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INSIDE:



NEWS

Conn, beginning this semester, is closing all entrances except the front an hour earlier.



A&E

Can Dredg save a music industry that can't tell its punk from emo with its new CD, "El Cielo?"



SPORTS

After a rough start, the Lady Camels bounce back and look ahead to the rest of the season.

Pfizer Wins 'Dirty Dozen' Award

By JOHANNAH BLACKMAN
STAFF WRITER

From the steps of Blaustein, the highest point in New London, students can see both the picturesque Long Island Sound, as well as the smokestacks of Pfizer, the world's largest pharmaceutical company. Last semester SAVE, Conn's environmental organization, nominated Pfizer as a contestant in the fourth annual Dirty Dozen Awards. In December, Pfizer, along with eleven other companies throughout Connecticut, received the Dirty Dozen Award, an "honor" which expresses serious concern over the environmental practices of the company.

The Dirty Dozen Awards are operated by the Toxics Action Center, an organization that assists neighborhoods throughout New England in the fight against toxic pollution in their communities. The Dirty Dozen Awards annually recog-

nize what are considered to be the top twelve environmental and public health threatening companies in the state in which the awards are hosted. Nominations are collected from residents throughout the state, and the winning companies are selected by a board of "judges" comprised of public health experts, environmental professionals, and advocates for worker health and safety.

Pfizer proudly boasts the application of their motto, "Life is our life's work," to their environmental policy. They point out that as a company dedicated to the improvement of health and personal well-being world-wide, it follows this commitment to be very concerned with the efficient management of both the natural and work environment, and to place that concern as one of the company's top priorities. Their "Environmental Health and Safety" program commits to the elevation of

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Even the bathrooms of Windbam, one of the cleanest dorms on campus, was not immune to post-Super Bowl hysteria. In the big game, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Oakland Raiders 48-21 to claim their first ever NFL championship. On a related note, JA and Freeman held their first ever "South Campus Superbowl." Freeman won a decisive victory led by their offensive line, affectionately known as the "Tower Titans."

Conn Continues to Stand Firm on Affirmative Action

By JENNIE BARGMAN
STAFF WRITER

In 1978, a case was brought before the Supreme Court concerning the issue of race in college admissions. University of California Regents v. Bakke brought two important questions before the Supreme Court: Can a university set aside places in a class for minority students? Can a university consider race as a factor for admissions? The court ruled in favor of the latter but ruled against the first question.

Decades later the issue of race and college admissions is being placed under the microscope again. Currently the University of Michigan is fighting two lawsuits challenging their admissions policies. These allegations were brought forth by three white students who claimed their admission to the university was denied and admissions was granted to less qualified minorities.

The Bush administration sided with these students, prompting a review of the admissions policies at the University of Michigan. Bush stated that its policy of admitting racial

minorities mirrored a quota system and declared it unconstitutional.

Affirmative Action has always been a political hot potato for many administrations. The Clinton Administration pussy-footed around the issue for eight years. Bush, on the other hand, has made his opinions clear: Affirmative Action in public institutions is unconstitutional.

Although the Court's decision this April will only effect

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President Fainstein, SGA President Brown and FSCC Chair Chrisler addressed the advancements and setbacks of the College in 2003. (Rogers)



State of the College: "Steady and Solid."

By JAMIE ROGERS
NEWS EDITOR

Despite relentless winter winds this Monday night, approximately 150 students gathered in the 1941 room to hear the annual State of the College Address. SGA President Kurt Brown '03, Joan Chrisler, Chair of FSCC, and President of the College Norman Fainstein spoke on issues confronting students, faculty and staff for the upcoming year.

Overall the mood of the evening was positive. "The college is in very good shape, but that doesn't mean we don't have some problems," Fainstein told the crowd.

Topics ranged from committee work, to class size and grade inflation, to new building projects such as a new dorm, life science facility and innovative library renovation.

Each speaker addressed questions of racial diversity and tension on campus. "The campus has been challenged this year by unthinkable ignorant acts of racism," declared Brown, making reference to last semester's rash of racial graffiti. Brown and others praised the community retaliation against the crimes, and the progress of the new Presidential Commission on a Pluralistic Community. "We have a tremendously positive record with tremendously negative elements in it," said Fainstein.

The Pluralism Commission is

organizing the first Summit on diversity, to be held on February 15th. Elli Nagai-Rothe, SGA Chair of Multicultural Affairs is spearheading the summit. "It is this heightened sense of communication that will allow us to realize the most progress in our great institution," said Brown. The Summit will be a full day of roundtable discussions, open to anyone. RSVPs are due by February 3rd.

Brown also alluded to new evaluations of the C-Book, the Constitution and Student Bill of Rights, as well as the Judiciary system. "There are going to be some changes, if that only means clarification and improvements," stated Brown.

Faculty sentiment was positive. "The mood of the faculty is generally optimistic," said Chrisler. There were some concerns about overcrowding, grade inflation, general education and faculty workload, but the most pertinent topic of discussion was the search for a new Dean and Associate Dean of the Faculty, both of whom are concluding their tenure this year.

Fainstein addressed the students with guarded optimism. Financially the College is "steady and solid," he affirmed, and with endowments at a low across the country, "we're ahead of the curve in terms of belt tightening." He assured the community that

"we're not in the real estate development business anymore. We're not very good at that." The College shed some of its downtown investments made under the Gaudiani administration this year after a million dollar loss. Fainstein's statement was met with raucous applause.

When pressed he admitted that tuition levels were likely to go up in the coming year, but still within a needs-based framework. "We meet the need of every student, and we expect to do that."

He said the new year would bring 8 new tenure track professors in various departments, a new athletic director and renewed discussions of building a new dorm to be located east of the New Plex in place of the white cottages marked for demolition. The new dorm would house 122 students and resemble Becker house, what Fainstein called, after some debate, "American Vernacular."

The president seemed optimistic about breaking ground on a new life sciences building that would house the bio, math and computer science departments, as well as a grand library renovation to be named at student LIFE building (Learning Information Fitness Exploration). This building would house a library, Internet facilities, a coffee shop and a fitness center. "When I go to a

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New Printing System Saves Paper

By PRIYANKA GUPTA
STAFF WRITER

Last semester free printing in Shain Library cost the College over \$500,000, despite the introduction of double-sided printing. Dozens of empty reams of paper were posted up on the central pillar of the library to display the astounding amount of paper being used.

In an effort to cut down on this waste, the library has implemented a new printing system. In this system, each time the user sends a print command, the data is transferred to the two new computers installed next to the printers. The user must login again at one of these two computers and re-select the items that he or she wants to print.

This system enables users to keep an account of how many papers they have printed to date, as well as the net cost to the College (at the rate of \$.08 per sheet of printed paper).

An account of all the printing serves as a helpful means for the library to get information and generate statistics. For example, this new printing system helps gather information on the number of papers printed on the four major library computers, the numbers of sides printed, the user who printed them, and the busiest printing times.

According to library officials, the new system, which effectively logjams print jobs, significantly decreased the number of double prints. Earlier, there were piles of papers printed in the library and were left unclaimed. This semester it was observed that many students

have given several print commands and then neglected to actually print the papers. Without this new system, the papers would be printed and hence wasted. Officials believe it has helped create a sense of awareness among students on campus.

"I am very glad that through this new printing system, we are able to save paper and be eco-friendly," stated David Kahn ('06). Donald Blevins, Computer Lab Supervisor, is hopeful about the new system.

Some students were upset at the lack of alacrity in printing. This year the print shop has ceased printing course packets due to copyright laws, forcing many professors to put reading selections online in the form of PDF files. These files are much larger than Microsoft Word documents and are slower to spool and print. This has caused some student aggravation on campus. One student remarked that, "It wastes time, it is confusing and superfluous."



Students puzzle over new printing process as library attempts to limit paper waste. (Rogers)

Other peer colleges with similar systems have seen large drops in printing. "I hope, if our expectations are met, that we can save unnecessary use of printer paper and cartridges, and create awareness among students about the ecological benefits this has," said Blevins.

Others were worried that the listing of individual charges was a precursor to actually charging students for printing. According to library staff there is no plan to charge per page. Last semester the average student printed approximately \$13.00 worth of paper.

Old Plex Suffers From New Problems

By BRYAN SERINO
ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

The residents of Marshall and Hamilton returning from winter break were welcomed home by another host of utility problems that have complicated the lives of the students and added to the lure and infamy of these two dorms.

During the past week the heating system for the two dorms had been malfunctioning and residents were without heat for days. The problem resulted when the heat-

ing system for the Plex experienced a glitch that caused the pipes to produce air pockets that blocked the heat from reaching Marshall and Hamilton. When Hamilton Housefellow, Jared Lamb '03, looked into the problem he was told by Physical Plant that at the time there was no way to access the lines and fix the problem. The resulting solution was to overheat the front four dorms of the Plex; Morrisson, Lambdin, Wright, and Park, in the hopes that the heat would filter down to Hamilton and Marshall. While this provided some relief to the

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

State of the College Address Maintains More Realistic Vision than Bush's State of the Union

State of the Union addresses are known for their pomp and circumstance. Each year the President stands before Congress and spews lofty statements on the wonderful state of the nation, and the boundless progress that will be made in the coming year. The speech is broken roughly every 20 seconds for the requisite applause, usually from only half the room (while the other half sits in icy silence), and the end product is all too often similar to the content: a whole lot of nothing.

In this proud tradition, this year's State of the College address took a discerning viewer to read between the patriotic fluff to acquire a sense of what was really going on. In the course of the over an hour speech, complete with 77 pauses for applause, America was repeatedly told about the horror and the ever-imminent threat of terrorism (and how Iraq was a necessary target in curtailing its spread). They were also told that plans were in effect for covering prescription drugs for the elderly, creating hydrogen cars, and funding the war on AIDS in Africa.

Days earlier, Bush had made a similar speech about the condition of the economy in front of a painted backdrop of boxes labeled "Made in America." In front of the podium were more, real boxes covered in tape to obscure that they were made in China. The two speeches reveal the arrogance of the current administration in trotting out a supposed agenda that asks the public to "forget" that everything Bush has done up to this moment stands in direct opposition to most of his newly proposed policies and expect that America does not care enough to ask what is behind all that masking tape.

President Fainstein, in comparison, was a portrait of self-restraint. He remarked this Monday in his State of the College Address that: "I think the state of the College is very good. I don't think the state of the world is very good." For the first time in a while the state of the College does look good, even in bleak economic times. The fact that Joan Chrysler, Chair of the FSCC, stated that even the faculty is optimistic is a telling indicator (two years ago the faculty was anything but optimistic). Through aggressive budget cuts the College righted itself and may yet sail through the turbulence of this new year unscathed. But, like Bush's Address, one must be wary of false promises and unfounded optimism. A new dorm, a life science building and a grandiose new library renovation (hopefully more aesthetically pleasing than the current Shain), as well as 8 new tenure track professors, seems like a big bite to chew after just one year of a surplus budget. This may mean more deficit spending with hopes of a Magwitch-like bailout in time for the College Centennial, or it may mean that these ideas remain just what they are: ideas.

But the country could learn something from College. The College runs a balanced budget, has an effective system of shared governance, and actively supports diversity.

YOU SAY POTATO, I SAY VODKA

BRADLEY KREY • CONNECTICUT IDOL



Let me assure you, corporations are not comprised of evil, soulless creatures who would gladly exchange their mothers' diabetes medication for the chance to make an extra dollar, so don't you go around thinking that. No, corporations are made of ethical folk, who would never compromise their lofty ideals.

Take Abercrombie and Fitch, maker of such fine garments as forty-dollar pre-worn hats, shirts, and underwear. If I were a major clothing manufacturer, I would try to market as many different types of undergarments to anyone above or below the age of diapers, regardless of how sexually suggestive it may be.

Not Abercrombie—they have standards. According to the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, a spokesperson recently said about their female thong underwear, "It's not appropriate for a 7-year-old, but it is appropriate for a 10-year-old."

And don't worry about their sensitivity to race relations, because like Shaquille O'Neal, they know that Asian-Americans love promoting stereotypes of themselves. In April of 2002, they marketed shirts with Chinese people in comical hats and slogans such as: "Wong brothers laundry: Two Wongs can make it white."

Now, as I do not belong to this elite and prescient group of business execs, I found these shirts humorous, foolish and offensive.

Abercrombie knows better, however. "We personally thought Asians would love these shirts," an Abercrombie spokesperson said.

Ah, corporations... Is there anything they can't do?

Moving to the world of politics: we should all be glad to have a president that could make each and every one of us proud to be from, say, Bulgaria, rather than the land of the-free-to-wiretap-your-neighbor's-carphone-

because-your-neighbor-has-a-friend-who-looks-Muslim.

Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the president's adroit handling of international relations, in which he asks the "tough questions" of foreign leaders like the President of Brazil, to whom he addressed this insightful query: "Do you have blacks too?" (Again, credit the *Bay Guardian*).

I'm surprised Bush didn't offer his famous Tex-Mex Spanish, *Como eres Usted*, or something equally horrid.

Haha! I only kid. Bush probably knows they speak Portuguese in Brazil!

In any event, rest assured that the good people in airport security are, like Nelly, "stomping [terrorists] in their airforce ones." When passing through airport security in Hartford, I was relieved to see that a young girl, of four or five maybe, wasn't given a free pass when she set off the metal detector. No, they made her walk forward, and ran the hand detector over her closely. And you know what I thought: If ten-year-olds can wear thong underwear, five-year-olds can carry butter knives which might be used to aid the evildoers.

So we can trust an administration with policies that "leave no child behind" in the areas of education and scanning with metal detectors. We can listen confidently to our president in the state of the union address, as he vows to personally smote any threat to American security that may arise around the universe.

And by personally, he means sending poor and minority troops to engage in risky urban land combat and probably die. I mean, Bush isn't actually going to put himself on the line. He had the good sense to join the Texas National Guard, thank you very much.

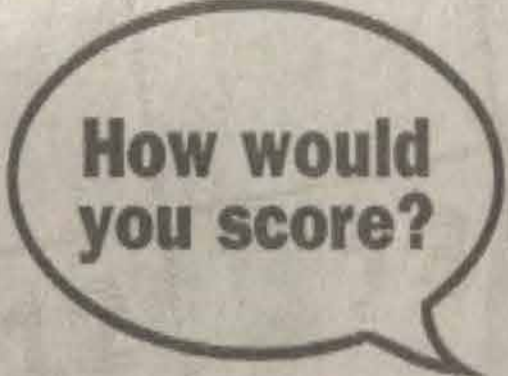
In any event, I think a constitutional amendment should prohibit the use of weapons of mass destruction by any president who cannot pronounce the word "nuclear."



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OPINION

PART I: THE CASE FOR WAR WITH IRAQ AND WHY WE MUST GO IN

YONI FREEMAN • VIEWPOINT

Spurred by Monday's anti-War on Iraq "vigil," I decided it was necessary that I presented the viewpoint concerning Iraq and what the truthful reasons for military action were. Furthermore, in this three part series, I will put forward what our goals will be in Iraq once Saddam is gone, and finalize my series with a column outlining who exactly these "peace" organizations are.



A REPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIP

The first and foremost attribute of Saddam Hussein's Iraq, that supports why we must go in, is that his rule of Iraq is done in a dictatorial and repressive way. He tortures his people and his opponents. He keeps his people in a prison camp setting. His regime does not allow freedom of any kind, apart from those "freedoms" which bolster his regime and iron fist rule. He has a wide range of secret police institutions who daily kill and imprison those unfortunate souls Saddam feels are hostile to his reign. Saddam Hussein's Iraq is basically one big concentration camp whose inhabitants are daily propagated with lies and deceit by Hussein while at the same time murdered. Let me quote some of the torture methods from the Foreign Ministry of Britain's report on Saddam Hussein's human rights abuses, "eye gouging - eyes are gouged out and the empty eye sockets stuffed with paper, mock executions, suspension from the ceiling, acid baths, and the piercing of hands with electric drills." The opponents of a war on Iraq know these facts, yet they continue to state they oppose war, operating on a platform which claims to be in protection of Iraq's citizens. How can they say they care about the citizens, if they don't mind these citizens living under these conditions?

A HUMANITARIAN DISASTER

Iraq is also in a desperate humanitarian state of things. Its population faces starvation, malnourishment and disease on a daily basis. Food and medicine are not widely available. The sanctions are not, as opponents and Iraq state, the reason this is happening. Before the Gulf War, Saddam used most of his oil revenue to buy weapons and other luxuries for his family, himself and his army. This was BEFORE the sanctions. During this time, his people WERE starving. Now, after the sanctions were put on, he had MORE money to spend as oil revenue was no longer allowed for use to buy weapons (in the legal sense of course). However, even with the increased revenue in his hands, his people continued to starve, and they still do. The sanctions are not the reason for this, HE IS. Removing Saddam's tyranny will indeed be a victory for Iraq's suffering men, women and children.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

The next and widely known issue concerning Iraq is Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. Saddam has weapons of mass destruction and he continues to PURSUE them. He has used them in the late 1980's against his own citizens. He had a period in the years 1998-2002 when no inspectors were allowed into the country, to widely increase their strength. He continues to hide them in various parts of the country and in like-minded countries such

as Syria and Libya. He does not intend on disarming and the current inspections show this. The inspectors do not have a chance of finding these weapons due to many reasons such as his transportation of them to countries such as Syria, his scattering of them in various houses and other unnoticeable buildings, the fact he has germ laboratories on wheels who simply move around with each inspection, and his refusal to allow usage of U2 spy planes to search his landscape. Furthermore, the interviewing of Iraqi scientists is unproductive due to the fear the scientists have of being killed if they comply, or because the scientist is nothing more than an undercover Iraqi agent.

Evidence has also been found to support the notion that Saddam has weapons of mass destruction. The finding of 16 empty chemical weapon canisters is just one example. It does not only show he has weapons of mass destruction, but also shows that Iraq has been LYING on the question as it has stated many times to the world that it had none of these weapons which were found. The Iraqi regime has been lying all along. On the one hand Iraq states it has no weapons of mass destruction but on the other hand you have Saddam Hussein's brother, Uday, saying that, "If they (USA) come, Sept. 11, which they are crying over and see as a big thing, will be a real picnic for them, God willing." Iraq is basically saying "If you attack us we will attack you with weapons of mass destruction we don't have." What other evidence do you need?

A LAUNCH PAD FOR TERRORISM

The last and not least reason we must go after Saddam Hussein is terrorism. Iraq is a state sponsor of terrorism (not just according to me, ask the State Dept). It harbors terrorist groups who want to destroy America and its allies. It funds and supports terrorist organizations and provides them with access to training camps in the country; groups such as the Mujahedin-e-Khalq, Kurdistan Workers' Party, Palestine Liberation Front, and the Abu Nidal. Saddam's regime funds such entities as Palestinian terrorist organizations and their activities. He hands over a check of \$25,000 to each Palestinian suicide terrorist bomber's family, those terrorists responsible for bombing pizzerias, discos, and cinemas. Iraq was the only Arab-Muslim country that did not condemn the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 2001. Iraq is an infestation of both domestic and international terrorism. It must be cleansed for the sake of our children and Iraq's children.

As you can see, Saddam Hussein is a ticking time bomb. The threat from Iraq is there and we must go after him before it is too late. The inspectors have failed and they will continue to fail. We must not leave the responsibility of our national security up to a failed organization such as the UN. There may be no imminent threat from Iraq, but as Bush said in his State of the Union Address, since when do terrorists and tyrants tell us when they are going to do us harm?

The time is here, the time is now. The evidence is clear. The reason is apparent. It is time for us to militarily engage and defeat Iraq, overthrow Saddam, dismantle its terrorist plague, destroy its weapons of mass destruction, and LIBERATE the Iraqi people. We will be victorious!

Until next time,
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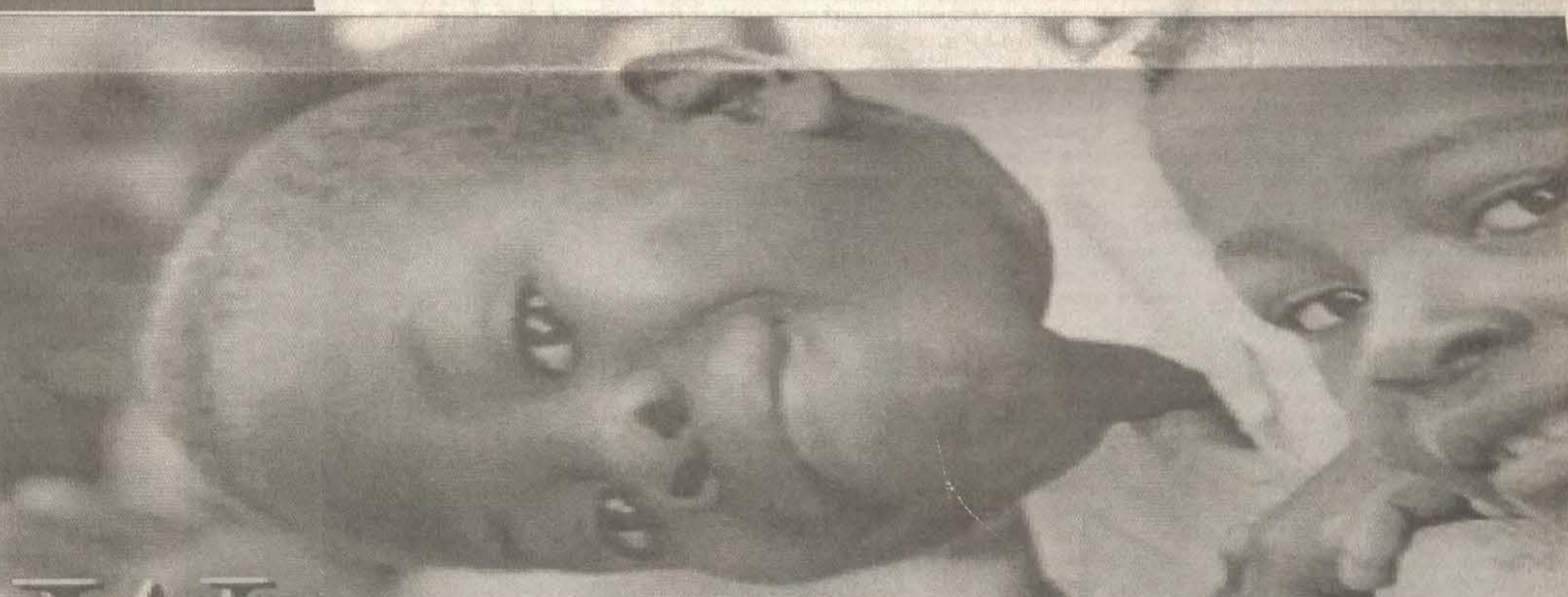


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A Look Back at the Movie Hits and Misses of Winter Break

Before we get into the Winter Movie roundup, just a couple of quick things to note. First, while the majority of these movies did have a winter release date, some did not. They were, however, seen during winter break and thus are considered legal for this collection of reviews. Second, John C. Reilly is in, oh, I do not know, maybe a dozen films this winter and is good in all of them. Thus, whether he is playing a corrupt cop in "Gangs of New York" or singing "Mr. Cellophane" in "Chicago", rest assured he is excellent.



25th Hour ****1/2

Ahh, now this is Spike Lee, the filmmaker, that we all remember from "Do the Right Thing." What is ostensibly a movie about drug dealer Monty's (Edward Norton) last day before going to jail quickly reveals itself as having far more going on. In a firefighter bar, owned by his former firefighter father (Brian Cox), Monty rages against his mirror image and New York City in a series of "f*** you's" that Norton masterfully plays to reveal Monty as trying to convince himself that he hates a city he is so clearly bound to. The moment is reflected later in Cox's closing monologue over a montage of Americana. This whole movie is a love letter to an America still reeling from a shocking act of terrorism over a year ago, showing both its present strength and reminding us of where it came from.

Of course, there is more than enough plot packed into the film as well. Besides making peace with his father, Monty still has several other loose ends to tie up. He still has to deal with his girlfriend (a surprisingly good Rosario Dawson) and whether or not she betrayed him as his bodyguard/confidante (former football player Tony Siragusa) suggests. Monty will also meet up with his two childhood friends, Frank and Jakob (Barry Pepper and Philip Seymour Hoffman respectively) who bring with them their own problems. Frank is an angry Wall Street type who boasts his lack of sympathy for Monty and his situation while Jakob is fighting an inappropriate attraction to one of his students. All these storylines come to a head in a going away party for Monty at a nightclub and at Central Park in the early morning.

Everyone in the film does an excellent job but in the end the only two people who are left to carry the film are Norton and Lee and neither disappoint. Rarely is a movie so thick with style and substance.



About Schmidt ****

Alexander Payne is not the flashiest of filmmakers. Three movies into his filmography, he hardly has commanded the attention that a Scorsese or a Lee might have at similar points in their careers. That having been said, each of his films does an excellent job of telling the story of everyday people in Middle America. "Schmidt" is equal parts funny and brutal as we watch Walter Schmidt (Jack Nicholson) reawaken in his own skin after he retires. Schmidt is a man so beaten down by life that the only place he channels his true feelings is in letters to the African foster child he sends money to every month. In these missives he rages against his wife forcing him to always sit when he goes to the bathroom, the man who took his job over after he retires, his daughter's unworthy fiancée, and whatever else comes to mind. In his day-to-day life, he is little more than the walking dead.

With his wife's passing, however, all hell breaks loose. In rapid succession we witness him make a pigpen of his house, attempt to beat up his best friend, travel around in a Winnebago searching for his past, try and fail to break up his daughter's wedding, and, as with any good post-retirement life crisis, see Kathy Bates naked.

Despite all of this, however, you witness Schmidt as a man who realizes how important life is, illuminated in a simple, overwhelming scene involving a child's drawing.

However, despite all of this, Payne does let the film drag on a bit too long. While one can understand part of that to convey the atmosphere that Schmidt lives in and wraps around himself, it does too far and interferes with the story at hand at points.

Nicholson deserves all the praise being showered upon him by the critics as he does away with a lifetime of go-to facial expressions and voice inflections and suppressing anything we have to associated with Jack being "Jack." The supporting cast is all top notch, with Dermot Mulroney and the aforementioned Bates deserving special note as Schmidt's future son in law and his far to willing to share mother, respectively.

In the end, the film drags but the humor and quality performances do more than enough to make up for it.

Adaptation ****1/2

Hey, Nicholas Cage can still act. Who knew?

This is but one of the pleasant revelations unearthed in the latest Charlie Kaufman-Spike Jonze vehicle that focuses on (in the loosest of ways) an adaptation of Susan Orlean's novel *The Orchid Thief* and the process that Kaufman went into with adapting. Of course this plot description leaves out Charlie's twin (also Cage), famous screenwriting instructor Robert McKee (Brian Cox), Orlean's affair with John Laroche (Chris Cooper), the subject of her book, the use of orchids in drug trade, poor self esteem, and other incidents that are possibly true, most likely false, or out and out fabrications.

Much like "Being John Malkovich" (Jonze and Kaufman's previous collaboration) this movie is not for everyone. It is weird, self-reverential, and very much aware of its own cleverness. Also much like "Malkovich," its last third is so drastic a tone change that many have disliked it. However, unlike "Malkovich" which began to take itself too seriously and fell apart because of it, this ending makes sense. Donald (despite being a figment of Charlie's imagination) writes the final third of the screenplay and thus it is in his style. His style of course being typical Hollywood: car chases, drugs, sex, gun battles, and happy endings.

What is most pleasing about "Adaptation" is how Charlie and Donald represent the best and worst of Hollywood. Charlie is interested in creating stories that have never been told, or at least not in the way he wants to tell them and is very committed to his craft. He is also excessively navel gazing, inconsistent, insecure, and unreliable. Donald writes in accordance with a formula, is far too confident for his own good, and a little bit dumb. On the other hand, he is funny, very much eager to please and entertain, and has a huge heart. So yes, the movie is bizarre, its ending may seem a little out of sorts, and it clearly is a bit elitist. But isn't nice to see something wholly original that does not collapse under its own pretentiousness?

Analyze That *

Beyond money there is no reason to create a sequel to a movie like "Analyze This." Its ending was a perfectly logical conclusion to a decent (although not noteworthy) comedy about a Mafioso and his shrink. Therefore it should probably go without saying that this movie is devoid of creativity, heart, or a single laugh. Bobby D., what has happened to you?

Bowling for Columbine ****1/2

A common criticism of Michael Moore is that all his projects are as much about him as they are about the subject matter. Well, yes, that is true. And?

So that is perhaps a little flip, but Moore never reports otherwise. His documentaries are about his feelings on issues and that is never hidden from the viewer. If you don't like that style of documentary, fine, but that does not invalidate what he does.

In "Bowling" what he does is pose the question of what makes America so violent. Why did Columbine happen, why do we have so many murders, what is it with guns? Hauntingly, when the film ends, Moore seems no closer to answering that question than when he started and refreshingly, does not attempt to simply force a simple solution on the viewer as many politicians and pundits will do with this issue.

Amongst the highlights are Marilyn Manson proving to be one of the most thoughtful people interviewed in the film, a hysterical animated sequence about American history that hammers on how often decisions have been made because of fear, John Nichols (Terry's brother) concluding that perhaps the limiting of weapons grade plutonium would be a good idea since "there's a lot of wackos out there," and Moore taking on a clearly over-matched Charlton Heston in Heston's own home.

As usual, Moore does stretch himself a little too far at times in his quest. Entirely too much of the film is wasted on the United States actions in international affairs. While there is a stunning litany of missteps presented (including our funding and training of Osama bin Laden and Co. and Iraqi soldiers) Moore cannot seem to connect it to homicides and gunplay at home and this

portion of the film is weaker for it.

