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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2002

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT

## INSIDE:



## NEWS

Students returned from winter break to find Harris dining hall a little rosier.



## A&E

Andrea Lodico reviews the first offerings of 2002.



## SPORTS

The men's basketball team prepares for some tough NESCAC games.



Danahy beams after receiving a card and bouquet from her teammates in congratulations of her accomplishments (Ward).

## Danahy Named the Female Athlete of the Year in Connecticut

BY MATTHEW PRESTON  
SPORTS EDITOR

It all began in 1984 when Julie Bolduc, a softball pitcher from Southington, Connecticut took home the hardware. As the years passed, other notables to add their names to the list along side Bolduc were those such as Rebecca Lobo, UConn basketball standout and Olympic Gold Medalist at the 1996 Atlanta Games, as well as Kristine Lilly, Olympic Silver Medalist in Sydney

and a member of the memorable 1999 Women's World Cup Soccer Champions. Now, Connecticut College senior cross-country star, Maura Danahy has added her name to the lists.

Earlier this month, Danahy entered into athletic immortality when she was named the recipient of the Hank O'Donnell Award as Connecticut's 2001 Female Athlete of the Year, an award given annually by the Connecticut Sports Writers Alliance. Danahy, only the third run-

ner to receive this award in its eight-year history, joins a list of legendary athletes from every field of the sporting world as the first Connecticut College athlete ever to receive the honor. Upon joining the elite, Danahy said of the prestigious honor, "It's pretty overwhelming, to get such a high award was a shock... It's a huge award, and I feel honored to be in such company."

While the ever-modest Danahy

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## Maroni Announces Budget Projections for the Coming Year

BY SARAH GREEN  
NEWS EDITOR

Vice President of Finance Paul Maroni discussed the financial strength of Connecticut College at the SGA meeting January 31, in a presentation designed to complement the previous evening's State of the College Address.

Maroni reported that the College's net assets plunged by \$22 million in 2001, dropping from a record high of \$214 million in 2000. Maroni dismissed this decrease, explaining that it was due to a decline in the endowment—a decline he attributed to "volatile" capital markets. 2001 saw no change in the college's \$44 million debt.

Connecticut College's debt-to-net assets ratio increased correspondingly, rising from 21% in 2000 to 23% in 2001. Maroni called this percentage "a fairly strong number," citing competitor schools for comparison; Trinity's debt-to-net assets ratio is 28%, while Colby's is 5%.

Connecticut also came in on the high end of the expense/tuition ratio, although there was improvement in 2001. A percentage range from 150% to 200% is typical for a college like Connecticut. "The lower the ratio," said Maroni, "the stronger the financial situation of the organization." The college's 2001 figure was 174%, while the 2000 ratio was 192%.

"[There is] a fairly strong improvement in that ratio," said Maroni, "which I think comes from

the cost containment measures we've undertaken."

When asked when the college could stop cutting costs and start spending again, Maroni replied, "We ask people to reduce their budgets with the possibility that we'll add something that we're not doing now... You prune a tree so that it gets healthier."

The endowment, which had sunk to \$133 million when the college started building next year's budget, is now up to roughly \$140 million. The unstable nature of the stock market makes predictions hard to gauge, so the college has been using a flat projection to create its budget.

"[There's a] challenge to Development, a challenge to our investment managers," said Maroni. "We think we're being moderately conservative using a flat projection."

Tuition will increase. The PPBC will make a recommendation to the board in February.

"We're still below the midpoint of the schools with which we compete," said Maroni of a tuition increase. Maroni added that increasing the size of the student body would help increase revenues, up to a point.

Before 2000, the board of trustees had voted to temporarily increase the excess spend rule instead of cutting costs. The excess spend rule dictates the percentage of the endowment that the college can spend. Normally this amount is held at 5%, but for 2000 and 2001, it was

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## New Study Abroad Quota Means Less Crunch for Students

BY ELIZABETH KNORR  
STAFF WRITER

The spring semester at Connecticut College has traditionally signaled a housing shortage, as the number of students returning from abroad usually exceeds the number of students departing. This year, however, due to a redistribution of ratios, the expected housing crunch has been reduced to a mere pinch.

In general, finding housing for returning students has gone smoothly this year, giving both students and administrators reason to be happy.

"We have been able to have housing for everyone this year," said Conway Campbell, Director of Residential Life and Housing.

Out of the 134 people who needed to be placed in housing beginning this semester, 45.8% received their

first choice, 66% received one of their top five, and 84% were housed in one of their top ten.

The crunch was averted because of a new quota for study abroad.

"We imposed a limit on how many students we could send away for each semester," explained Associate Director of National and International Studies, Shirley Parson.

