reason their hip-hop Shakespeare works is because they know it's a joke, so they make their show a comedy and write funny lyrics. As long as they continue to do that and never freestyle again, The Q Brothers will be successful. •

American College Dance Festival Returns to Connecticut College



CECILIA BROWN

LIBBY CARBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Connecticut College hosted the American College Dance Festival for the annual four-day New England regional conference of classes and concerts. Throughout the festival there are adjudicated concerts in which each school in attendance is allowed two dances for submittal. At the festival's finale, the adjudicators choose three pieces to move on to a national finalist group where they there compete.

This year's adjudicators were dance filmmaker Victoria Marks, experimental performance artist Keith Hennessey and vogue researcher Derrell Jones, all choreographers in their own right. Conn staff chose pieces by Chloe Spitalny '13 and Audrey Maclean & Katie McGrail '12 from the Fall Dance Club performance to show at the festival.

The festival opened with a concert of the adjudicators' work to introduce the students at the conference to who exactly the honorary audience members were and to contextualize the adjudicators' feedback with his or her personal work.

A film by Marks and Margaret Williams film featured a cartoonish green patch of faux grass as a stage for two



KARAM SETHI

soloists who dance on the green and are hung above it by harness. Their legs

hung in a way that provoked the interesting parallel of fantastical levitation and grim hangedness.

The piece's third character came as a surprise: a man in a mothy old panda suit. The performer was Shawn Hove, Conn's dance tech director, who ran the shows that week. The performances by Marks, Hennessey, Jones and guest artist Nicholas Leichter (and a pre-show by a Bob Dylan-impersonating Clare Byrne) prove that the adjudicators had an expansive knowledge of movement and originality.

The following morning, the established dance writer Marcia Siegel taught a class on the art of transcribing dance theoretically, critically and honestly. To transcribe movement is as difficult as it is counter-intuitive. Movement lives in a dimension unconnected to language; movement sends potentially provocative, emotive and clear messages remains entirely languageless.

Siegel described dance as her lifetime subject. The lecture-workshop class focused on Siegel's musings on such a specific craft: avoiding preconceptions going into a performance, writing for yourself and not the dancers or readers and practicing as a few examples. Her status in the current dance community is clear: she is honest and she is herself — appreciated and endearing qualities in a critic and historical writer of an art form so difficult to transcribe. "I can't speak for the critic, because I am only this critic," she said. "An individual critic is what an individual is."

A luncheon later that day featured a question and answer session with Hennessey, Jones and Marks. They answered inquiries about their influences, techniques on stage presence and advice on pursuing dance as a career. The latter question sparked interest from across the crowd of dancers chowing down on turkey sandwiches and potato chips. When asked who planned on dance as a career path, many audience members' hands shot up.

As Hennessey brought up in his politically-inspired piece from the opening adjudicators showcase, the dance industry is not exactly the most lucrative business to dive into after college. All three, though, prove that with persistence and eagerness, an engaging career in the arts is possible. Jones, for example, lived in New York for twelve years performing and catering "till the day I left."

"That time in New York was essential

in molding me ... Value what's happening in the moment," he said.

Marks found her place in New York City as a janitor at Dance Theatre Workshop. As she graduated to working the sound board, Marks watched choreographer after choreographer, piece after piece, calling it "one of the most important parts of [her] education."

Both Marks and Hennessey discussed their experiences with dancer disillusion. "Many of my favorite dance makers have quit dance once. Me too. It hurts too much in my brain and in my heart," Hennessey said. He is quick to remark, though, that re-emergence into dance can reinvigorate one's perspective better suited for survival.

On Saturday night, the festival came to a close with ten choice pieces from the festival's original forty-five. From these pieces, three were chosen to move on to the national festival. University of Vermont student Dan Yablonsky stole the show with a self-choreographed solo. The piece, however, came across a bit more like a duet as a scratched and scraped dark green five-to-six-foot-tall file cabinet accompanied him onstage. He wore clashing protective gear: a football helmet, straps around his chest, kneepads and boots. He thrashed and goggled in lanky glory against the file cabinet. At the piece's climax, Yablonsky slammed open three drawers onto his head before he precariously mounted the unsteady cabinet. A baby in the audience began to cry out, the soloist's cringe-worthy crash to the floor clearly disturbing to the confused, wailing child. Few in the audience did not wince, flinch or laugh nervously. The risk was not fake; it was not theater or posed or practiced. Though the piece lost some novelty on second watch, I loved watching those around me who had never experienced the piece react with jubilee and discomfort.