Still in the end, it is a disturbing look at America's violence culture that effectively makes the point that it is all far more complicated than violent music or video games.



Catch Me if You Can ****

For the second time in a year, Spielberg has put out a well-crafted, smart, entertaining movie. Yet, "Catch" is wholly different from his summer release "Minority Report."

Frank Abagnale Jr. (Leonardo DiCaprio) is just your average kid, his home life approaches sitcom levels of comfort and he idolizes his father (Christopher Walken). Then, it all falls apart as Frank Sr. is investigated by the IRS and his mother takes to sleeping with one of Dad's close friends from the Rotary Club. Rather than deal with having to choose which parent to live with, Frank Jr. runs off, and begins to impersonate pilots, doctors, lawyers, and even James Bond. It is not an adolescent power fantasy, but rather a story of a kid who wants so desperately to be someone else, anyone really, to avoid having to face that his family is not perfect. Meanwhile FBI agent Carl Hanratty (Tom Hanks) is following closely behind.

The cast all perform quite well, but above all of them, Walken deserves a special mention. Every time he is on-screen in this movie, it is that much better. I simply cannot say enough about how smooth, and sad, and just plain excellent he was.

Alternating between a fun story of a cool con man and a heartbreaking vision of someone deeply in denial, "Catch" never dips too far into sentimentality, keeping its tongue firmly in cheek.

Chicago ***

Apparently, in case you did not hear, this little picture is going to bring back the movie musical. Well, I am just not so sure about that. It is not a bad movie, far from it. However, it fails to stand up under the copious amounts of praise that is being showered down upon it.



The problem is that it all feels too constrained, as if someone is showing you a taped stage performance. Yes, this is the effect that is being strived for in the dance sequence most of which unfold in the mind of Roxie Hart (Renee Zellweger). And I applaud it as a smart way to keep musical choreography without sacrificing real world sensibility. There is nothing to complain about in the song and dance numbers.

Unfortunately, there are scenes with dialogue and this is when the movie starts to feel very small. If the filmmakers were so concerned with the dance numbers feeling too out of place if they unfolded in the "real" world of the film, more effort should have been made to make said world feel as if it extended beyond what was visible on the screen. Unfortunately it never does. Thus, despite smart turns by Queen Latifah, Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, John C. Reilly, and the scene stealing Richard Gere, the film can never really elevate itself to a level worthy of the praise it has been receiving.

Is the movie musical back? Probably, at least for the time being. However, the next one would do well not to handcuff quality performances with a vision that limits the world to only what is flickered upon the screen.

Die Another Day ***

Pierce Brosnan's roles in "The Tailor of Panama" and "The Thomas Crown Affair" seemed to have served him well as they meld into his rather blasé past Bond performances. This time around besides just looking the part, Brosnan seems to finally get who Bond is. He is not just some guy who has sex and drinks, (although that is very important too), he is a spy, an assassin, a man uncomfortable with rules, and prone to incredible brutality.

Proving that the franchise does best when it uses the

formula as a springboard rather than a bible, the movie starts by shockingly allowing Bond to be captured and tortured and giving a purpose to those ridiculously long opening title sequences. Bond is swapped for, but is essentially treated as a traitor by his own organization upon his return. He spends a significant part of the movie on his own with only an old gun, a bird book, and a pair of binoculars and proves that Bond is more than just a bunch of cool gadgets.

Of course, as the movie goes on, it returns to staying true to the formula and suffers because of it. In the final 20 minutes or so almost everyone talks entirely in Bondesque quips that, while initially funny, grow quickly tiresome when spoken by 4 or 5 people instead of just 007.

In the end, no one can expect Shakespeare from Bond and while about 2 dozen puns less would be nice, it is one hell of a ride and the best Bond film in several years.

Gangs of New York ****

It is readily apparent that Miramax should have allowed the original three plus hour cut of the film to be shown. Instead, what should be the realization of a 30-year dream is at times overcrowded. In particular, the issues of the Civil War draft seem awkwardly shoe-horned in, although it does ultimately pay off in the climax.

However overstuffed the film is, it does not obscure the return of Daniel Day Lewis. His Bill the Butcher is acting unleashed, chewing scenery and still nailing the nuisances of a honorable monster who is only starting to realize that his way of life is ending. In fact, the film is littered with excellent work from the majority of the



players. The notable exception is the criminally miscast Cameron Diaz. It is not that she is particularly bad, just that she is completely out of place. She is too clean, too beautiful, and too refined to be living as a grifter in Civil War era New York.

Scorsese's dream project, unfortunately, fails to live up to more than thirty years of hype. One suspects, however, when we get to see the original cut of the film on DVD, it will be every bit the masterpiece that was expected.

The Two Towers ****1/2

The common philosophy is that the middle film in a trilogy will always be the weakest because it lacks a true beginning or ending. However, after second films like *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Godfather II*, and now this picture, it may be time to ditch this cliché.

As expected, the battle scenes are huge and the newly developed "Massive" computer program does an excellent job of making every computer generated orc look as real as those being played by humans. The relief is that despite all the action, the characterization is not sacrificed. Witness Gimli's (Rhys-Davies) reading of the simple line, "He fell," for an example of how much emotion this film takes the time to bring forth in its actors.

Finally, no review is complete without mentioning Andy Serkis's Gollum. While no one knows how the hell it should be done, it has to be agreed that this split personality ring addict deserves some sort of recognition. Yes, he is a computer-generated image, but every movement on tic comes from a man, and Serkis is very much the reason Gollum is not Dobby the House Elf, or worse, Senator Jar Jar Binks.

Two Weeks Notice **1/2

Remember how good Hugh Grant was in "About a Boy"? Remember a time when Sandra Bullock was enjoyable to watch (maybe)? Alas, this is not the movie for you if you are hoping for similar performances. The script is bland and predictable, Bullock insists on trying to make us believe that she is some uncouth lady waiting to be made over into a beautiful princess, and Grant, while good, seems merely to be biding his time until the movie is over. These two have great chemistry in interviews, but none of it is up on the screen.



Kangaroo Jack NONE

I know what you are thinking. How could a movie starring Jerry O'Connell, Estella Warren (not naked as was originally called for), and a thieving kangaroo, possibly be bad? Well, Jesus, I just don't know. And apparently neither does most of America.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

dredg: Fighting to Keep the Art in Music

By TAYLOR CUNNINGHAM
STAFF WRITER

Ok, let's face it. 2002 was not a good year for rock. Wait, that's an understatement. It was pathetic. I could not give you a "top ten albums of the year" if I tried. Let's first look at the big picture, for there is and always will be good rock music in America. There has been a top-down effect in the industry. To deal with slumping sales and a slumping economy, labels had to cut back on how much they invested on a band's promotion, tour, and videos. The growing trend to dump a band immediately if they don't achieve instant stardom, rather than to develop them, has done the unthinkable by making the already treacherous music industry even more cutthroat. Every band is fighting tooth and nail for every dollar and fan they can get.

In a reaction to 9/11, record labels shied away from the heavier genres, which in some instances were already on the decline, such as the over-satiated nu-metal scene. So what CDs are spinning in the youth of America's dismen instead? Three distinctive styles have emerged to the forefront of rock. As if it never went out of style after the hair bands of the 80's faded away into obscurity, the rock ballad is what's selling. Just ask Creed, Nickelback, or Staind. A band by the moniker of Deadsy, fronted by Elijah Blue (the son of Cher and Greg Allman) was fought over by many labels for the band's debut, "Commencement" which was released in May. Why exactly? Excluding the first track, the entire album is made up of ballads, and damn it, chances were that at least one would be on constant radio rotation! And considering that most of you readers don't know whom I'm talking about, you can guess how well sales went for them.

The second two popular styles I tend to

jump together: the emo/post-punk/post-hardcore and the self-proclaimed "future of rock n' roll" or the "The___" sub-genres. As Hartford Courant rock critic, Eric R. Danton, aptly wrote on January 21, "All of these terms are just the fancy inventions of music writers looking to sub-categorize what is essentially rock n' roll." What happens when you mellow out punk or hardcore? You get plain old rock! Is dressing up like Rolling Stones of old innovative? NO! My favorite example of the confusion caused by music writers and spin doctors was when I saw Jimmy Eat World and the increasingly popular independent band, Piebald (whose drummer was my childhood babysitter) in Hartford last spring. In front of me in the line for free passes was a teen, who ran a, "punk website, which is devoted to punk and only punk," and was planning on interviewing the bands. A friend, who is much more of a Jimmy Eat World fan than I, raised a question: "Are they really punk? I thought they were emo." The response was, "Well, they're emo-punk," and when pressed to define to me what the hell that means, the punk aficionado stayed silent for about a minute and then told me to F-off. I saw none of the anti-music and rebelliousness of the punk of old that night. For God's sake, there was a disco ball spinning during Jimmy Eat World! By the look of it to me, most punk bands these days are defined by the style of clothing that they or their fans wear.

So who was actually innovative and worth listening to this year? The best way to find fresh music is to simply ask your favorite bands whom they are listening to. Bands tour nonstop around the country, often headlining shows where local bands, who are diamonds in the rough struggling to stay alive, open for them. In 1999, one of those bands was dredg, based in Los Gatos, California. Their under-

ground album, Leitmotif, made musicians' jaws drop and even brought some music writers to tears. Wookubus of the highly regarded metal website, www.theppr.com, simply wrote, "dredg is for music what Michael Jordan is for basketball or Jesus Christ is for christianism." Written to tell the story of a man on a spiritual journey to cure a moral disease, Leitmotif legitimately took rock to its most expressive form. Dredg didn't write an album based on getting members' faces on TV, but an album about concept and expression.

This October, dredg released El Cielo on Interscope Records, who re-issued Leitmotif in 2001. The hardest album for a band whose first did extremely well, this was essentially the band's sophomore outing; the first chance for the masses to take a listen. Sadly for the band and the masses, no one paid attention with the exception of those who had already heard Leitmotif. Dredg simply does not sound like the band on top in the music scene, so radio stations and music video networks avoid the band.

As the title of the album suggests, the album will make you feel as though you are traveling high above the clouds. Its combination of ethereal musical textures and numerous influences from other genres compel the listener while an undercurrent of aggression stimulates. The songs are even more album-based this time around, making it as if you are listening to one continuous song. Some stand-out tracks to check out, however, are "of the room," "same ol' road," "it only took a day," and "triangle."

So where is rock n' roll heading? I truly cannot tell you for certain, but I do know that it should be following dredg's lead by bringing it back to an art form, rather than a business venture.

Your Roots Are Showing



EMILY MORSE
Jump Off the Bandwagon

MANDA AND THE MARBLES - More Seduction 2002 - Go-kart Records
Remember new wave? No, not Yanni - that movement of alternative music in the eighties bragging of bands such as the Talking Heads and the B-52s. You must at least have heard of it at some point in your distant past, as much as you must be trying to block out the eighties. New wave has been such an influence on so many of today's musicians, and if there's anyone doing a good job of ripping off this sound it's Manda and the Marbles. This female-fronted band hailing from Columbus, Ohio has the nerve to take what makes the Donnas commandeer cock-rock and the essence of a great Go-Go's riff and all that is catchy about a Letters To Cleo cover and make this dangerously pop-punk album. Bassist and singer Manda Marble grabs her posse and is ready to kick you in the face - but very politely - with songs like "Forget About The Day" which promises a temporary vacation from life and the insanely catchy "Wanna Go Home" which anyone who's ever lived the ramen noodles lifestyle can appreciate. These songs are about life - they have a certain purity to them that you don't find in the glossed over pop music of mainstream radio, and yet they don't take the anger and melancholy route to reach the listener. The Marbles have a cute, seductive side as well, as shown on "Fast Cars" and the cheeky "Sex Object" with more powerful rhythm than any other song on the album and the lyrics "She'll make you and she'll take you/she'll take you and she'll make you/she'll make you, and she'll break you!" Manda and the Marbles even have messages of the moral variety for distribution via their record. "Dead By Dawn" bears warning against the "glamorous" life of sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll. And of course the new wave thing is sprinkled through out the entire record, but it shows up especially on "Through" which at times reeks of Nena (of '99 Luftballons' fame), and reminiscent of "Til Tuesday is "Broken Youth." The album, in fact, finishes off with "Seduction" which sounds like a properly roughed up Go-Go's tune. Overall, the record shows great versatility in the band's ability to blend styles and create something we thought was left behind - good music. Chick punk has become so formulated over the last few years, one band can't be distinguished from the next, but if you hear Manda and the Marbles, you're going to know it's not only something you haven't heard before, but something you want to hear again.

Genre: NEW New Wave Via Punk Rock
Try It If You Dig: The Eyeliners, The Go-Go's' "God Bless The Go-Go's", Blondie
Website: www.mandaandthemarbles.com

LYNAM - Bling! Bling! 2002

You could call it modern rock, but these days that term has such bad connotations with "music snobs" it couldn't possibly describe something as amazing as Lynam. This four-piece band has something new to offer power-pop: creativity. Starting off with a classic ode-to-a-chick tune, "Della," the Lynam boys hook the listener instantly with fresh guitar and raw harmony. The second track, "Disco King" is a surprise, starting out with electronically produced blips progressing into a seriously hard rocking chorus. Even more bizarre in comparison is the Kid Rock-esque "Waste My Life" with crazy guitar solos, chants about getting hammered, and rap-metal womanizing - all leading into a minute-long hoe-down style bluegrass conclusion. "Bemused" is classic Mars Electric - the guitarist and chief song writer's former band who's album "Beautiful Something" went sadly unrecognized in 1999. But for every song that has the slightest bit of angst (as "Bemused" does), there's a song that seems infused with the fun of Guns 'N Roses' "Paradise City" - "Gonna Getchoo" is just this. And while power-pop may not sound like the most unique form of the art to be peddling in, "Bling! Bling!" is not an album without twists. The lyrics vary from chuckle-worthy to brilliant, and the musicianship seems almost untoppable. Lynam is not a band trying to fit a mold, and you can hear it in their music. A band trying to fit a mold doesn't change shape every ten seconds. Not even Madonna could pull off the sort of balls to the wall rock Lynam throws out on this record and then toss in a gorgeous ballad like "Losing Venus." The album is almost like a career-spanning greatest hits - this band clearly doesn't believe in mediocre filler tracks. "Bling! Bling!" stands as proof that taking yourself too seriously takes more away from the end result than it ever can accomplish. To sum it up, if you remember rock 'n roll one hit wonders from the late 90s - bands like Athenaeum, Everything, Train, Stir, Splender, the New Radicals - and you can imagine all of these bands kicking it up a notch, creating a collage of exciting music combining everything from surf pop to grunge rock to hip hop and bluegrass in ten tracks, you have Lynam. And who wouldn't want that?