Senior administrators decided to impose the quota due to a number of reasons, including housing, classes, and budgeting. This new quota does not limit the number of students who can study abroad each year, but rather seeks to even out the numbers for each semester.

Campbell noted that 110 students left to go abroad this semester while 120 were returning.

The carefully constructed plans of the administrators were also

helped by a measure of luck.

"This semester we were fortunate in the type of spaces that became available," noted Campbell. "The people who have gone away this spring seem to have had better rooms as well as rooms that corresponded well with the room requests of returnees."

Erin Stafiej '03 was one of those returnees who benefited from the improved returning housing system.

"I was surprised that I actually got my number one choice," said Erin. "Everybody was telling me that they had a real housing crunch, so I didn't expect to receive such a preferable room."

But the housing process has not been a pleasure for everyone. Chloe Schon, class of 2003, describes the time leading up to her return to school as very stressful.

"I was really, really upset about

housing," said Schon.

Much of the stress came from the college's ambiguity over whether she would be placed in a double; this uncertainty would not be resolved until a few days before she returned to campus. Not all students could be placed in one of their top ten dorm choices, and it was necessary for ten returnees to be placed in doubles.

Currently the dorms on campus are not filled to maximum capacity, and "there is a little bit of breathing room for major emergencies when they come up," according to Campbell. However, Campbell warns that students should not be fooled by the few empty rooms on campus, because additional rooms may be filled by late arriving students or after changes are made following the completion of roster verification.

## Fainstein Delivers Second Annual State of the College Address

BY COLEY WARD  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The second annual State of the College Address was held Wednesday evening in the 1941 room of the student center. President Norman Fainstein spoke to a capacity crowd and outlined the institution's short-term and long-term goals for the coming year.

Fainstein began by thanking the college community for its efforts in welcoming he and his wife to campus, and then delved immediately into the College's budget situation, an area of concern for many sectors of the school. Fainstein described the College as being in a "period of consolidation."

"The budget is still growing," he said, "but, not as fast. This institution, like most, engages in a budget method that I would call incremental. We already have a pretty good idea that next year's budget will be about 1.5 million dollars more than this year's budget."

Recently, SOURCE magazine reported that the Priority Planning and Budget Committee would be



President Fainstein delivers his speech at the State of the College Address (Ward).

requesting the reallocation of about \$2.6 million from current budgets to areas of high strategic priority. When asked if study abroad would be affected by this reallocation of funds, President Fainstein said he was unsure, but that study abroad would remain a core component of the Connecticut College experience.

"We are making some decisions in the relocation of [study abroad]

funds," he said. "I think the innovative range of our study abroad programs sets us apart [from other schools]."

When asked about the prospect of growing enrollment to increase revenue, Fainstein said that it had been discussed, but that no plans were in the works. He addressed fears that the addition of more students could threaten the intimacy of

the College by pointing to his former employer, Vassar College, which boasts an enrollment of close to 2,500 students, yet remains one of the nation's premier liberal arts institutions.

Fainstein said the College's priorities were to maintain and enhance academic programs and to improve the quality of student life.

Fainstein also addressed the College's role in New London, saying that he is looking to clarify that role. Under former President Claire Gaudiani '66, Connecticut College was very active in the downtown, both through monetary investment and community service. Gaudiani spearheaded several questionable investments, in particular the signing of a fifteen-year lease on high technology classroom space in the Mariner Square building.

President Fainstein said that he is looking to redefine the role that the College plays in New London, though not necessarily to decrease it. He pointed out that last year, students spent a total of 20,000 hours in

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Students study in the serenity of the new reading room (Berry).

## Library Addition Provides Space for Quiet Reading and Asian Art

BY MELISSA QUICK  
STAFF WRITER

At the end of December 2001, the new Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room in Connecticut College's Charles E. Shain library was officially unveiled to the public.

Plans for the room began last winter as Toby Griffis and Charles Chu realized they needed a space for their growing Asian art collection. John and Heidi Niblack then announced they would donate a major gift to aid the construction of this room to honor Professor Emeritus Charles Chu. Charles Chu came to the United States in 1945 from China and began the Chinese language program at Connecticut College in 1965.

Dr. and Mrs. Niblack have long admired Professor Chu and have also always had a strong interest in Asian art.

Another generous gift from Agnes Gund '60 and her husband, Daniel Shapiro, contributed to the renovation of this area of the library.

This room functions as the first permanent exhibition space for the Chu-Griffis Art Collection. The exhibits in the new room will be changing each year as there are over two hundred pieces of art in the collection, and there is only space for about fourteen works to be shown at

a time.

The Chu-Griffis collection includes works from Chinese painters of the 20th century whose paintings depict landscapes, birds, flowers, and animals — Chu's greatest areas of expertise.