That discomfort in the audience during Yablonsky's piece is exactly why ACDFA is an important event for those who study dance. The festival brings together blooming artistic ideas that cannot otherwise be expressed across the region. Though the more commercially entertaining pieces with classic lines and extensions and body types are nice, it is the new and the weird and the unfamiliar to the point of shock or ugliness that must be shared to keep college dance regenerated and imaginative. •

Review

The Feeling of Shame

EMMALINE DEIHL
STAFF WRITER

Shame, the controversial and acclaimed new film by British director Steve McQueen, was one of the most depressing, uncomfortable and bleak movies I have seen recently. It was also one of the most thought-provoking. Despite its critical praise and success at various film festivals, its NC-17 rating and limited release has kept it out of most mainstream theaters.

Shame will certainly not appeal to everyone. There is no conventional arching plot, no typical Hollywood storyline and it has an ambiguous and somewhat unsatisfactory ending. *Shame* does not aim to teach us a lesson or provide an explanation for the characters' problems. Rather, it is a very well-constructed study of human nature, human emotion and relationships.

The film follows Brandon, a handsome, successful professional living in New York City who is a sex addict. His sister Sissy abruptly arrives at his apartment and invites herself to stay with him, interrupting his routine and intruding on his private life.

The nature of Brandon's lifestyle is quickly exposed. He is a serious sex addict with an aversion to relationships of any kind, be it intimacy or friendship. He spends his free time watching porn and engaging in casual sex, mostly with prostitutes. We are first made aware of his addiction as he rides the subway into work. He continuously eyes a woman sitting across from him, who provocatively returns his gaze. Although she is wearing a wedding ring, he follows her off the subway and tries to catch her before she disappears into the crowd. This scene is a powerful start and effectively set the tone of the movie. There isn't any dialogue, just simple shots of two people intensely communicating with their eyes, set against the melancholy, beautiful backdrop of the movement of the subway train and the passing subway trains. It is fascinating to watch Brandon hone in on the woman as she responds in a rather unexpected way. As with the entire movie, this scene requires the actors to portray their emotions with the subtlest expressions.

Brandon is expertly played by Michael Fassbender, who effectively conveys Brandon's desires, frustration and pain. Carey Mulligan plays Sissy, a passionate, troubled, attention-seeking and needy young woman looking for success as a singer in New York City. Sissy's emotional character was an excellent contrast to Brandon's quiet, reserved demeanor. She clings to Brandon, saying that families are supposed to look out for one another, while he dismisses her as being a burden.

The film is shot in a way that makes the viewer feel as if he or she is simply following Brandon on his daily routine; the camera hardly ever leaves him. Watching the movie feels like an intrusion of Brandon's highly private life, as if we are witnessing things that are not supposed to be seen. It causes a feeling of discomfort — and appropriately — shame. The dialogue is sparse,

which can sometimes be off-putting in movies, but here it adds to the quality of realism. The colors are dark and muted, and New York's beauty is contrasted with its gritty underside. The simple, beautiful and haunting soundtrack fits the movie perfectly and evokes another level of emotion as we watch Brandon try to cope with the changes in his life.

Some moviegoers may assume that *Shame* is a moralistic commentary, but it is not a sermonizing portrayal of the dangers of casual sex. Instead, the film leaves almost everything up to interpretation, including the highly debatable ending. One criticism of the movie is that the background of the characters' problems was never explained. Indeed, the only glimpse we get into Brandon and Sissy's past is when she tells him, "We're not bad people. We just come from a bad place." It would have been interesting to know more about the characters' past, and it would have added another layer of depth to the movie. However, I don't think this omission was a flaw. The nature of the film is introspective; it is not meant to explain or justify the characters' actions. The entire movie is about human interactions and emotions, and *Shame* gives us plenty to think about without going into the past.