Genre: Over the Top Rock...And Other Stuff
Try It If You Dig: Blur, Collective Soul, American Hi-Fi
Website: www.lynamsucks.com

34 SATELLITE - Stop Hideaway Records 2001

Just when you thought you'd turned off the telly and turned up the music here comes 34 Satellite, sounding as if they were designed to catch the ears of the WB's cult fans and followers. Maybe it's just me, but having listened to a mere thirty seconds of "Stop," the bands latest release, I was positive I was hearing the sort of ad they run for "Dawson's Creek" while I'm waiting patiently for "Angel" to come on. This is not a negative thing. If you think about it, what sort of song sells a car? Is it a boring one? Certainly not. Car commercials feature some of the industry's catchiest tunes. And just like the album's first track "Elijah St. Marie" has that TV drama quality, it's third "Longest Day" makes you want to buy a Toyota. This album is upbeat in a way that is rarely heard on today's radio stations (the soft rock variety not included), reminiscent of power-pop pioneers the Replacements on songs such as "Get Out Alive" and "You're Coming In Clearer." Anyone who appreciates the Old 97's will appreciate the kitschy lyrics and fun melody of "Charleston." 34 Satellite has left no holes in their music - their sound is untouchable, unbreakable, and impossible to turn off. While each song has its own distinct personality, it blends beautifully into the other tracks on the album, weaving a tight tapestry of sound. This is a band that seems to have soaked up everything that was good about nineties modern rock and spit out a perfect gem. "Stop" is loaded with possible hits, notably "Caroline," a song which is apt to stick in the head of the listener like gum to the underside of a middle school desk. "Smoke From A Funeral" is a well-crafted slow moment in the album that could see the success with the same audience as Coldplay's "Yellow." While every note on this album may not be an original idea, it is not always the original ideas that sound spectacular - it is those ideas that have been perfected that are able to captivate a listener. 34 Satellite seems to have mastered the art of blending artists that seem to be polar opposites - such as Radiohead and the Goo Goo Dolls - and making them sound more than remotely related. The final product? A slightly sweet, rather addictive record.

Genre: WB-Ready Alt-Rock
Try It If You Dig: Coldplay, R.E.M., Sheryl Crow
Website: www.34satellite.com



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NATIONAL NEWS

Bush Give 'Weeks' on Iraq Situation

By RON FOURNIER

AP WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush put allies on notice Thursday that diplomacy will give way to a decision on war in "weeks, not months." Wary world leaders and congressional critics urged patience and demanded proof of Iraq's transgressions.

Opening an eleventh-hour campaign to sway a wide array of skeptics, the president said, "For the sake of peace, this issue must be resolved." His advisers said Bush will maintain consultations with allies through mid-February, when the next U.N. weapons inspectors' report is expected to force talks to closure.

In a flurry of diplomatic activity, Bush met with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, placed calls to leaders of Portugal and Sweden and dispatched top advisers throughout Washington to argue his case, and broached the possibility of allowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq for a safe haven - all actions aimed at pressuring both Baghdad and balking U.S. allies.

Abroad, eight European leaders signed a letter in support of Bush's position and, in Jordan, the government agreed to base U.S. troops in the kingdom.

But the president's position met resistance from many corners, including Democratic and Republican lawmakers, a delegation

from Pakistan, former South African President Nelson Mandela and the Canadian foreign minister, who said his nation opposed unilateral American action.

"If one state acts by itself it risks consequences," Bill Graham said after meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Another ally wavered at the White House, when Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri told Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney his country preferred any military action be approved by the United Nations. He warned that war casualties could inflame his fellow citizens.

"There will be a reaction to the events in Iraq," Kasuri said.

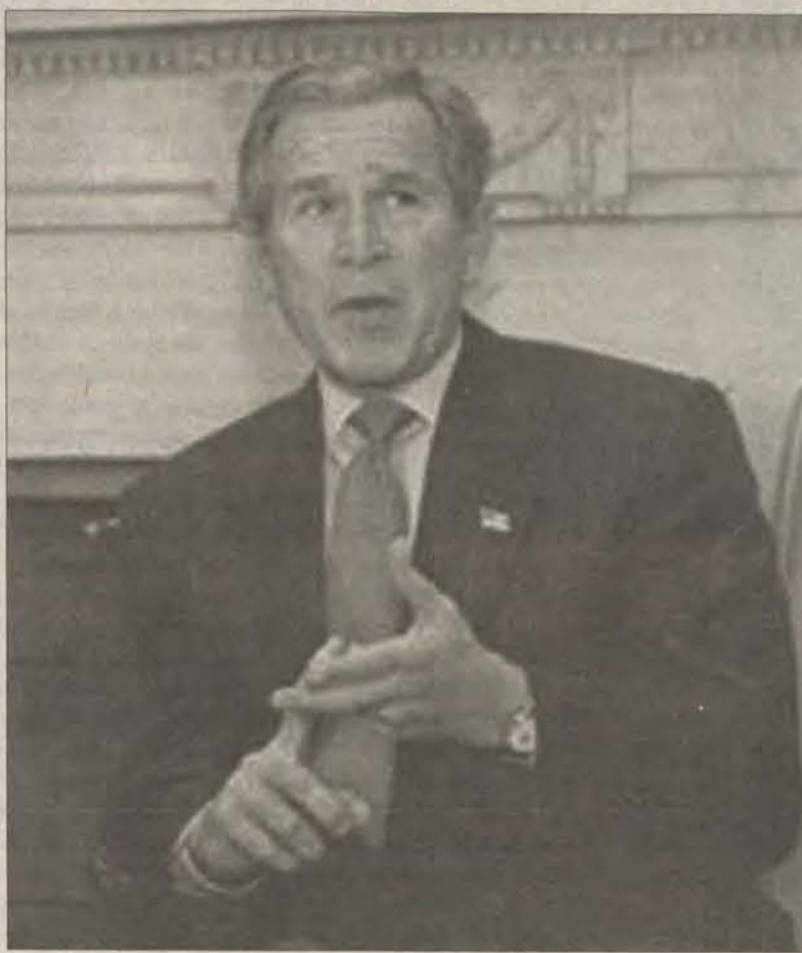
On Capitol Hill, Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., said Bush's approach has made the United States seem "like a bunch of cowboys" too eager to strike Saddam.

And Republican Sen. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island suggested the danger posed by Saddam appeared to be diminished because of international pressure.

The gears of war kept grinding.

The buildup of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf region is now approaching 90,000 land, sea and air forces, and that number likely will double within two weeks, officials said Thursday. By mid-February there are expected to be nearly 180,000 troops in the region, and the total could reach 250,000 later.

On the eve of Bush's Camp David meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair, the British government



Bush continues to travel in an effort to sway various skeptics towards accepting a possible war with Iraq (AP)

prepared to call up 6,000 military reservists for possible Iraq duty. That is four times the number previously announced.

Blair, the president's staunchest supporter, said in Spain that he was convinced that the United Nations would back a military attack on Iraq if Saddam refuses to disarm.

War could expose the United

States to new terrorist attacks, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said.

"As we plan for a military engagement - plan for it - it would be irresponsible for us not to contemplate the possibility that it might precipitate other attacks," he said.

In Baghdad, Iraq's ruling party dismissed Bush's State of the Union

address as a "Hollywood farce" and said he had offered no evidence to support U.S. accusations that Saddam is hiding chemical and biological weapons.

Iraq also invited the chief U.N. inspectors to Baghdad for talks aimed at improving cooperation before their next report to the Security Council on Feb. 14.

That report will likely usher in the end of consultations between Bush and his U.N. allies and force a decision on war, several senior administration officials said on condition of anonymity.

"This is a matter of weeks, not months," Bush said of the consultation process.

But the president is not putting a firm deadline on talks because too many factors will drive the diplomatic work, including the status of negotiations over a possible second resolution - or even unforeseen change of heart from Saddam, a coup or exile.

If Saddam has not disarmed and diplomacy has run its course when the U.N. report is filed, Bush is unlikely to condone more weapons inspections, officials said. The president's next step would be to force the U.N. to choose between authorizing military action or leaving it to the United States to wage war with willing allies.

One Bush option is to seek a second U.N. resolution, either authorizing force or simply declaring Saddam in violation of last fall's version. Bush discussed the idea with Berlusconi, who wants a sec-

ond resolution.

Bush has not committed to one.

He will use the time between now and Feb. 14 to polish military plans and build his case against Saddam, officials said. The process includes sending Powell to the U.N. next week to unveil recently declassified intelligence the administration says supports U.S. accusations.

"Hopefully, the pressure of the free world will convince Mr. Saddam Hussein to relinquish power," Bush said, offering exile as one possible peaceful outcome.

Washington also has encouraged a coup against Saddam, a prospect being discussed by Arab countries for the first time.

Saudi Prince Saud al-Faisal, the nation's foreign minister who visited Bush, is reportedly urging world leaders to consider the possibility of giving Saddam safe haven.

With logs aglow in the Oval Office's fireplace, Berlusconi pledged his support to Bush and called the United States "the guarantee of our democracy."

As the president's war council fanned out across the Washington area, Cheney told conservative political activists the world must confront "a brutal dictator with ties to terror."

On Capitol Hill, many Democratic senators - and at least a handful of Republicans - questioned administration officials about why inspections shouldn't be given more time.

At Least 7 Dead in Aussie Train Accident 4 Americans Die in Afghanistan Crash

By MIKE CORDER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A train packed with commuters derailed during rush hour Friday morning outside Sydney, killing at least seven people and trapping others in the wreckage. All four of the train's cars lay crumpled or toppled along the tracks.

Rescue workers were trying to extricate passengers from the cars in the rough terrain of a ravine 20 miles south of downtown Sydney.

Seven bodies had been found so far, said Stephen Leahy, a spokesman for the Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter, a helicopter emergency service. He said at least 16 people were injured and 16 others still trapped in the cars.

"That is just in the initial search," Leahy told a Sydney radio show. He said the scene resembled

a war movie "where there are bodies just strewn around."

The train, heading out of Sydney with about 70 people on board, was likely going about 50 mph when it jumped the rails near the village of Waterfall at about 7:30 a.m., emergency workers said.

The stretch of track was flanked by the steep embankments of the ravine, and rescue teams were having trouble with the terrain. Doctors and paramedics were winched out of helicopters to reach the scene.

Television images showed the front of the lead car crumpled, apparently after hitting a steel electrical pole on the side of the tracks. The next car was damaged from smashing into the first.

The two back cars were on their sides, but did not show great damage.

One survivor, 21-year-old Arnouska Zehalko,

told her parents it was a scene of carnage.

"She just said there were people dead and injured everywhere," said Zehalko's mother Julie, who spoke to her daughter by mobile phone.

The train was traveling from Sydney to the steel works town of Port Kembla.

A major highway near the crash were closed to traffic so emergency services helicopters could land near the wreckage. At least three local hospitals put on standby to take casualties.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the accident. Crash investigators and police were on the scene.

New South Wales state Premier Bob Carr called the crash a "terrible tragedy" and said he would order an inquiry similar to one that followed a train crash west of Sydney in 1999 that left seven people dead.

Panel Votes for Modest Title IX Changes

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP SPORTS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Bush administration advisory commission rejected a proposal Thursday to overhaul the landmark gender equity law credited with igniting a women's sports explosion. But some women's groups said the panel opened the door to such changes.

The Commission on Opportunity in Athletics considered about two dozen recommendations for Title IX during two days of sometimes contentious meetings. The most sweeping recommendations failed to pass - one proposal produced a 7-7 tie - but the panel endorsed allowing the Education Department to tinker with the ways students and athletes are counted to measure compliance with the law.

"It's very obvious that everyone recognizes that there needs to be change, and this is a great first step," said Mike Moyer, the executive director of the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

"It will certainly stem further loss of programs," said Moyer, whose organization has filed a lawsuit claiming Title IX has led to the elimination of hundreds of men's sports teams.

The advisory commission will forward its report to Education Secretary Rod Paige, who will consider the recommendations. It takes an act of Congress to fundamentally change the law, but Paige can alter the way compliance is measured.

Paige said in a statement, "I am very pleased that the commission has agreed on a number of reforms that will strengthen Title IX."

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination in public and private schools that receive federal funding, which almost all do. It covers admissions, recruitment, course offerings, counseling, financial aid, student health and student housing,

as well as athletics.

The commission only looked at sports, where the law's effect has been profound. The number of girls participating in high school sports rose from 294,000 in 1971 to 2.8 million in 2002. The number of women in college sports increased fivefold during the same time.

But about 400 men's college teams were eliminated during the 1990s, with wrestling taking a particularly hard hit, as schools attempted to meet standards requiring a ratio of male and female athletes similar to the overall student population.

The commission recommended several changes to a standard that allows schools to comply by having a male-female athlete ratio that is "substantially proportionate" to its male-female enrollment. The changes deal with roster spots, nonscholarship athletics and nontraditional students.

"The commission has opened the door for the secretary to do a lot of damage to Title IX," said Donna Lopiano, executive director of the Women's Sports Foundation. "They changed the way of counting collegiate participation. The number of male athletes will be deflated; the number of female athletes will be inflated."

One change would establish a predetermined number of roster spots on each team that count toward Title IX compliance, rather than the actual number of athletes on a team.

Commission co-chairman Ted Leland, athletic director at Stanford, said the rule would prevent a school from stacking "100 women on the rowing team" to comply with the law.

Critics countered that the rule could allow a school to add scores of male athletes - notably non-scholarship walk-ons - beyond the preset limits without them counting toward Title IX compliance.

The commission went further on the issue of

unrecruited walk-ons and nontraditional students - such as those who are part-time - recommending that none be counted as part of the Title IX total. The change would mostly affect smaller schools, particularly community colleges, although some Division I schools would be affected.

The 7-7 vote came on a revamped proposal by Maryland athletic director Debbie Yow to allow schools to comply by having a 50-50 split of male and female athletes, regardless of the student body makeup, with a leeway of 2 to 3 percentage points. Her earlier proposal called for a leeway of 5 to 7 percentage points.

"If we had an apple and were hungry and we wanted to be fair, we would split it 50-50," Yow said. "It is an attempt to be fair."

Commissioner Julie Foudy, a member of the U.S. women's national soccer team, was among those who voted against that proposal. She said the current standard should be left alone and better enforced.

Yow said he felt her proposal would have passed had the 15th commissioner been present. Lisa Graham Keegan, chief executive officer of Education Leaders Council, arrived late because she was taking part in another panel on teacher standards. She did not comment on how she would have voted.

"It's OK - it's going to be in the report anyway," Yow said. Tie votes get a separate mention in the final report.

Although most of the commissioners seemed in favor of changing the proportionality standard, their proposals were so varied that none could muster a majority. The most sweeping would have eliminated the proportionality requirement altogether. It failed 11-4.

By ROBERT BURNS

AP MILITARY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four U.S. soldiers were killed when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a training mission in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, U.S. officials said. The cause was being investigated.