This new room located on the first floor and to the immediate right of the entrance to the Charles E. Shain Library and gives Shain a sleek new look. The room was designed by the Boston firm of Schwartz/Silver Architects. A committee including Dr. Niblack, Professor Chu, vice-president for information services, college librarian W. Lee Hisle, and many others, conferred to create the design of the room.

The architect's goals were to create a "serene and beautiful environment" while maintaining unity with the other rooms of the library. The ideals of "simplicity, tranquility, and elegance" accurately reflect Asian design principles and The Charles Chu Asian Art Reading Room is attractively decorated with Asian art and delicate orchids. It is furnished with dark tables and comfortable chairs. Mr. Hisle hopes that "The new room will provide a quiet sanctuary for individual and small group study as well as a place for students to reflect and admire the Asian art."

# EDITORIAL & OPINION

## Connecticut College Cannot Afford to Splurge on *The Times*

It is no secret that Connecticut College's financial woes were triggered not only by a falling economy, but by building the College too fast. Programs like the Tour Cummings Center for International Studies, the Travel Research Immersion Programs, and Career Enhancing Life Skills have helped the College develop a reputation as an innovative institution; however, it is those very programs that make Conn unique that have lent to the College's debt.

Through the admirable efforts of Kate Keene '02 and Alex Band '02, the *New York Times* has been brought, free of charge, to Conn for the next half semester. In order to extend this through the rest of the semester the College will have to pay for 500 copies, at a cost of approximately 20,000 dollars. The *New York Times* Readership Program would further our tradition of innovation.

If this were four years ago, the Voice would support this effort wholeheartedly. The *New York Times* is one of the most respected publications in the United States and is worth every penny. However, we simply lack the pennies to fund the effort.

Achieving further uniqueness is no longer a priority. The College cannot afford that pursuit. The budget freezes of the last two years have presented a challenge for everybody. That is why it is so refreshing that President Fainstein recently decided to cancel renovations to the President's House. This decision was made in the spirit of financial restraint. Fainstein's choice thus stands as a show of good faith. Another president might not have shown the same savvy. He has displayed an understanding that the campus has had to tighten its belt and that he is willing to do the same.

Here's hoping that President Fainstein will continue to show a sensitivity that was lacking in our previous president and that Keene and Band will have success fundraising outside of the College.

NOVEMBER 2000

COTTON CANDY  
ICE CREAM IS  
INTRODUCED TO  
HARRIS CAFETERIA...

JANUARY 2002

HARRIS DECIDES  
TO PAINT THE  
WALLS PINK...

SOMETIME IN  
THE NEAR FUTURE  
ENTER THE CLOWNS



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bureaucracy Prevails at Conn

To the Editors:  
I thought the bureaucracy was bad in India where I studied last semester. Then I returned to Conn. In order to petition to the Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) you have to collect not one or two, but four signatures. It is almost impossible to do this in one day. I wanted to petition to get Social Psychology counted towards my Social Sciences distribution requirement. Besides writing a simple petition I first had to visit my Faculty Advisor in Blaustein, then I had to stop to chat with a Dean in Fanning, then drop in on the Department Chair of Psychology and my old psych professor in Bill Hall.

The system infringes on the time of everyone involved. Professors and students should not have to be bothered by this procedure. While this process is designed to acknowledge the importance of each of these professors, such trivialities eat away at time that could be better devoted to academics. The CAS should have the authority to make decisions unilaterally, relying on the input of other faculty only if there is reason to question the validity of the petition.

-Ezra Rashkow '03

### Americans Are Not So Evil After All

Americans... and people of America!

First things first — almost all my life I've lived in a third world country and almost all my life I've heard things like "Americans are evil," "Americans are terrorists," etc. But it was only after I came to the US last year and met "ordinary Americans" and saw them laughing and saw them crying that I realized that they are not demons, that they are human beings just like myself. I wonder what exactly the word "Americans" refers to. Who are Americans? The people, the government, the intelligentsia, the media, the military, all of them, or somebody else? I ask this because I firmly

believe in one basic principle — one should always do the right thing, for the right reason.

Based in Washington DC, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) is a nonprofit educational organization "dedicated to liberal arts education, uphold[ing] high academic standards, safeguard[ing] the free exchange of ideas on campus, and ensur[ing] that the next generation receives a philosophically-balanced, open-minded, high-quality education." After the September 11 tragedy, ACTA established a "Defense of Civilization Fund" and as a first step towards this project, came up with a report: "Defending Civilization: How Our Universities Are Failing America and What Can Be Done About It" (<http://www.goacta.org/Reports/defciv.pdf>). In short, this sweetly-worded report documents more than a hundred anti-war statements from campuses all over the country in order to argue that in the wake of 9-11, while "Americans across the country responded with anger, patriotism and support of military intervention", "[it was] not so in [the case of] academe."