Shame is incredibly thought-provoking in its look at human nature and relationships. In the beginning, Brandon's solitary life may be sad to watch, but we can accept it as long as he does. It is once Sissy appears that he starts questioning himself and realizing the extent of his addiction and solitude. In one particularly poignant scene, he goes on a date with a co-worker, and through his awkward behavior we realize that he does not really know how to interact with someone in that setting. I felt so hopeful and happy for him as he loosens up and has a good time, only to later find out that he cannot handle any sort of relationship as he descends once again into self-loathing and frustration. It is heart-wrenching to see him torture himself by trying to quit his addiction while at the same time indulging himself in new extremes of desperation. It is certainly hard to watch as he tries to push Sissy away, until he ignores her at a critical moment, leading to one of the most visually and emotionally jarring scenes of the movie, and plummets to a new low of self-hatred and pain.

I definitely wouldn't say that watching this movie was enjoyable. It was one of those movies that I liked increasingly more when I thought about it afterwards. It was beautifully constructed and made me question the extent to which humans depend on each other, what constitutes a "good life," and the power of insecurity and self-destruction. One of *Shame*'s strengths was that at no point did I feel like I was judging Brandon or Sissy. Neither Brandon nor Sissy is a flat character; they are completely human with conflicting desires and motives. *Shame* provokes us into thinking about the power of meaningful interaction with other humans. •

The Trouble with Tiaras

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

logical and sometimes even physical harm to these toddlers. In one episode, a five-year-old girl cries as she has her eyebrows waxed, and in another, a little girl complains that her eyes hurt after her mother glues fake eyelashes to her. The physical pain caused is fleeting, but the psychological turmoil will last years. The superficial, overly sexualized images that these girls are being forced to fit will cause problems for them down the road. Many will look back on their pageant days with resentment and disgust, like the little girl whose mother forced her to put on a (raw) meat suit à la Lady Gaga. Viewers witness the girl screaming that meat juice is running down her leg, which is not only disturbing.

These girls are too young to protest, so they're dragged around by their mothers who throw them in costumes and treat them like they're

objects that need to be prettied-up for the judges. They're not given a say in whether or not they want to participate in these contests; for some of them, this seems to be a normal way of life. One little girl whose mother dresses her up as Dolly Parton (fake boobs, butt implants and all) says that her mom put on the same costume for a pageant when she was her age. To her, the idea of pageantry must seem normal, but let's be real: fake boobs on a four-year-old are not normal, and not okay, ever. These girls are being taught that there is one definition of beauty, and if they don't conform to it, they won't be accepted in society, or in their families.

For the parents who think this is "cute" and that they're doing a good thing by winning money for their children's college funds or future drug addictions, I ask you this: how do you think your children are going to feel in ten years when they look back on their childhood pageant

days? If I were one of them, I would grow up to resent my parents for their neglect and selfishness. In one episode, a distraught mother complains that the judges cut her daughter's stage time, and repeats, in front of her daughter, that they "hated her." Meanwhile, this little girl is trying to ask her mom if she "did good," and her mother ignores her and laments the fact that the judges "cut her down." COME ON. This scene demonstrates how seriously the parents take these pageants and how the children are just going along for the ride to win their parents' approval. The father finally told this girl that she "did good." With the most dignity and respect I've ever seen in a five-year-old pageant star, she replied, "Thank you," as she watched her mother crying on a hotel bed. I don't know if these mothers are living out their pageant dreams vicariously through their toddlers, if they just want to set unrealistic expectations of

"beauty" for their children or if they want to get them addicted to Pixie Sticks and Red Bull, but they should stop and reexamine their actions.

If you're talking about a five-year-old when you say, "Kids her age, sometimes it's a little hard to tan them," step back. Spray tanning was invented for Snooki, not for a kindergartener. And when your child is yelling, "A dollar makes me holler" on national television, well, making a stripper joke would be too easy, so I won't do that.