It was the deadliest day for the American military in Afghanistan since March 4, 2002, when seven soldiers were killed and 11 wounded at the outset of an offensive against Taliban and al-Qaida remnant forces.

The UH-60 Black Hawk, with two pilots and two crew members aboard, crashed several miles east of Bagram air base in an area known as the East Training Range, said Jim Wilkinson, director of strategic communications at Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla.

Wilkinson said there were no indications of hostile fire. He said it appeared to be an accident but no other details were available.

Details on the victims, including their names and Army unit affiliations, were not immediately released.

An Associated Press reporter in Afghanistan who attempted to reach the scene of the crash was turned back by Afghan security. U.S. military authorities at Bagram referred all questions to Central Command.

Bagram is the main base of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan.

The Black Hawk is a utility transport aircraft designed to carry 11 combat-ready, air assault troops, and it is capable of moving a 105-millimeter howitzer, its crew of six and 30 rounds of ammunition.

It is manufactured by Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., which also makes an export version called the S-70A Black Hawk.

The UH-60 Black Hawk was first fielded in 1978 and made its combat debut in the October 1983 invasion of Grenada. It performs a variety of missions, including air assault, air cavalry and aeromedical evacuations. In addition, modified Black Hawks operate as command and control, electronic warfare, and special operations aircraft.

The last previous American killed in Afghanistan was Sgt. Steven Checo, 22, a member of the Army's 82nd Airborne. He was shot Dec. 21, 2002, while on a nighttime operation in the eastern province of Paktika, near the border of Pakistan.

Since U.S. military action in Afghanistan began in October 2001, at least five U.S. helicopters have crashed or had hard landings that have injured or killed troops. Two Army Rangers and two Marines have been killed, and at least 11 other troops have been injured.

On Oct. 19, 2001, Army Ranger Pfc. Kristofor Stonesifer, 28, and Spc. John J. Edmunds, 20, were killed in the crash of a Black Hawk in Pakistan.

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North Korea Criticizes Bush Speech

Dow Drops 166 on Disappointing GDP News

By AMY BALDWIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors perturbed by the government's latest gross domestic product report sent stocks sharply lower Thursday, halting a two-day rally. The Dow Jones industrials dropped more than 160 points, giving the blue chips a two-week loss of nearly 900 points.

The sell-off wasn't surprising as the GDP news confirmed investors' fears about a frail economy. But the larger issue remained the market's concern that a war with Iraq would further suppress an already weak economic recovery.

"That's at the top of the anxiety list for investors," said David Sowerby, chief market analyst at Loomis, Sayles & Co. in Detroit.

The Dow closed down 165.58, or 2 percent, at 7,945.13. The blue chips more than wiped out a gain of 121.15 from the previous two sessions, their first multiple-day winning streak in two weeks.

The Dow closed back below the 8,000 level, as it did Monday for the first time in three months.

The broader market also fell sharply. The Nasdaq composite index sank 35.71, or 2.6 percent, to 1,322.35. The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 19.75, or 2.3 percent, to 844.61.

All three indexes suffered their eighth decline in 11 sessions. For the Dow, all but one of its eight losing sessions resulted in a triple-digit loss. Over the past 11 sessions, the Dow has plummeted 897.49.

Investors were disheartened Thursday by news that the economy grew at an incredibly slow pace in the fourth quarter. The Commerce Department reported that the economy as measured by the gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of just 0.7 percent in the final three months of 2002 as consumers buckled in the face of war worries, a third year of stock market declines and a dismal job climate.

The GDP performance missed analysts expectations for a 0.9 percent increase and was a huge drop from the 4 percent growth rate registered in the third quarter.

But analysts said investors are more concerned about the prospects of war with Iraq than they are with economic data about previous months, which they already expect to be dismal.

Analysts don't expect the market or the economy to rebound until it is clear whether there will be a war and how the United States fares in it.

"You can't separate the two," said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. "Geopolitically, we have this overhang of war, and fundamentally what that causes is high prices for oil and high demand for gold and for bonds but none for stocks."

Having heard President Bush say in his State of the Union address that a war is more certain, investors are now focused on Secretary of State Colin Powell's scheduled appearance before the U.N. Security Council. Next Wednesday, Powell is due to discuss new intelligence information on Iraq.

AOL Time Warner fell \$1.96 to \$12 after announcing late Wednesday it lost \$44.9 billion, or \$10.04 a share, in the fourth quarter. But after a \$45.5 billion charge to account for the media giant's plummeting value, AOL met expectations with earnings of 28 cents a share. The company also announced that vice chairman Ted Turner was stepping down.

While AOL's loss was staggering, analysts said it had little to do with the sell-off on Wall Street.

"It is more that people think the economy is going to be paralyzed while we wait to see how this whole thing unfolds (in Iraq)," said Todd Clark, head of listed equity trading at Wells Fargo Securities.

Other individual stocks traded lower on their own disappointing earnings news. Gillette fell 60 cents to \$29.50 after the consumer products maker missed earnings expectations by 2 cents a share.

Gateway declined 19 cents to \$2.73 after posting a fourth-quarter loss late Wednesday that was 3 cents a share larger than analysts forecast.

But CSX rose 88 cents to \$27.63 on fourth-quarter earnings that beat Wall Street's forecast by 7 cents a share.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers more than 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume was light at 1.85 billion shares, below 1.97 billion on Wednesday.

The Russell 2000 index, the barometer of smaller company stocks, fell 7.22, or 1.9 percent, to 367.62.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average finished Thursday down 0.2 percent. In Europe, France's CAC-40 climbed 2.6 percent, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 2.7 percent, and Germany's DAX index fell 0.5 percent.

(North) and destroy its system."

"This policy speech is, in essence, an undisguised declaration of aggression to topple the DPRK system," an unidentified spokesman of the North's Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the North's official news agency, KCMNA. DPRK is the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

Bush said in his address that North Korea was "an oppressive regime rules a people living in fear and starvation."

Responding to the North's decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, an international pact to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, Bush said Pyongyang was resorting to blackmail.

"The North Korean regime is using its nuclear program to incite fear and seek concessions. America and the world will not be blackmailed," Bush said.

Striking back, the North said Bush was a "shameless charlatan."

"Bush has so far earned an ill fame as an emotional backbiter, but his recent address clearly proves that he is a shameless charlatan reversing black and white under the eyes of the world and the incarnation of the misanthropy as he rejects the people out of his favor for no reason," the North Korean spokesman said.

The North Korean official accused Bush of "trying to mislead the public opinion by spreading the rumor that the (North) is chiefly to blame for the nuclear issue."

"This is the height of shamelessness," he was quoted as saying. "We will do our utmost to defend our system in view of the U.S. declaration of aggression."

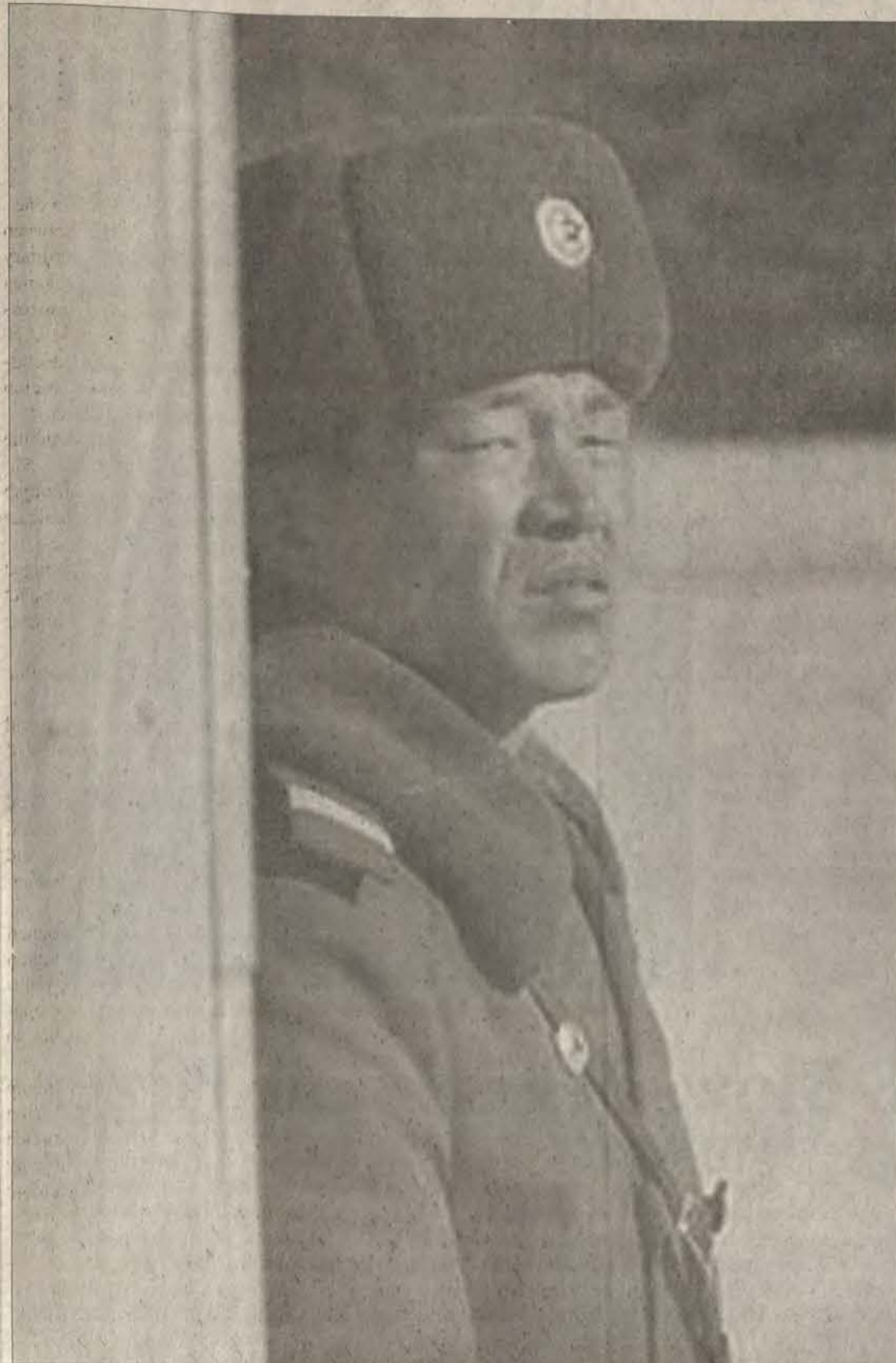
In his speech, Bush said the United States is working with South Korea, Japan, China and Russia "to find a peaceful solution" to the nuclear standoff, "and to show the North Korea government that nuclear weapons will bring only isolation, economic stagnation and continued hardship."

North Korea is demanding a nonaggression treaty with the United States before it gives up its nuclear programs. Washington has ruled out a formal treaty, but said it can provide a written security guarantee. Washington wants to bring the North's nuclear issue before the U.N. Security Council, which could eventually impose sanctions on Pyongyang.

The nuclear dispute was sparked in October when U.S. officials said North Korea had admitted having a nuclear program in violation of a 1994 agreement. Washington and its allies suspended oil shipments to North Korea - which in turn expelled U.N. nuclear inspectors and pulled out of a global nuclear arms control treaty.

address was an "undisguised declaration of aggression."

In its first reaction to the speech, North Korea said it "will never allow the U.S. to wantonly encroach upon the sovereignty and dignity of the



North Korea is viewing the State of the Union as an "undisguised declaration of aggression" and President Bush as a "shameless charlatan." (AP)

By SANG-HUN CHOE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Thursday said President Bush's State of the Union

Shoe Bomber Sentenced to Life in Prison

By DENISE LAVOIE
AP WRITER

BOSTON (AP) — Richard Reid, the al-Qaida follower who tried to blow up a trans-Atlantic jetliner with explosives hidden in his shoes, was sentenced to life in prison Thursday by a judge who warned him: "We are not afraid ... We are Americans. We have been through the fire before."

The 29-year-old British citizen cried, "You will be judged by Allah!" before being dragged from the courtroom in handcuffs.

Reid received the maximum sentence after declaring himself a soldier of war and denouncing U.S. foreign policy toward Islamic countries.

"Your government has sponsored the rape and torture of Muslims in the prisons of Egypt and Turkey and Syria and Jordan with their money and with their weapons," said Reid, who converted to Islam eight years ago.

U.S. District Judge William Young would have none of it.

"We are not afraid of any of your terrorist co-conspirators, Mr. Reid," said the judge. "We are Americans. We have been through the fire before."

"You are not an enemy combatant - you are a terrorist. You are not a soldier in any war - you are a terrorist. To call you a soldier gives you far too much stature. You are a terrorist and we do not negotiate with terrorists. We hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice."

The judge then pointed to the American flag behind him and said: "You see that flag, Mr. Reid? That's the flag of the United States of America. That flag will fly there long after this is long forgotten."

"That flag will be brought down on the day of judgment," Reid replied.

Reid had faced 60 years to life for trying to

blow up an American Airlines flight bound from Paris to Miami just three months after the Sept. 11 attacks. Prosecutors said Reid had enough plastic explosives in his shoes to blow a hole in the fuselage and kill all 197 people aboard.

Passengers and crew members overpowered Reid, using seat belts and their own belts to strap him to his seat. Two doctors aboard the flight injected him with sedatives and the jet was diverted to Boston.

Federal prosecutor Gerard Leone Jr. told the judge that in Reid's mind "the religion of Islam justifies the killing of innocent civilians. In his mind, the horrific and homicidal attacks of Sept. 11 were but a missed opportunity."

As Reid sought to justify his actions, several crew members who were on the flight looked stunned, glancing at each other in the courtroom and shaking their heads. One woman wept.

In Washington, Attorney General John Ashcroft praised the sentence and called the passengers and crew heroes who averted a disaster.

"The sentence imposed on Richard Reid says to the world that terrorists cannot escape American justice," Ashcroft said. "We will hunt them down, stop them and we will put them away."

When Reid pleaded guilty last October, he said he was a member of al-Qaida, pledged his support to Osama bin Laden and declared himself an enemy of the United States.

Prosecutors and the FBI said witnesses had reported Reid was present at al-Qaida training camps, and that he had help making the bomb from an al-Qaida bomb maker.

Defense attorneys said Reid was trying to defend Islam, which he credits with saving him from a life of drug use and despair. They described a troubled childhood and young adulthood, when Reid was plagued by poverty, racism

and crime.

In arguing for a life sentence, prosecutors this month submitted a videotaped simulation of what Reid might have accomplished, showing a fiery explosion causing severe damage to a wide-body jet.

Reid tried furiously to light a match to his shoes but he was unable to ignite the fuse. Authorities have speculated the shoes were moist from sweat.

One of the flight attendants, Carole Nelson, said there were more than 20 children on the plane.

"I can still see the fearful look on their faces as they huddled together after Richard Reid tried to blow them out of the sky with their families," she said. "I believe that Richard Reid was on a mission of evil, a mission of destruction and a mission of murder."