Academia, I think, consists of the cream of the country's intellectuals and college campuses. It is supposed to be an institution comprised of academic powerhouses where the brightest minds of the nation can be found. Thus, the report accuses American philosophers, thinkers, professors and academics of acting unpatriotically and failing America. As the report notes that "the message of much of academia was clear: BLAME AMERICA FIRST." The report stops just short of condemning colleges and universities for adding to the curriculum, courses on rest of the world. It states that "Ironically, instead of ensuring that students understand the unique contributions of America and Western civilization, the civilization under attack, universities are rushing to add courses on Islamic and Asian cultures."

I was absolutely dumbfounded and sick to my stomach after examining this report. First, the authors of the report conveniently assume that a lot of Western civilization is somehow under attack without giving any sort of evidence to support this claim (On the contrary, hundreds of people in developing countries die of hunger everyday as a result of West's globalization and "forcefully imposed freedom." Nobody claims that the entire "Eastern" civilization is under attack!). Moreover, the report suggests that the intellectuals of this country are wrong, while the laymen, who are indoctrinated from grade one that being patriotic means being loyal not to the country but to the government and who are fully exposed to the social anthrax called CNN are right.

In my opinion, the greatness, power and strength of any nation is a measure of the greatness of its thinkers and philosophers because it is they who set the nation on the right course, in the right direction. Instead of worrying about whose guidelines are being followed by the White House in opting for the pro-war course, the intellectuals of this nation, who are supposed to be setting those guiding principles, are pointing fingers at America itself and want to pursue a peaceful approach. The einsteins at ACTA are rather concerned about shutting up the only sane voices, which are rising up from college and university campuses. The report goes on to suggest that "[w]here the faculty is so one-sided that there are no campus voices to oppose them, visiting speakers should be brought in so that the students will hear both pros and cons." One wonders about whether all think-tanks of America are as "one-sided" and against war as the ACTA itself, and about who they suggest to invite on campuses as visiting speakers. I guess ACTA is counting on importing some Aristotles from Afghanistan's Northern Alliance to plead the case for the US government's pro-war policies. I request that the concerned authorities to take strict notice of such attempts, if not for the sake of humanity, for the sake of America itself. These attempts are so utterly devoid of basic common sense in instigating naïve masses against the nation's learned in the name of patriotism and to push all of

us into senseless bloodshed and war.

Of course, the government itself manipulates the media to swing the mood of the masses one way or the other in order to generate desired results. Have you wondered why RAWA, the Afghani NGO working for women (which helped film the CNN documentaries showing brutal treatment of women by Taliban), disappeared from the scene all of a sudden after the fall of Kabul? This is why this appeal (<http://rawa.fancymarketing.net/na-appeal.htm>) was posted on the RAWA website, right after the Taliban fled Kabul:

"The world should understand that the Northern Alliance is composed of some bands who did show their real criminal and inhuman nature when they were ruling Afghanistan from 1992 to 1996. The retreat of the terrorist Taliban from Kabul is a positive development, but entering of the rapist and looter NA in the city is nothing but a dreadful and shocking news for about 2 million residents of Kabul whose wounds of the years 1992-96 have not healed yet."

As the US media swiftly dumped RAWA after demonizing the Taliban, the "Northern Alliance" became known as the "US-backed Northern Alliance" on CNN. It is interesting to recall that "US-backed NA" replaced the same Taliban who were initially backed by the US when they rose to power in 1994. Mullah Ghous, a Taliban minister was invited over to Washington during that time and was asked to sign a MoU with UNOCAL Corporation, a California based energy resource company, for the passage of an oil pipeline through Afghanistan. It was only when the minister refused to comply that the US stopped its support for the Taliban. The bottom line is that it is neither terrorism nor crimes against humanity nor the oppression of women that worries the American government or for that matter ANY other government involved in the Afghan imbroglio. Rather, the 500 billion barrels of oil in the Caspian region (the largest untapped oil reserve in the world) is the root of all evil! (Testimony by John J. Maresca, vice president of UNOCAL Corporation to the US House of representatives in 1998 is available online at [http://www.house.gov/international\\_relations/105th/ap/wsap212982.htm](http://www.house.gov/international_relations/105th/ap/wsap212982.htm)).

I do not mean to suggest that America should not go after the terrorists. It is fashionable nowadays to claim that "we do not want to seek revenge but only want justice to be done." For one, I think that America (and the rest of the world) lost some of its best sons and daughters in World Trade Center and has every right to seek revenge. I agree that an eye for an eye leaves the world blind... but a nothing for an eye, in my opinion, would leave the world dead. The important question to ask is revenge from whom. I think the answer is revenge from the right people, for the right reasons. The current war started out as "America's War" and was later changed to "America's New War" followed by "America's War Against Terrorism" and finally gave way to simply "War Against Terrorism." It is nothing but an American government's campaign to find scapegoats and eliminate political foes by thrashing civil liberties. No wonder the war is heading in the wrong direction.