What happened to the good ol' days of playing outside and watching *The Land Before Time* on repeat? Not to sound too much like Ward Cleaver, but what kind of values and ideas are we instilling in these children by forcing them to dress up and compete against one another for the title of Miss Junior Junior Beauty Queen? Speaking of *Leave it to Beaver*, now there's a quality half-hour of television. •

THE COLLEGE VOICE'S

Top Valentine's Day Destinations



In the New London area, we recommend...

Little Sister's Bake Shop	New London	\$
Sweetie's Bakery and Cafe	New London	\$
Kitchen Little	Mystic	\$\$
Paul's Pasta Shop	Groton	\$\$
2 Wives Pizza	New London	\$\$
Olio	Groton	\$\$\$
Azu	Mystic	\$\$\$
Bravo Bravo	Mystic	\$\$\$

\$ = \$0-\$10
\$\$ = \$10 - \$25
\$\$\$ = \$25-\$50

... or, spend a day in

NEW HAVEN CT

- East Rock Park
- Pepe's Pizza
- Chocopologie
- Yale Sex Week
- Miya's Sushi

Start your day off with a relaxed stroll around the river of East Rock Park, a twenty minute walk from downtown New Haven. If you and your date are feeling rambunctious, make the twenty minute trek to the top of East Rock for a romantic view of the city.

After working up an appetite, head to New Haven's pizza hot spot: Pepe's Pizza. Signature choice: a gorgonzola/spinach/mushroom pie, which they bring out to you on a cookie baking tray.

What is a Valentine's day lunch without lavender ginger ganache or chocolate dipped pork rinds to finish it off? It may cost you \$4 for a hot chocolate the size of your thumb, but your date is worth it.

If you're itching for some sex-ed at the end of a long day, head to Carol Queen's lecture on "Wisdom from Someone who Loves Sex to Someone Just Starting," sponsored by Yale's Sex Week, held at 6 PM. This is an "intimate talk for people of all sexual experience levels."

Miya's Sushi is a sustainable sushi restaurant that replaces seafood with unique other unique food combos that are surprisingly mouthwatering. Their menu is about 45 pages long and includes items such as the "Naughty Norweigan," "Romping with the Goats," or the "Roll of a Lifetime."

MYSTIC CT

- Wide World of Bagels
- Mystic Aquarium
- Daniel Packer Inn Restaurant & Pub
- Bleu Squid Bakery & Cheese Shop
- Old Mystic Seaport

The first 100 women who walk in to the shop will get a free heart shaped bagel on Valentine's Day!

Take your date to the best aquarium in Connecticut! Besides the adorable belugas and other sea life, the African Penguins have created fifty paintings that are for sale to help benefit penguin conservation efforts.

This is a pub and dining room decorated in a traditional New England style and serving traditional New England food. It was established at its current location 250 years ago as an inn.

The Bleu Squid is a cheese shop and bakery offering thirty cheese varieties and forty flavor combinations of cupcakes. They are known for their grilled cheese cafe which serves their most famous lobster grilled cheese.

After enjoying the beautiful view of the Seaport, crossing the drawbridge and then watching it rise again, one can stroll down the streets and browse in various shops, like the gift boutique, Whyevernot.

WESTERLY RI

- Upper Crust Bakery & Ocean House Café
- Ten Sandwiches
- Watch Hill

Arguably the best bakery in the area, Upper Crust is great for a morning cup of coffee or an afternoon snack of delicious cookies, muffins, and other baked goods. Upper Crust is a great Valentine's Day destination - or order ahead and pick up a box of cookies to take home with you!

If you're looking to splurge on a fancy Valentine's Day dinner, the Ocean House hotel is where you'll get the best bang for your buck. Located in Watch Hill, the Ocean House offers a range of dining options with varying menus, prices, and luxury. Seasons is the hotel's fine dining restaurant, offering a delicious winter menu for both lunch and dinner. Ocean House's American Bistro menu offers a more casual yet equally swank romantic meal.

Cheap and delicious! Ten Sandwiches offers (drumroll please) sandwiches, soups, desserts, coffees, teas, craft beers and wine - what more could you want? Great for breakfast through dinner, Ten Sandwiches could be the perfect place for breakfast, dinner, or anything in between. If you're not convinced, check out their Facebook page for some absurdly seductive pictures of what they have to offer.