During his speech, Reid said there was no comparison between the children on the plane and the number of children he believes have been killed because of U.S. policies.

"Your government has killed two million children in Iraq," he said.

Authorities had been preparing for a high-security trial when Reid stunned prosecutors by pleading guilty in what he said was an effort to spare his family pain and publicity. He pleaded guilty to eight charges, including attempted murder and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

"The only regret Richard Reid has ever expressed is not having been sent to participate in the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States," U.S. Attorney Michael Sullivan said. "Reid's intentions on Dec. 22, 2001, were clear: He wanted to murder innocent people in the name of his fanatical religious beliefs."

The College Voice would like to take this time to reaffirm our staunch "No Hiring Corey Feldman" policy...but we will hire YOU! All interested writers, photographers, layout people, et.al., call extension 2812 (not you, Corey...)



Pfizer & Christina:
America's Dirtiest
Pair

Conn Continues to Stand Firm on Affirmative Action

continued from page 1

public universities, the case will create a precedent for private institutions, even small liberal arts colleges in Southeastern Connecticut.

The Michigan case will examine not only Affirmative Action in admissions, but also in the hiring of faculty and staff. For Connecticut College affirmative action is more directly linked to employment rather than admissions.

According to the Connecticut College Mission Statement, "through its deep commitment to liberal arts the College endeavors to be a diverse College community...requires students to obtain a general education, including an understanding of human behaviors and

diversity..." While a policy of Affirmative Action is not formally written anywhere regarding admissions, race is considered among other factors when compiling a freshman class. According to Judy Kirmmse, the Connecticut College Affirmative Action Officer, we do not formally recognize affirmative action during the admissions process but select students in line with the Bakke decision of 1978.

The Office of Admissions makes a contentious effort to attract students of color, through a series of special open houses: Explore and Eclipse weekends. This year the College boasts the highest amount of minority applicants in its history.

Since the 1971 Fanning Takeover, when students

demanding the hiring of a full time black admissions officer, the College has actively recruited faculty and staff according to an Affirmative Action policy. The College officially adopted an Affirmative Action policy after the second Fanning takeover in the 1980s.

When hiring new faculty and staff the College looks for "institutional values" such as multiculturalism and diversity. Judy Kirmmse gathers information from the applicants about how they identify themselves. After other committees have sorted through a pool of applicants and weeded out those not qualified for the position, Kirmmse determines how the remaining applicants could help bring diversity to the Connecticut College campus.

The racial graffiti that plagued the campus last semester forced many students to question the community's comfort with diversity. At the State of the College Address this Monday Ralph Lewis '06 asked President Fainstein what was being done to keep students of color on campus. Fainstein cited the efforts of the Unity clubs, which receive both staff and club funding, as well as the new Commission on Pluralism. The administration hoped that this month's summit on Pluralism will answer some of the questions addressed by the graffiti and the impending Michigan case.

Old Plex Suffers From New Problems

continued from page 1

chilled citizens of the priority palaces, it was minimal solace against the sub-zero temperatures that struck the entire northeast this week. This also caused uncomfortably high temperatures in the front four dorms as well.

The lack of heat is only the most recent in a line of problems that have fallen upon these two dorms. Hamilton witnessed a flood in its basement over break that caused severe damage to computer equipment stored there. Faulty five-year-old cement stairs in the main entrance of the building caused the flood. These stairs have now been

removed, but in the removal of the stairs the front door to Hamilton has also been taken away.

This removal now leaves the Lambdin entrance as the main entryway into Hamilton. This too has seen troubled times so far in the second semester. A few nights ago the door to this atrium was propped open overnight when the outside temperatures reached below zero. This caused the pipes to freeze and burst which caused an early morning flood. To the credit of the often-overlooked and under-appreciated, yet tireless and wonderful workers of the custodial and physical plant staffs, the problem was taken care of before it became a hazard to the stu-

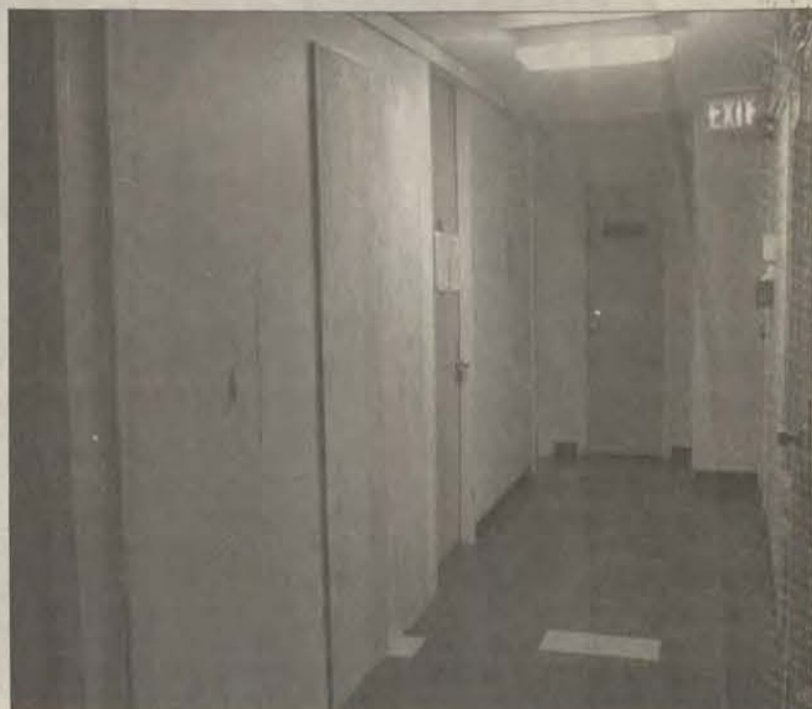
dents. Said Housefellow Lamb, "It was taken care of right away and I didn't find out about it until later that day when it wasn't an issue anymore."

Hamilton's deluvian problems have extended beyond the basement and into the residential halls. The bathrooms have flooded three times already. Despite these trials, the residents have developed camaraderie. "People look out for each other and help everyone out," said Lamb, "someone usually runs around and lets everyone know what's going on while others go around with towels to protect everyone's room."

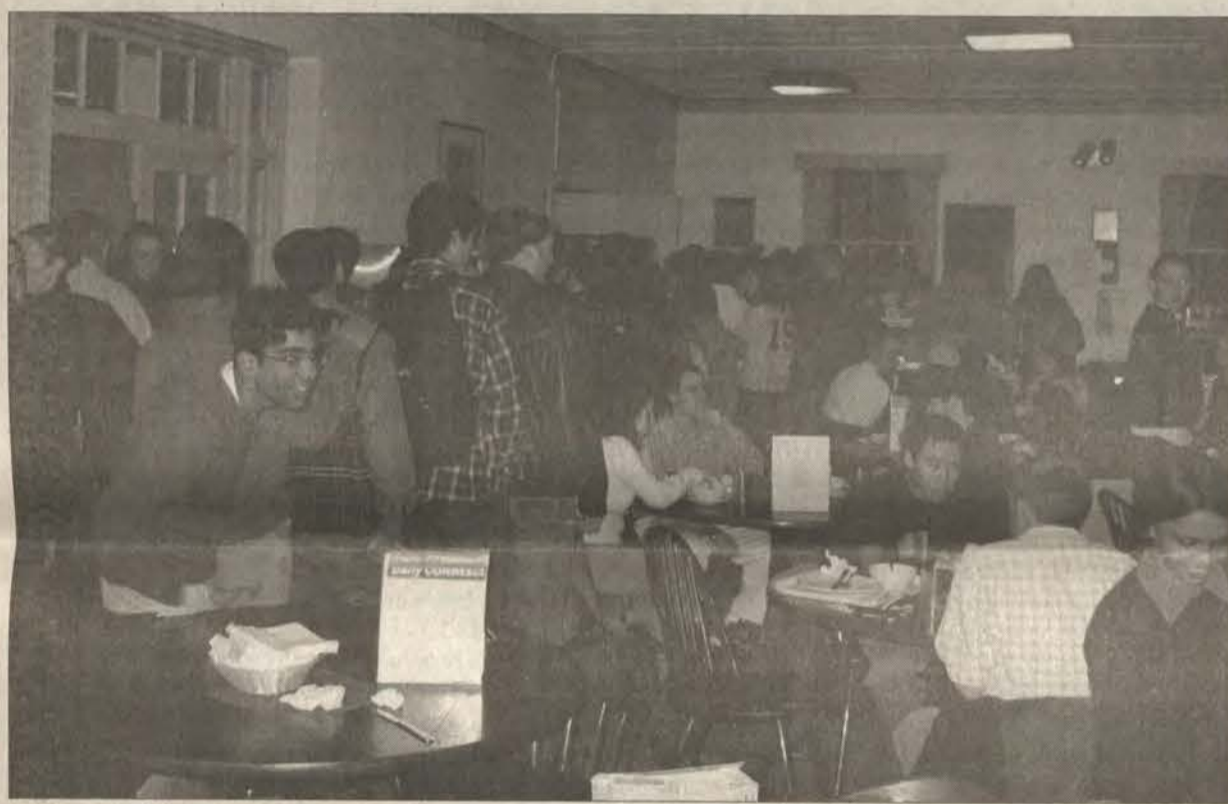
In an effort not to be outdone, Marshall also has new wounds this

semester. According to Kimberly Bellavance, Housefellow of Marshall, the dorm had no hot water. This problem lasted for a day and resulted in the residents having to attempt ice-cold showers when the temperature outside remained well below freezing.

But residents of the Old Plex remain optimistic about their homes. According to three-year resident and Housefellow of Hamilton Jared Lamb, "It's a good place to live with a social atmosphere that brings everyone together, you just need to put on your parka and bundle up."



The eastern door to Hamilton was boarded up this winter due to flooding. (Faries)



Students waited for over 45 minutes last Monday to eat Indian food at JA Dining Hall's first International night. (Rogers)

Curry Attracts 235 to JA Dining Hall

By JACOB GOLDBERG
STAFF WRITER

Students waited in line for over 45 minutes last Monday for the first International Dinner in JA Dining Hall. The meal featured Indian cuisine and attracted over 235 students

in one meal. The staff was flooded with dozens of positive napkin notes asking for more international themes. According to Mary Zawieski, Director of Dining Services, the dinner was a plan "to increase South Campus participation." The meals were prepared in

the JA/Freeman kitchens with help and recipe advice from Indian students. According to Lou Hare, Manager of JA/Freeman, there are tentative plans for a German-style meal in February and Irish-style meals in March.

State of the College: "Steady and Solid."

continued from page 1

place the first thing I want to know is where can I get a cup of coffee, where can I get on the Internet and where can I workout," said Fainstein.

"Several students asked questions following the speeches. Students asked what was being done to keep students of color and to combat the rate of transfer. Fainstein said that graduation rates for students of color and whites were identical, and that while transfer rates had been up last year, there was no reason to suspect a trend.

According to administration, admissions and student government the school is stronger than ever, and remains a haven for learning. "I think the state of the College is very good. I don't think the state of the world is very good," Fainstein somberly concluded. He called the student body to be active citizens: "be informed and act," he advocated.

Campus Safety Incident Log

1/13/03	7:45 PM	Motor vehicle accident
1/14/03	1:59 AM	Unauthorized room entry
1/15/03	1:28 AM	Alcohol incident
1/15/03	8:00 AM	Larceny
1/15/03	9:54 AM	Lost property
1/15/03	2:21 PM	Vandalism - Plex parking lot
1/16/03	4:57 AM	Vandalism - Main St.
1/16/03	2:12 PM	Larceny
1/17/03	12:25 AM	Vandalism - Morrisson
1/17/03	3:25 PM	Larceny
1/17/03	10:58 PM	Vandalism - College Center
1/18/03	3:36 PM	Medical emergency
1/18/03	11:38 PM	Unauthorized entry
1/19/03	1:20 AM	False fire alarm
1/19/03	2:21 AM	Vandalism - Park
1/19/03	2:35 AM	Alcohol incident
1/19/03	2:38 AM	Vandalism - Park
1/19/03	3:04 AM	Alcohol incident
1/20/03	3:56 AM	Honor code violation
1/20/03	10:05 AM	Trespasser at A.C.
1/21/03	1:15 AM	Vandalism - K.B.
1/21/03	10:35 PM	Larceny
1/22/03	5:00 PM	Found property
1/22/03	8:33 PM	Medical emergency
1/23/03	8:10 PM	Vandalism - traffic sign
1/23/03	11:53 PM	Vandalism - Marshall
1/24/03	1:24 AM	Contraband
1/25/03	10:38 PM	Alcohol incident
1/26/03	12:13 AM	Alcohol incident
1/26/03	12:20 AM	Vandalism - Branford
1/26/03	2:00 AM	Misuse of ID
1/26/03	6:20 PM	Honor code violation

SAVE Blows Whistle on Pfizer

continued from page 1

environmental health and safety as a priority in all business operations. Yet, according to the Toxics Action Center and the students of SAVE, among others, Pfizer still has a long way to go.

Sara Walker '05, a member of SAVE who played an important role in the nomination of Pfizer, expresses the nature of SAVE's concern with the corporation. "[We] nominated Pfizer for a Dirty Dozen Award because it threatens the health of New London area residents and the environment due to its toxic emission into both the air and water," Walker said. "The EPA has cited Pfizer for multiple illegal discharges into the Thames River and for on site hazardous waste violations." Because of these violations, in 1998 Pfizer was fined by the EPA and forced to pay \$625,000. "The EPA has a record of being somewhat lax," Walker pointed out, "So when they seriously get on a company's case about environmental violations like they did with Pfizer, you know it is something big." Pfizer's violations included violation of the Clean Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Pfizer acknowledges that the EPA did indeed find "some violations of their statutes" during an inspection of the Groton facility in 1993. However, while disputing some of the EPA's findings and working through the following Dispute Resolutions, Pfizer worked with the EPA to improve their environmental policies and fix the violations. Pfizer's Environmental Health and Safety Annual Report shows a decline in recent years of waste generated, the total release of VOC's, the total release of highly

hazardous substances, including carcinogenic chemicals, the use of ODC's, and the release of heavy metals. Pfizer has also taken steps to protect and conserve water. At the Groton site, Pfizer oversaw the construction of a wastewater treatment facility, the implementation of which went beyond the requirements of the EPA. "Let's face it," Elizabeth Powell, a media spokesperson for Pfizer pointed out, "We have 6,000 employees living and working in Southern Connecticut. It would not be responsible for us not to take environmental safety very seriously. We try to be good environmental citizens, and we are always trying to find more ways in which we can do so."

However, Walker and the students of SAVE are concerned that there is still much left for Pfizer to do. "Environmental Defense cited Pfizer as the second-largest polluter in New London County, emitting 207,796 pound of toxins in 2002," points out Walker. "As representatives from a school that values environmental consciousness, we call upon Pfizer to reduce its emissions."