While defending military tribunals last week, President Bush said "Non-U.S. citizens who plan and/or commit mass murder are more than criminal suspects. They are unlawful combatants who seek to destroy our country and our way of life." First, it would make a lot more sense if Mr. Bush had simply used the word "people" instead of "non-U.S. citizens". And second, most governments of the world have fascist tendencies and the US government is no exception. Since September 11, it has been on a roll, chewing away civil liberties with belligerent nationalism and suppression of dissent. Anyone, with the slightest bit of common sense, can predict that future generations of Americans will regret the passage of laws such as the "US Patriotic Act." This, in my opinion, is the worst way in which Bin Laden has hit America. Of course, to start with, Bin Laden was not all that "anti-American". If anything at all, he was "anti-government." His letter, better known as "Ladenese Epistle: Declaration of War" (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A4342-2001Sep21.html>) is a three part document worth reading with the understanding that every person in the world has the right to defend his or her own country's interest. He explains at length why he switched to violent means and tries to "justify war" against "Americans." What is interesting is the fact that the word "Americans" is undefined.

But a war is a war and can never be justified. Bin Laden may be right but the actions he chose to take were definitely not. An objective, no matter how vital or sacred can never be worth more than the sanctity of an innocent human life. Bin Laden made the wrong decision, the wrong decision for the right reason, and I hope he will have to face the consequences of whatever he has done soon. But the ordeal of the American people would not end there, because a graver threat would still persist. The American people will have to stand up for themselves and stop putting blind faith in their government. This means pushing and asking the government for answers. Reaching out to the rest of the world and seeking "interaction at the human level" instead of at the government level will definitely help. But the problem will persist until the mother of the seven-year-old Afghani, killed by American bombing yesterday, realizes that the American people did not want to kill her son. But until then, for her "Americans are evil"... and that unfortunately means the "people of America," as opposed to the US government.

This article was written in early December.

-Usman Amin Sheikh '04

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Write For *The Voice!* x2812

## OPINION

## TIM TELLS YOU WHAT TO HATE ABOUT 2001

TIM STEVENS • COMPLAINT OF THE WEEK



Another year, another cliché for me to embrace. Last year, all who read it (yes, all 14 of you) were lucky enough to enjoy my take on New Year's resolution columns. This year, best and worst year-end lists. And (here's the best part) you get to read it two weeks in a row. Worst this week and best next week. Thus, without any further ado, the Worst of 2001.

## Worst News Moment

Gerardo Riveria's visit to a friendly fire site in Afghanistan.

It was touching, it was heartfelt. He spoke of fragments of uniforms and saying the Lord's prayer... and it was all a lie. That, ladies and gentlemen, was newsmanship at its finest.

## Worst Line from a Creepy Bum on the Metro

"Happy Holidays."

Sure, it was sweet, but come on. You should be disquieting Mr. Bum, sir, not jolly.

**Worst Punchline Editor-in-Chief Coley Ward Cannot Get Enough Of**

"Do not let Tim Stevens tell you he studied abroad. He did not even study in a different state. He studied in D.C."

The first time, kind of amusing. Every time after that? Not so much.

## Worst Tag Line for a Movie (tie)

Count of Monte Cristo—"This fall count on revenge."

If there exists a tagline that required less thought, I have yet to encounter it.

## Hart's War—"Heroes are measured by what they do."

As opposed to what exactly? Their love of exotic locales?

## Worst Customer Decision of the Holiday Season

Blaming me for the price of items

The corporation does not trust me to do returns. I am not allowed to carry keys to the cage of expensive electronics. Knowing this, do you really think they allow me to price items however I choose? Sure, it is senseless that the red phone costs more than the blue, but guess what? For once, it is not my fault.

**Worst Mistake Made by Entertainment Weekly This Year**

## INSURRECTION LANDSCAPERS TAKE ON CONN

KATE GUTHRIE • EARTH HOUSE

According to the Gallup Organization in Princeton, NJ, the last year in which Americans' confidence in the federal government "to do what was right" was as high as it is today was 1968. In 1968, 100 protestors were severely injured in Chicago without provocation, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, US casualties in the Vietnam War reach their peak, Richard Nixon rose as the Republican nominee. "An attack of vertigo and nausea does not now seem to me an inappropriate response to the summer of 1968," writes Joan Didion in her essay "The White Album."