A stroll or drive around Watch Hill could be a great Valentine's Day activity, weather permitting. You can look at the beautiful ocean that is too cold to swim in, or check out the gorgeous and absurdly expensive houses by the shore. Even in the February cold, Watch Hill manages to retain its beachy charm and romance.

Super Bowl XLVI Recap and Outlook

RYAN MELVIN
CONTRIBUTOR

Last Sunday the rivalry between New York and New England sports was again in high gear. This time it was not about the Yankees and the Red Sox, but the mighty New York Giants and the high octane New England Patriots. The viewership of the game should come as no surprise, as an all time record of over 111 million people watched the game; however, how these two teams entered and left Indianapolis's Lucas Oil Stadium on Sunday night might come as a surprise.

In the offseason, Eli Manning, quarterback of the Giants, proclaimed on a radio show that he was an "elite" quarterback—up there with the great quarterbacks of today, including New England's Tom Brady and the Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers. Manning's comment caused uproar with people both inside and out of the NFL, who argued that Eli had not proven enough of himself to be considered amongst the elite.

After a four game losing streak near

the end of the season, the Giants found themselves in the precarious position of being 7-7 and fighting for a playoff berth. Critics' thoughts were starting to be confirmed as the season began to wind down. Before anyone knew, the 2011 Giants morphed into the 2007 Giants, a team who beat the Patriots in their last Super Bowl meeting. They started playing better defense, had a stronger running game and got considerably more performance from Manning. The Giants might have squeaked into the postseason this year, but once in, they trounced on teams before eventually beating the San Francisco 49ers in overtime to win the NFC title and a trip to the Super Bowl XLVI.

Similarly, the Patriots quickly found themselves at a 5-3 record, (which included a loss to the New York Giants) and behind the Buffalo Bills in the conference standings. Moreover, their

defense ranked dead last for much of the year in allowed-yards per game before the Packers surpassed that ranking. The Patriots were able to start beating teams by using their offensive attack to score an abundance of points, and having the defense clamp down in the red zone when it mattered the most.

Yet, the most important thing for the Patriots was not what

bounds. All New Englanders dreaded reliving the awful 2007 Super Bowl game-winning drive Eli constructed that included a similar catch to then receiver David Tyree. Eli Manning, though, was doing nothing new. He was clutch all season when it came to fourth quarter play, in which he led the NFL in comebacks with eight wins. This time around, time was running out.

With their lead at stake, the Patriots allowed running back Ahmad Bradshaw to score a touchdown with 57 seconds left. It was a calculated move to produce the strongest chance of winning: give Tom Brady the ball as soon as possible instead of letting the Giants run the clock down and kick a field goal with a few seconds left. The plan obviously did not work, mostly due to dropped passes from the Patriot receivers. In the end, Tom Brady's Hail Mary fell incomplete as time expired, giving the Giants a 21-17 victory.

While the question of Eli Manning being elite is still causing debate, there is no way around the fact that Eli now has one more Super Bowl ring than his older brother, Peyton, who is considered to be an elite and one of the all-time best quarterbacks. In the end, only time will tell how truly special a quarterback was after the conclusion of their career.

Until then, there is the offseason. Both teams look poised for another strong run in the 2012 campaign; however, there are issues for both teams that need to

be addressed during this offseason if they hope to make it to the final game of the NFL season. Currently for the Giants, the big free agent concern is wide receiver Mario Manningham. They will also have to look for a new tight end after Jake Ballard tore his ACL in the Super Bowl. Look for the Giants to perhaps go after Stanford tight end Coby Fleener with their 32nd pick in the NFL Draft come April.