SAVE's concerns with Pfizer are not limited to toxic emissions. The students also feel that Pfizer has shown a disregard for the community surrounding its facilities. In their statements regarding the Dirty Dozen Award, SAVE cited particular examples of this disregard, including the chemical explosion that occurred this summer at the Groton facility. While no hazardous chemicals were released in this explosion, it did force the evacuation of over 100 homes in Groton and injured seven people, with 2 suffering critical injuries and burns covering over 60 percent of their bodies. "[Pfizer's] trip is wondering why we are so concerned if no chemicals were released," Walker said. "But what we are concerned with is the

absence of the release of a decent press statement after the explosion, and the lack of explanation to the community as to what caused the explosion."

"The biggest issue that we have about this is that the college has such a relationship with Pfizer," explained Walker. This relationship especially dates back to the presidency of Claire Guadiani, whose husband was a Pfizer executive. Pfizer assisted with the construction of Olin. Pfizer recruits Conn students for jobs and internships, Pfizer has provided guest speakers for lectures on campus, and Conn professors take their classes on field trips to the Pfizer laboratories. Walker recognizes the benefits of this relationship, but also expressed the concern that "Pfizer is not representing our image. We do not want to be embarrassed by our relationship with the company."

Pfizer also recognizes the informal relationship between their corporation and the college, and is proud of that relationship. "[Connecticut College] is a good neighbor," said Powell. "They are committed to revitalizing New London, which all companies here should be. And it is wonderful to have a liberal arts college with the caliber of C.C. in our neighborhood. I don't think anyone can deny that they are a rising force in liberal arts colleges and it is wonderful for any company to have a neighbor like that."

Walker also spoke positively of the college's relationship with Pfizer. "We are indebted to them," she recognized. "We are certainly not asking that the college end all relations with Pfizer. We simply believe that there can be environmentally safe corporations, and we are asking that Pfizer be one of them."

College Closes gates at 8pm for Safety

By EMILY GOLDBERG
STAFF WRITER

All gates permitting access to campus, with the exception of the main entrance, are now closed at 8pm rather than 9pm. This change was put into affect Friday, January 17th. According to the Director of Campus Safety, Jim Miner, there were no particular incidents that prompted this earlier closing time; the decision was made simply in order to "[more] closely monitor visitors to campus."

Miner stated that in addition to closing the gates earlier, there has been an increase in the number of student patrols at night, serving as another means of increasing security on campus.

There have been no complaints thus far concerning any inconveniences about the changed closing time. Prior to its being put into effect, Miner "talked to all other departments [on campus], and they felt that it would not inconvenience anyone, faculty or staff." Miner did mention that closing times may be altered in order to accommodate for certain major campus events.

"Welcome Back!"

-the students to Kotter (you didn't think we meant you, did you?)

Men's Ice Hockey Tries to Salvage Rough Season

By MATT PRESTON
SPORTS EDITOR

To say that the season has not turned out as they anticipated thus far is nothing short of an understatement for the 2002-2003 Men's Varsity Hockey Team. When we last left Conn's Ice Camels, they were a young, optimistic team, looking to make an impact in the NESCAC this season. Now, however, as the season is just passing the halfway point, the team has been very disappointing, going winless in their last seven games (0-5-2), dropping their overall record to 4-9-2.

"[This season has not gone] as we've planned," said junior forward, and team point leader, Nick Vealitzek.

To this point the Camel's season can be defined by a pivotal three-game stretch. Just as the team was returning from Winter Break, they dropped three straight between January 14 and January 18. It started with a 7-3 loss at the hands of NESCAC rival Tufts on the 14th, followed by losses on back-to-back nights, 2-1 to Skidmore College and 6-4 to the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. In all three contests, there was no doubt in their minds

that the Camels were the better team on the ice.

Vealitzek summed up the stretch best in saying, "We are definitely a better team than Tufts, and we let them come in and beat us, which is unfortunate." And, in regards to the Skidmore and Mass. College games, he simply stated: "We needed those points."

Said the now injured Mike Hasenauer '03, "Like I said at the beginning of the season, [in order to be successful] we need to win the games we should, and we need to win a few games we shouldn't. We haven't really done either of those."

While the injury bug has bit the team as of late, Conn has agreed that it is a lack of mental focus that has led to their downfall in 2002-2003. Some days the Camels show up to play, some days they simply do not, allowing the inferior teams to stay in games longer than they should.

"We haven't played up to our potential," said Vealitzek. "So far, we are underachieving. We let teams that shouldn't even be on the ice with us play with us. It ends up being either a close game when it shouldn't be, or they end up beating us... Case and point would be the Skidmore-Mass. College weekend."

Not all of 2002-2003 has come with disappointment, however, as there have been a few bright spots for the Camels. The play of second-year goaltender Steve Owen '05 has been one of the highest peaks to this season. After splitting time as a freshman, the sophomore netminder is now the team's regular starter, and currently ranked in the NESCAC's top ten in both goals against average (tenth, with a 3.83 GAA) and save percentage (fifth, at .898%).

Said Hasenauer of the man between the pipes, "He's playing out of his mind this year. He's been keeping a lot of the games that could get uglier down, and he's won games for us. He's kept us in the hunt. We owe a lot of our success to him."

At 4-9-2 with the season over half complete, and the team in last place in the NESCAC, one might be quick to assume that the Camels are finished for 2002-2003. Yet, with nine games remaining on the schedule, eight of which are against conference opponents, and just three points out of a playoff spot, there is plenty of time for the men's hockey team to turn things around, assuming they can pull it all together. And it all starts with overcoming that

mental edge.

"We are going to have to be ready to play every game," said Vealitzek. "We are going to stress playing the same way every game. We shouldn't change our style. We shouldn't let a team dictate our style. We should take the game to them. We've had a problem with that all season. We play down to the level of our opponent. We mentally need to be stronger... If we're all on the same page, we can get this done."

"We're right there," said Hasenauer. "We've played some of the top teams in the league really strong. All of [the remaining games] are winnable games, it just depends on what team shows up."

The team will get its first chance to salvage the season this Friday night, as Conn opens a three-game homestand at Dayton Arena against the University of Southern Maine. Currently heating up after notching a tie in their last game against Bowdoin, the nation's number seven team, this weekend (also including a game against Salem State on Sunday) will be pivotal in whether or not the Camels can turn it around before its too late.

One Year Later...

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AWOL, missing all of the team's activities on the previous day. Why Robbins was not present, no one would say for sure before the game, though it is being said he was in the hospital. While I do not know the entire story, I do know the situation looked a lot like the debacle before Super Bowl XXXIII when recent Bart Starr Humanitarian Award winner and Atlanta Falcon safety Eugene Robinson was arrested the night before the game for soliciting prostitution. Not a good sign for the Raiders.

And despite Raiders' corner Charles Woodson interception of a Brad Johnson misfire on the third play of the game, Oakland looked much like Robinson's Falcons; completely outmatched. Sapp and Company ran the show, putting a stranglehold on the lethal Raider O.

So, we didn't quite get to see the ultimate offense-defense match up that was one of the main focal points leading up to the contest. But we did get to see a punishing Buccaneer team dominate every aspect of the game, as Chuckie got the best of his former employers. The Bucs' defense was nothing short of devastating (anyone else realize that I am running out of adjectives to describe the unit?), racking up a Super Bowl record five interceptions, half as many as Raider QB threw during the entire regular season, while giving up just three points in the first half, which came on Oakland's first drive. The Bucs' D even outscored the NFL's top offense in the game 21-15. Though, what was even more impressive was that the Bucs' offense, what everyone called the weak link in the armor, was equally as punishing as it wore down the Raiders, scoring at will.

Did it live up to the hype I gave it? Not quite. Was it one of the great Super Bowls? I'm not quite sure it would make its way into my top five. Though, despite all this and my having to fight claims from budding Anthropologist S.A. Besky's claim that football was merely a "hardcore extension of man's homosexual tendency" all throughout the fourth quarter, the Bucs put on a show fit for my one-year anniversary.

So, here's to Tampa Bay for rolling the Raiders to become Super Bowl XXXVII Champions (at least our crown goes to a worthy team). Here's to some good commercials. And here's to the surprising survival of Presto's Perspective in this business, in spite of having to share the spotlight with Reading the Break and legendary columnist Ryan A. Woodward. Happy Birthday to me!

Women's Hockey's Hopes for Playoffs Tread on Thin Ice

By CAITLIN CALLAGHAN
STAFF WRITER

The Women's Ice Hockey Team skates on thin ice! The Camels, 3-8-5, must defeat every remaining team on their schedule if they wish to enter post season play. Their record, however, does not give them justice. The Women's Ice Hockey program has vastly improved this season and many of the games have been very close.

Last season, the Camels had a 14 member squad that fought just to keep the games close. The Camels came back this season with 9 returning players and 11 freshmen. They have played close games with top teams and proved that they are worthy opponents in the NESCAC.

"We have earned the respect of every opponent in our division. We are a completely different team this year," commented Head Captain Caley Boyd '03.

The team attributes part of their success to the coaching staff. The Camels are led by Head Coach Kristin Steele and are assisted by Allison Coomey.

This is Steele's second season with the Camels, but prior to her career at Connecticut College she had been an assistant women's ice hockey coach at Colgate University for a year and the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Niagara University for three consecutive seasons.

Alternate Captain Natalie McEachern '03 finds it helpful to have Steele returning this season: "For the first time in four years we have had the opportunity to build on existing strategies and skills."

The third team Captain, Katie Dubendorf '03 added, "[Steele] has accomplished so much, and her coaching and recruiting abilities are irreplaceable."

The team also speaks highly of Coomey, a 2001 graduate of Niagara University. "She has helped the team grow and she is an excellent addition to the staff," commented Boyd. "We are a completely different team because of our coaches."

Steele and Coomey worked together to recruit a strong freshmen class this season.

Two key defensive additions are Laura Gosnell '06 and Suzie Connor '06. Both Gosnell and Connor solidify the backline while contributing offensively as well. Gabby Pettrill '06, the starting goalie, is also a strong force for the Camels, turning away 91.5% of opponents shots. Forwards Mallory Littman '06 and Kate Reardon '06 are also key players. Reardon leads the team in goals this season.

"The freshmen have added much needed depth and speed," commented McEachern. "There is a great sense of unity and cohesiveness on our team."

The Camels won two regular season games this season, against Trinity 3-1 and Salve Regina 7-0, and also came out with a 3-1 exhibition victory versus UMass Boston.

Another highlight of the year was an early season game versus Sacred Heart, who had been in the process of going Division I. The Camels played evenly with Sacred Heart for the entire game, but came out short with a 2-0 defeat.

"We turned a lot of heads with our performance that day and walked out of that rink with a great deal of respect from our opponents," McEachern said.

The Camels also tied Saint Catherine's, the second best team in Minnesota, 1-1 and played a close first 2 periods with Elmira, the number one team in the nation.

The Camels have a lot of ties this year, but they do not see this as a failure. "In every game that we tied, our team worked hard," McEachern said. "While a tie is not ideal and can be frustrating outcome to a game, we consider the games successful in that we gave our best and never gave up."

The Camels have a tough schedule ahead of them, as they face NESCAC opponents Colby, Hamilton, Williams, and Wesleyan twice a piece to finish up their season.

McEachern added, "If we play with consistency, intensity, and intelligence we can expect to be very competitive in these games."

If the Camels enter post season play, it will be the first time in the history of the program. Boyd has high aspirations, "We have some tough teams left, but we should be able to beat every one of them."

Come supports the Camels as they face NESCAC rival Colby on Friday and Saturday at 3:00 pm in Dayton Arena.

A Philly Fan, Forever Tortured

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jack old men at gunpoint. It was truly a sight to behold.

I should have known it wouldn't last. I am told the pain will lessen each day, until I will wake up one day and the pain just won't be there anymore. However, I am sorry to say that just doesn't apply to Philadelphia sports fans. The pain will always be there. I would force my parents to check me into a mental institution if I woke up one day and that voice in the back of my head that said, "Face it, you will never win a championship," wasn't there. It becomes part of you. I can't even recall how many times I have declared I would never watch the Eagles again after seeing them lay a monstrous egg during an important game. These

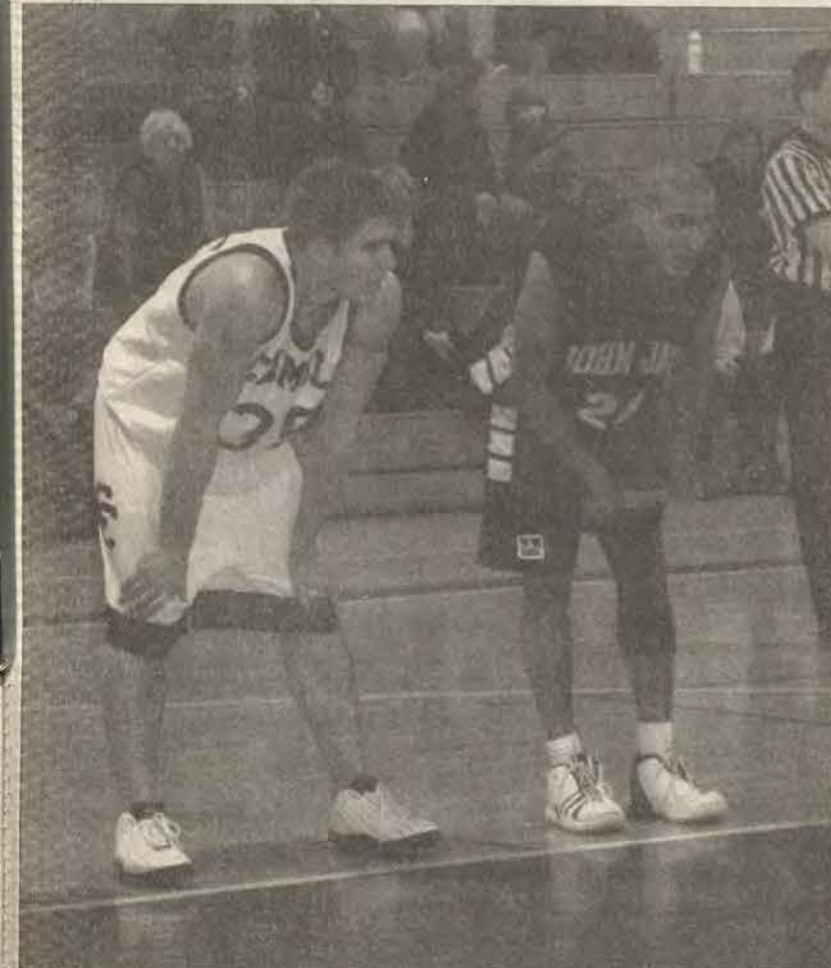
have always turned out to be idle threats, but I'm not sure how much longer I can take it emotionally. I caught myself screaming at a squirrel as I walked to class earlier this week for the Eagles failures. I called my grandmother at four in the morning on Wednesday just to tell her I thought the cookies she sent me sucked. I am quickly losing control. Damn Gruden. We should have taken him out while he was the Eagles offensive coordinator during the Ray Rhodes era. Cut him off on I-95 as he made his way to work at three in the morning. At the very least, we could have sent him some tainted Tastykakes last week.