American casualties are not sky high, (although one wonders how many world citizens have suffered from our high-tech bombs); no revolutionary leader has been assassinated. However, a total tally of those detained in U.S. terrorism investigations has not been released since November 2. The USA PATRIOT act was passed without pause, despite violating five of the ten amendments in the Bill of Rights, according to the ACLU. People are being subjugated to strip searches and undue process because of the color of their skin, the clothes they wear, their faith in God. America, once touting its strength in diversity, is now plastered with the mantra "United We Stand."

Unity is fine and dandy, but what about the uncouneted citizens jailed over the holidays, what about the owner of the California Fruit Market who sells everything for \$1 since Wal-Mart moved in, what about the people forced from their homes so Pfizer can build a workout room and lounge

## MUGABE'S ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY

ADAM BOROS AND JOSHUA KATZ • INTO AFRICA

Over the past few months, positive change has come about on the African continent. Despite horror stories of civil wars, the rape of children, erupting volcanoes, and warlords in Somalia, it is easy to find signs of hope. Near the end of 2001, Burundi welcomed a transitional government, the power shared by Hutus and Tutsis. Since the New Year, two more countries have followed suit; a cease-fire was recently signed in Sudan, and eleven years of civil war officially ended in Sierra Leone. Along the same lines, democracy continues to spread. Both Zambia and Madagascar recently achieved relatively free and fair elections. This is not to assert, however, that all nations are headed in the right direction. There is no bleaker example of this than Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe.

Prior to 1980, the British occupied what was then known as Southern Rhodesia. Under the leadership of Mugabe, the natives expelled the English and reclaimed rightful control of their homeland. Mugabe, considered a great regional hero, was elected leader of the new country and accepted by the international community. For over a decade, he was respected as one of the most enlightened heads of state in southern Africa. In recent years, however, his credibility (along with his nation's prosperity) has plummeted. And within the last six months, his policies have teetered on the edge of dictatorship.

In fall 2001, Mugabe set the price of bread below production costs in the name of "African Socialism." He then threatened to mobilize the army against any small businesses that did not abide by the price-fixing. This not only reduced the amount of food in a country that already suffers from severe shortages, but also increased unemployment and unrest. Sadly, this may be the least of Zimbabwe's problems. Democracy itself is fading fast. With next month's election rapidly approaching, Mugabe is doing everything he can to stay in power. In many African countries, it has become the norm to accept independent election monitors to prevent ballot stuffing, political intimidation, and corruption. If Mugabe has his way, this will not be the case in Zimbabwe.

In addition, Mugabe is presently attempting to push even more extreme measures through Parliament. He hopes to destroy one of the central institutions of democracy, the free press. Under his plan, journalists will have to

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for CEO and friends? What about the student, bored in a chain-smoke, watching something more real than himself live on the television? What about the air we breathe, polluted by a nuclear power plant exempt from present emission standards, and the water we drink, from one of the ten most polluted rivers in the country? Vertigo and nausea set in as I watch, from the Earth House porch, cars drag by like chained circus animals. This is not living, in the sense that life is creation, health, movement, emotion, real.

Next Wednesday night, Earth House has invited a group of puppeteers to Cro who want to make the sidewalks, now used for shopping and getting to and from work (in order to afford shopping), "places of play, of life again." A few years ago, Insurrection Landscapers formed out of the century-old tradition of street theater and puppets as a voice of the people. Their current show, Degenerate Cabaret, is particularly influenced by the Cabaret Voltaire, which emerged out of the Dada movement. There is no puppet master in the global theater, but the world still feels false, out of our control, so much that there's nothing to do but fight, or play. Or both. "Degenerates are human beings," Adam Landscaper, one of the founders, said to me, "and we seek to re-landscape the monoculture."

Come check it out Wednesday, February 6 at 8pm in the hallway of Cro. Bring your laughter, or your dissent. Bring yourself and live.



## CLAIRE'S BEEMER AND THE PINK POSSIBILITIES

COLEY WARD • VIEWPOINT



While Claire Gaudiani was inside Saint Joseph School on Friday giving a lecture on "My Days in New London," somebody slashed the tires on her car, which was parked on the street.

Now, I'm not sure if Claire is still driving the old Beemer or if she's traded up for a new model, but either way, who would do such a thing to such a splendid vehicle?! We're talking leather upholstery, heated seats, impact sensors, adaptive transmission control, and tires - beautiful tires - with all season traction!

NLDC Chief Operating Officer David Goebel called the incident "a moral outrage" and "an act of terrorism."

You're damn right it's an outrage. Something like this really makes you wonder what the world has come to. Dave Goebel called the incident terrorism. It seems like there's a lot of that stuff going 'round lately. The Palestinians are mad at the Israelis over a piece of land. The Afghans are mad at us for sending them bad movies and cheeseburgers. And now there are some angry New Londoners mad at Claire. For what, I can only guess.