The Patriots have to make some big decisions on free agents this offseason, including receiver Wes Welker and running back BenJarvus Green-Ellis. They will also look to improve on their defensive secondary in the NFL Draft with two first round picks that could be possibility; however, the Patriots are also known for trading up for more picks, as head coach Bill Belichick operates in strategic ways that are unknown to the public. •

PHOTO FROM WEB



Health and Fitness: Relaxation Methods

BETTINA WEISS
CONTRIBUTOR

Stress comes in many forms in college, and for the most part it comes in waves. If you have a test one day, you're bound to have a paper due the next, and the cycle never ends. Interestingly enough, what small decisions students choose to make now can help improve their health later in life.

Dr. Mao Shing Ni is an authority on Taoist anti-aging medicine and is the author of the best-selling books focusing on revitalization and natural ways to improve longevity. He is also the founder of The Natural Health Search Engine. His recent studies have shown that little activities can help improve health tremendously over time. Of course, eating right and exercising are important, but there are small changes to your daily routine that can help improve your overall health.

The first suggestion Dr. Shing Ni makes is to stand as much as possible. While this seems a bit ridiculous to college students who are walking from place

Small changes to your daily routine that can help improve your overall health.

to place and constantly on the move, choosing to break up long periods of sitting with a few minutes of standing or stretching can help tremendously.

People who stand more have more energy throughout the day, and actually allow their bodies to burn more calories than they would if spending the majority of their time sitting down. Recent studies have shown that sitting for a prolonged period of time increases risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer, even if you exercise daily. If you find yourself studying for hours on end in Shain library, take breaks every two hours to stretch or take a walk around campus. This can help your metabolism and therefore give your body more chances to burn calories. Although it seems that throughout long days of

studying and attending classes, students wouldn't have anything else on their mind besides fun and sleep, studies have shown that those who help others will not only be happier but are less likely to have depression later on. When people stop focusing on their own worries and pains, they experience less anxiety and feel better about themselves. Even giving a smile to strangers walking by can help make people happier, and in return, healthier. On campus, joining OVCS is an accessible way to find places to volunteer. Helping others a few times a week can not only help you take your focus off of work, but it can also help you understand what is truly worth worrying about in your life. According to Dr. Shing Ni, compassion can help eliminate stress and the diseases that come with it.

Look beside you right now: what do you see? Guesses are your student ID, CamelCard, and phone. Everywhere students go, these items are a survival necessity, minus the basic food and water of course. This won't surprise college students, but a new study has found an association between chronic use of Web-enabled cellphones and a rise of stress levels. As many students know, having smartphones cause students to feel a need to review and respond to every incoming message. This need causes stress and can build substantially over time and cause anxiety and later health problems. In college, students are constantly connected to technology because it's impossible to stay up to date without it. However, to improve our health in the long run, students should try to "bulk-check" emails and texts every hour rather than responding instantly, and consider doing one task at a time when it comes to texting and chatting online.

These habits are simple, reasonable and helpful in the long run. Many sources also support meditation throughout the day as a way to focus better and relieve stress. As midterm exams approach, take time in your day to consciously better your health by doing these small tasks. Your body will thank you. •