I now turn my attention to the Flyers and 76ers, as I eagerly await the upcoming round of NFL free agency and the college draft, not to mention the beginning of the revamped Phillies

season in April. To sum up the feelings of a forever tortured city, even Philadelphia Judge Seamus McCaffery, who presides over Eagles court (yes, there is a jail and courtroom in the depths of the Vet for all of the unruly fans) admitted the drunk guys arrested on Sunday were missing their usual spunk and feistiness. They were too damn sad to fight back. One of these years, I keep telling myself, it will all come together, and I will be one of the million-plus fans lining Broad Street for the biggest parade the city has ever seen. But I know better. I guess it could always be worse: I could move to New England, wherever that is located, and root for the Red Sox.

Men's Basketball Tries to Get Back on Track

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Kevin Herrington '03 is leading the slumping 6-10 Camels, averaging 14.4 points per game. (Faries)

a 47-31 second half deficit, but falling short in the final minute. Harrington had 16 points and 6 rebounds for Conn. Tremblay, play-

ing in his first game after having been sidelined with a stress fracture in his foot for much of the season, and Danny Melzer '06, who had

missed much of the start of the season with a broken wrist, chipped in with 11 points a piece. The Camels managed to shoot 43% from three-point range in the first half. This game was the prototype for their season.

Luck seems aligned against the Camels and a time when they have had to learn a whole new system with under first year head coach Tom Sartan '94, and have been plagued with injuries. Melzer and Tremblay have just started to contribute again after coming off the injured list, while hyped up, promising freshman guard Billy Dodson has been lost for the season with a stress fracture in his right shin. Though they have a mediocre record of 5-10, they have an average scoring margin of defeat of only 6.2 points per game. As a team, they have the best free throw percentage in the league at .729. Harrington leads the team in scoring averaging at 14.1 per game, making him 16th on the scoring list in the league. He is also 18th in the league in rebounding averaging 5.7 per game. Mike Strangfeld '03 leads the team in boards and is 12th in the league with an average of 6.4 per game. Reid is another big player coming in at 24th on the scoring list with 11.9 points per game, and logging the most min-

utes on the team, at 29.5 per game. And the Seniors aren't the only one's getting in on the action. Freshman guard Bryan Gregg is 6th best in the NESCAC in 3-point field goal percentage with .431. But, these individual achievements are all overshadowed by the fact that they haven't won in almost three weeks.

The losing streak does not come as a lack of trying, however.

"Coach has talked all season about players giving 100% every time they step on the floor, and I think they have all really bought into that idea," said team manager Sean Duke-Crocker. "One thing that certainly hurts us is our lack of size, especially rebounding."

But, one thing they have not been hurt by is waning fan support. The average home attendance for the men's basketball games is 244, pretty impressive for the small size of our school. And, hopefully, this great support will continue because these boys aren't finished just yet. There are still eight games left, five of which are NESCAC contests and five of which are at home. They still have an outside shot of making the playoffs. We've still got our Celtic pride, so why not stick with our Camels? Don't sleep on 'em homes. Maybe the best is yet to come.

Do you watch movies? Read books?
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SPORTS

One
Year
Later

Those of you who dabble in reading this fine newspaper column are well aware that this past Sunday roughly marked my one-year anniversary as a columnist. If you'd recall, my first column (entitled: "Finally, a Win for the Home Team")



MATT PRESTON
Presto's Perspective

highlighted the spectacle that was Super Bowl XXXVI, and as a result I have decided to align my anniversary with one of the two biggest sports days of the year. (Yes, most would consider Super Bowl Sunday the number one overall. But, let's face it folks, my mother would disown me if I didn't give Daytona its due. Also, this way, I always have something good to talk about on my birthday.)

We've been through a lot together over the past year. 13 deep, insightful columns, jam-packed with sports knowledge, and countless wrong predictions. But, do I really need to go into that mess? Not so much, so let us get to the issue at hand: January 26, Super Bowl XXXVII, San Diego, California, the Tampa Buccaneers versus the Oakland Raiders. True, the contest didn't have a chance to live up to last season's championship game, but it had all the makings for one helluva football game.

For starters, it was the Super Bowl match up that sports writers dreamt of last March when Head Coach Jon Gruden was traded to the Raiders to the Bucs for two first-round draft picks, two second-round draft picks, and eight million dollars. Common thought amongst the media was "how great would it be to see Gruden face his old team for the Football Championship of the World?" A true teacher versus student match up. It was going to be interesting to see what would happen as Gruden challenged his former Oakland staff with his wit and four hours of sleep. The key story to Super Bowl Week.

Next on the docket was the fact that Super Bowl XXXVII marked the first time in Super Bowl history that the League's #1 offense would meet the League's #1 defense for the title. Gannon, Rice, Garner, Porter, and Brown versus Sapp, Brooks, Barber, Lynch, and Rice. Thoughts of the high-flying Oakland offense squaring off with the punishing Tampa Bay defense, each at the top of their respective sides of the football in recent years, was enough to get any football fan salivate.

Not to mention all the other extras that added to the excitement of the Big Game. Tampa Bay finally getting a chance to prove they are more than the "paper champion" label they have had to carry around the past five seasons. Guys like Warren Sapp, Keyshawn Johnson, and Tim Brown finally getting their shot at a championship ring. The underlying Pirate Bowl theme as the teams' two pirate mascots threw down. Not to mention the fact that there was going to be a Canadian singing "God Bless America" before the game.

On a sad note, however, the game did unfortunately mark the final day of the Patriots' reign as World Champions. (Editor's Note: Yes, as sad as it is, I am still living in the past.)

As game day rolled around, even more fuel was added to the fire as Raider Brass sent All-Pro center Barret Robbins back to Oakland Super Bowl morning for going

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Women's Basketball Finally Ends Losing Ways

By BONNIE PROKESCH
STAFF WRITER

Following a brutal series of tough losses, the Connecticut College Women's Basketball Team pulled out a 69-67 win last Tuesday night at home against Newbury College. While the team needed the win to help their record, more importantly, it needed the win to gain confidence and morale going into the rest of the season and the more difficult NESCAC (New England Small College Athletic Conference) play that lies ahead.

The weekend prior to the win over Newbury, proved devastating for the lady Camels, as they were defeated 82-30 on Friday by number seven in the nation Bates College and again on Saturday by Colby College 72-34.

Commenting on last weekend's games, Sarah Huntington '04 explained, "Bowdoin has height, depth, and strength. They were just better than us in every aspect of the game. Bowdoin is a great program. They are a top team in Division III women's basketball, and traveled to the Elite 8 last year in the Division III NCAA Championships. They are a solid team that executes its plays unbelievably well, and they do all the little things. As for Colby, they had one big girl, #41 (NESCAC point leader Sarah Walsh), who killed us inside. We have solid post players, all who play up to their potential but they just can hang with girls that look like tree stumps."

The women struggled to repress negative attitudes following the difficult weekend. A few did not even wish to comment about the season. However, with Tuesday night's win came a bit more confidence and a much more positive attitude. The game, which was close throughout, came down to the last five seconds when Erin Shields '04 made the winning basket. Trailing 28-25 at the half, the Camels knew that the win was not guaranteed. Shields, who scored 15 of her 18 total



Barbara Silk '05 had four points, a rebound, and an assist, to help her team snap a seven game winning streak with a 69-67 win over Newbury. (Faries)

points of the night in the second half, was instrumental in giving the Camels the boost they needed to win after exiting the locker room at halftime. Conn remained behind 49-41 with just under ten minutes remaining in the second half, when they went on 14-3 run to take a 55-52 lead with about six minutes remaining in the game. The game continued to be tight until the final basket.

The win is the first for the lady Camels in seven games, making their record 3-11 for the season. When asked about the struggle the

team is having to face this season, co-captain Sarah Frazier '03 said, "Many of the teams we have played, especially the NESCAC teams we have already played this season, are great teams with a lot of stability. Our coach is only in her second year, and we're still building a program."

"NESCAC is a very strong conference and for a couple of years Connecticut College Women's Basketball has been struggling. This is partially due to the yearly changes of coaches. There has been no uniformity in

playing or coaching style... There are teams that have been able to build a program, and that is what Coach Hungerford is attempting to start here," added Huntington.

Such a NESCAC team that has successfully built a program is Wesleyan, where the Camels will be playing next Saturday.

"Wesleyan's going to be a tough game. They're coach has done a really great job recruiting. It's nice to see a team that was at the bottom rise to the top though," commented Frazier.

Although Wesleyan's program has improved, the game should prove competitive, as the Camels know that they are capable of beating the Cardinals. Coming off of last Wednesday's win, the women have a newfound sense of confidence and determination. Nevertheless, they are realistic. All the women seem to agree that while the Conn program is a mere fledgling, other NESCAC schools have solid programs.

As Margaret Guernsey '03 proclaimed, "Many of the NESCAC teams are ranked nationally in the top 25. We're just going up against tough teams."

As the teams remain tough, the women must get tougher. "We're just trying to have fun and stay positive," said Frazier. Huntington spoke for many of the women on the team when she said, "It is always easy for Championship teams to be friends. Things are tougher when you lose, but the fact that we are all still incredibly encouraging of one another says a lot about the personalities we have on this team. We have three weeks left in our season, and we look to each game as a challenge. There are no regrets. We maintain a positive outlook because we know that hard work will eventually pay off, and basketball even if you don't win, teaches you serious life lessons."



Captain Travis Reed and the Camels snapped a 7 game losing streak with a two point victory last Tuesday. Reed posted a double-double in the game. (Faries)

Men's B-Ball Slumping Halfway Through Season

By SILVIE SNOW-THOMAS
STAFF WRITER

For all you Boston fans out there (and I know there are plenty of us "just outside Boston"-ers at Conn), the Camels' season seems to have taken after that of the Celtics. They started out looking great going 5-3 in their first eight games of the season. With fresh new talent and an eager new coach, our boys were ready to take NESCAC by storm just as the Celtics were roaring holding that first place spot in the Eastern Conference for over a month. They beat Haverford, Roger Williams, Framingham State, Hunter College, and Salve Regina, and beat them all fairly handily with their largest margin of victory being 30 points over Roger Williams, pummeled them 82-52. Led by the stellar early season play of Seniors Travis Reid, Joe Tremblay and Kevin Harrington, the Camels were to set to prove themselves as a formidable foe for the rest

of NESCAC.

But then came the trouncing by Kings College on January 12 in the consolation round of the 25th annual Greyhound Classic in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Bethlehem may have been the birthplace of baby Jesus and thus a place of wonder, but for our boys, it was the start of a tough seven game losing streak, of which they are currently in the midst of. And here we have the rest of our Celtics parallel, as both teams started their disappointing drop together.

Luckily for the Celts, they somehow have managed to remain in second place only 3 and 1/2 games behind the New Jersey Nets in the East. Conversely, our Camels are at the bottom of NESCAC as they have gone 0-4 in the conference so far losing to Tufts, Bates, and both Bowdoin and Colby this past weekend. They lost a heartbreaker 59-57 to Colby after having erased

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A Philly Fan, Forever Tortured

I refuse to talk about the deep state of depression I am currently mired in due to the Philadelphia Eagles crushing defeat in the NFC Championship game two weeks ago to Jon Gruden and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. OK, only if you insist. I'll be fine, I swear. Give me

ever win a title? How could life be so cruel?" But we all thought it was going to change in 2003. This really was our year. We lost in the NFC Championship game to the St. Louis Rams in 1999, but learned from our mistakes. We were primed to make it to the "big

game" this season. There is nothing I could possibly write in the space I am allotted that could accurately convey my feelings after watching a team destined for greatness fall flat on their face in the last game at my home away from home, Veterans Stadium. When they

routed the Steve Spurrier-led Redskins in Washington on Monday Night Football early in the season, I refused to fall into the alluring trap laid by so many past Eagles teams. After they soundly defeated the Buccaneers in Week 7, I resisted the temptation to chant, "Super Bowl bound" throughout the hills of New London (or more accurately the deserted downtown streets). But once they went 5-1 after losing star quarterback Donovan McNabb to a broken ankle, how could I not feel that this was the team to finally break the city's 19-year championship drought? After all, A.J. Feeley, who better resembles a Backstreet Boy than an NFL quarterback, led the team to home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

No, unless you are from Philadelphia, you could not possibly understand or relate to the longing or the cold, restless nights spent drenched in a cold sweat, muttering to yourself, "Will we

The coaches, players and fans were all on board for what I can only imagine to be the journey of a lifetime, comparable to that of Lewis and Clark, or Peter Pan, at least for Frank from Chester County, or Les from the Northeast, or Matt from Center City.

You see, I refer to "we" as opposed to "them" when discussing the Eagles because we the fans become a part of the organization each and every year, and especially this season. Chants of "E-A-G-L-E-S EAGLES" could be heard every day throughout Philadelphia and its surrounding counties, stretching to South Jersey. The energy put forth by the city far surpassed any I've ever witnessed in my 21-plus years. Prior championship finals runs by the 76ers, Flyers and Phillies, each making one in the past ten years, didn't come close to generating the excitement that was present over the recent holidays. Suddenly, our cheesesteaks were no longer soggy, our soft pretzels no longer hard, our streets not quite as dirty. The City of Brotherly Love for a moment lived up to its nickname, as criminals were too busy enjoying the Eagles wave of success to kidnap local schoolchildren or car-

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Camel Scoreboard

Men's Hockey:

-1/24, vs. Colby, 2-4
-1/25, vs. Bowdoin, 6-6
-1/31, vs. U. Southern Maine, 7:30 p.m.
-2/1, vs. Salem State, 7:30 p.m.

Women's Hockey:

-1/24, at Bowdoin, 1-3

-1/25, at Bowdoin, 1-7
-2/1, vs. Colby, 3:00 p.m.
-2/2, vs. Colby, 3:00 p.m.

Men's Basketball:

-1/25, at Colby, 57-59
-1/28, vs. John Jay, 81-72
-2/1, at Wesleyan, 2:00 p.m.
-2/4, at Elms, 6:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball:

-1/25, vs. Colby, 34-72
-1/28, vs. Newbury, 69-67
-2/1, vs. Wesleyan, 3:00 p.m.
-2/5, at Coast Guard, 8:00 p.m.

Men's Squash:

-1/26, vs. Rochester, 0-9
-1/28, at Wesleyan, 0-9

-1/31, at St. Lawrence, 7:00 p.m.
-2/1, at Hamilton, 1:00 p.m.

Women's Squash:

-12/8, at Haverford, 4-5
-1/30, vs. Wesleyan, 7:00 p.m.
-1/31, at St. Lawrence, 7:00 p.m.
-2/1, at Hamilton, 1:00 p.m.