Fortunately, I have a plan to help make everybody less angry, complaints of Connecticut College dining services. Pink. Pink clothes, pink buildings, pink cars.

Mary Zawieski, Director of Auxiliary Services, recently explained her decision to paint Harris Dining Hall pink, saying that she wanted to make the environment less sterile, and that the dining staff thought pink would be warming.

I can't speak for the rest of the campus community, but when I walk into Harris and see those new pink walls my heart gets fluttery. I may walk in angry, but I walk out smiling.

Of course, there are naysayers. There always are whenever something as maverick and renegade as pink walls is introduced. But we can't cave in just because of a few negative reviews. Did Bob Dylan change his ways when the crowds booed him for plugging in his electric guitar? No way. And he won a Grammy.

So why not New London? Why not pink? Why not now? And why stop there? Let's declare a national pink day. Smart bombs and ground troops are expensive. It's time for fewer paratroopers and more pinktroopers. Let's export fewer "Rambos" and more "Pretty in Pink."

And as for Claire, my heart goes out to her, and her beautiful, beautiful car. Maybe, if she painted it pink...

## PRESSING RESOLUTIONS

SARAH GREEN • VIEWPOINT



Ahhhh, 2002. A new year—a fresh start. Keeping in mind that New Year's resolutions are meant to be broken, here are my resolutions for Connecticut College.

1) Limit time spent on Instant Messenger, especially with people in own dorm. Increase use of 20th century device known as "telephone." Overcome fear of actually getting up from the addictive laptop screen and take up walking down the hall when you feel like asking someone when they want to go to dinner. Good way to work off pesky beer calories.

2) Save energy. I suggest doing homework by candlelight in order to conserve. Oh wait, that's illegal. In that case, instead of watching TV, which wastes energy, play some kind of environmentally-friendly game, perhaps involving ping pong balls and cups of beer. In order to keep warm at night, you'll have to sleep with at least one other person. Also try doubling up in the showers to save water (a brilliant idea from Windham's environmental coordinators). I think if we all pull together, a deep impact will really be felt.

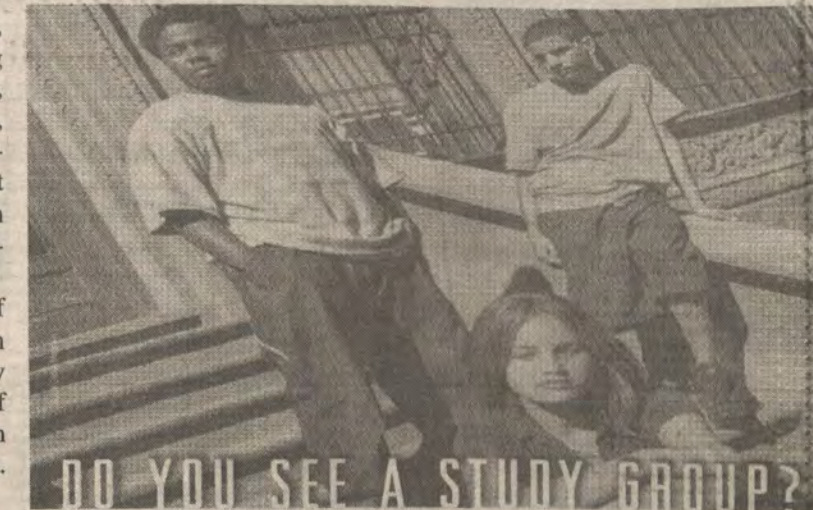
3) Help the college to cut costs and save money—we must all do our part here. To save money in Harris, the people who come to dinner after 6:30 will eat the food scraped off the plates of the earlier diners. Furthermore, every room on campus will be inhabited by no less than three people. We will raise extra revenues by renting out the vacated rooms. We will also have to start reusing toilet paper.

4) Contribute to the growth of the local economy. New London needs the stimulus of our consumption. Hence, we must all spend lots of money at the Crystal Mall and in the local eateries and shops. It has not gone unnoticed by me that package stores constitute one of the area's main businesses. I know it will be hard, but I'm sure that if we really try, we can buy enough liquor to get drunk at least twice a week.

5) We must increase our philanthropic efforts. Harris leftovers—and by that I mean the leftovers that are left over from the plates of the post-6:30 crowd—will be shipped to Rwanda. In case of another faculty salary freeze, we must start a collection of tube socks, blankets, and canned foods.

6) As President Bush has exhorted us, we must be vigilant. Anytime we see suspicious activity, we must take it upon ourselves to tackle the offender, relishing the cracking sound of ribs snapping as we slam him or her to the pavement. Or floor. (Suspicious activity shall include, but not be limited to: having facial hair beyond 3/4 of an inch, speaking a language or languages other than English, attempting to bring nail clippers on board a plane, and jaywalking.)