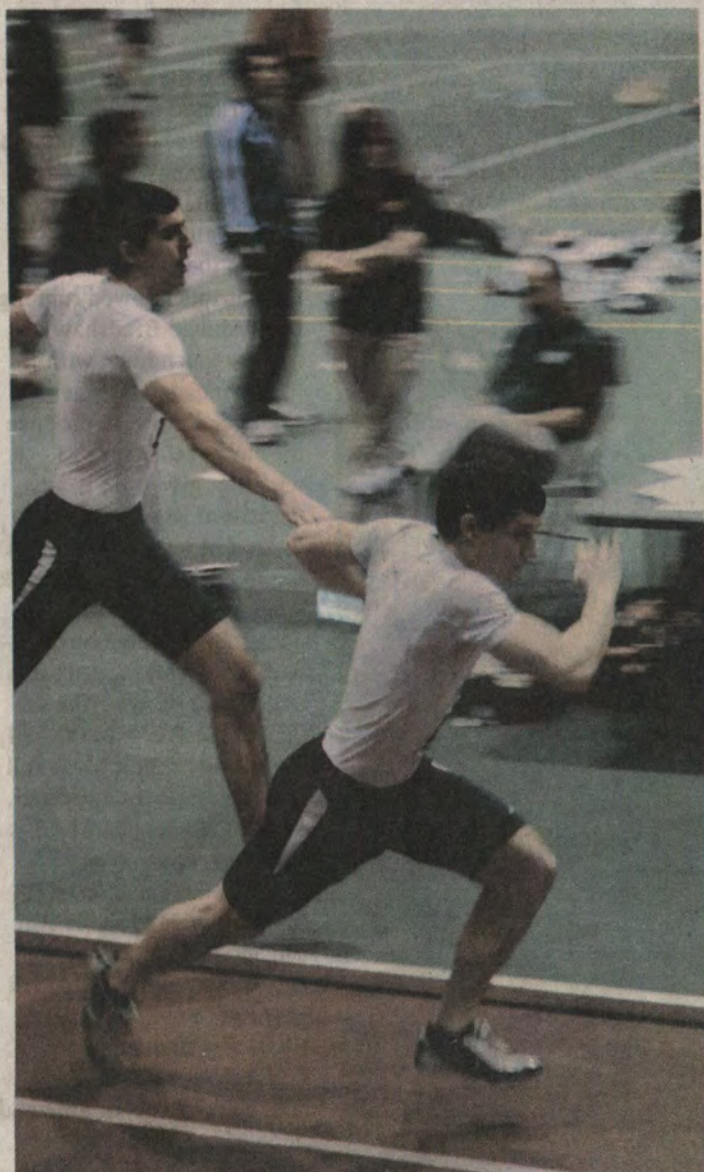
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Team Spotlight: Track and Field

The Men and Women's track team saw a slew of school records smashed last weekend at the Boston University Valentine Invitational. For the men Alex Mavrovic ran 8:29.25 for the 3000 meter and Geoff Phaneuf 23.89 for the 200 meter. For the women there was Sara Dildersleev, who posted 26.36 for the 200 meter, Sarah Matthews with 1:19.36 for the 500 meter and Kim Bolic with 3:01.06 for the 1000 meter.



ALL PHOTOS BY HOITT MCALLISTER

NESCAC POWER RANKINGS

COMPILED BY THE COLLEGE VOICE



This is the first installment of the NESCAC Power Ranking. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on basketball and hockey.

An overall strong record has given Amherst a powerful lead over the rest of the league, but just below the competition become significantly narrower as schools battle to overcome close margins. Coming in at 9th, Conn hovers above Hamilton and Colby, while looking to push past Trinity.

SCHOOL	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	MEN'S HOCKEY	WOMEN'S HOCKEY	AVERAGE
AMHERST	1	1	1	2	1.25
TUFTS	4	2	4	—	2.5
MIDDLEBURY	2	5	5	1	3.25
BOWDOIN	6	3	2	3	3.5
BATES	5	9	—	—	3.5
WESLEYAN	3	6	6	8	5.75
WILLIAMS	7	5	5	7	6
TRINITY	9	8	7	4	7
CONN COLL	10	7	8	6	7.75
HAMILTON	8	10	9	5	8
COLBY	11	4	10	9	8

The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editors, John Kelly and Amanda Nadile ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were averaged to create a composite overall ranking for each school. Bates does not participate in men's hockey or women's hockey. Tufts does not participate in women's hockey.

DESIGNED BY STEVEN SMITH/TUFTS DAILY

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Men's Ice Hockey
Conn 2 - 4 Tufts
Conn 8 - 1 Hamilton

Men's Squash
Conn 8 - 1 Bryant
Conn 8 - 1 Boston College

Women's Ice Hockey
Conn 4 - 3 UMass-Boston
Conn 7 - 3 Neumann University

Men's Basketball
Conn 80 - 77 Mitchell
Conn 55 - 54 Colby

Women's Basketball
Conn 56 - 71 Colby
Conn 60 - 73 Bowdoin

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Men's Ice Hockey
vs. Colby Friday 2/17
7 PM
vs. Bowdoin Saturday
2/18 3 PM

Women's Swimming & Diving
NESCAC Championship
at Wesleyan 2/17-19
Women's Ice Hockey
vs. Williams 2/17-18