7) Lose weight and quit smoking.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 2002 New Music Preview: Join the Ranks, Say "No" to Pop

By ANDREA LODICO  
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

I enjoy grooving to pop music at TNEs as much as the next person, but like most of you out there, I look for substance in my music. For the past few years, substance is the very thing our generation's music has been sorely lacking. The dominance of sugarcoated pop music has gone on far too long and this sentiment has been reflected in record sales over the past year. 2001 was the year of the resurgence of substance; U2 confirmed their status as the best rock band out there, Alicia Keys introduced neo-soul to the mainstream, and rock music climbed its way back up the charts. In a year when the record industry suffered from a loss of sales and tours stopped selling out, it is unclear what we will encounter this upcoming year in music. 2002 will be a year when rock fans will continue to look for the next Nirvana-like upheaval, as audiences listen to an always eclectic mix of new releases. Here is just a sampling of what is to come in the first half of the year.

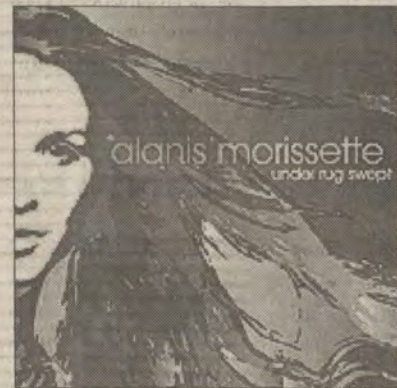
Released earlier this month, Starsailor's *Love is Here* is the current British import to hail comparisons to Radiohead. Unlike Radiohead, whose recent releases have seen them dabbling in electronica, Starsailor's debut album is an eclectic mix of raw rock, funk, and

soul. The video for their current single off the debut album, "Good Souls," can already be seen on MTV, though it may be buried underneath the many reruns of TRL and the Real World. It can be seen a little more regularly on MTV's more music-minded counterpart, MTV2. Heavily influenced by both Jeff and Tim Buckley, Starsailor's music is deeply rooted in the soul and passion of singer-songwriter's James Walsh's voice and lyrics. Over the last week, Starsailor has been playing dates around small clubs in the Northeast to support the recent release of their album. The success of "Good Souls" and coverage of *Love is Here* in the recent issue of Rolling Stone, has Starsailor on the road to the mainstream. One listen to their album shows that they deserve it.

John Paul Jones, the quiet, unassuming bassist of rock monster, Led Zeppelin, is slated to release his second solo album on February 5. *The Thunderthief* is a follow up to Jones's 1999 release, *Zooma*. Absent from his fellow bandmates reunion tours in the 1990's, Jones has taken a very different path when it comes to post-Zeppelin work. Not one to live in the past, Jones's *The Thunderthief* pushes him even farther out of Zeppelin's overwhelming shadow. *Zooma* was an entirely instrumental release that had Jones experimenting with computerized sounds as a background to crushing



John Paul Jones releases his new CD in February, as well as several other musicians.



rock riffs. Unlike *Zooma*, *The Thunderthief* contains many songs with vocals, filtered through onto tracks by different microphone setups. On *The Thunderthief*, Jones weaves his rock sensibilities, folk background and production wiz-

ardry together. With the upcoming release of his album, Jones will be heading out on tour for promotion. John Paul Jones is said to put on an amazing live show, so if you are fortunate enough to catch one of his shows, just do not be that person

who yells out: "Stairway!"

February 19 marks the release date of the solo album of one of punk music's most influential frontmen, Joey Ramone. Sadly, Ramone died of cancer in April of 2001. *Don't Worry About Me* is an album which captures his solo efforts since The Ramones disbanded in 1996. After the band's break up, Ramone continued to write and record songs. *Don't Worry About Me* is the result of his unrelenting five-year work on his music. The album is already garnering the best reviews of Ramone's career, which spanned 22 years, 23 albums and influenced punk culture and a countless number of bands today. In March, Joey Ramone will receive another tribute when The Ramones are inducted into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Alanis Morissette's new album, *Under Rug Swept* will be released on February 26. After her hugely successful debut, *Jagged Little Pill*, Morissette was quickly labeled the angry white girl. Her 1998 follow-up, *Supposed Former Infatuation Junkie* displayed a deeper Morissette, not set on replicating the big sales of her first album. Her sophomore outing was not as successful, and to an industry that loves to attach labels, disappointingly not as angry. After a four-year hiatus, Morissette has come out with her self-produced third album, *Under Rug Swept*. The first single, "Hands Clean," has Morissette keeping with the trend of

her second album of more subdued music backing introspective lyrics. Gone is the Morissette who asked: "Would she go down on you in a theatre?"

These are just a few of the new albums set for release this year. The beginning of 2002 already looks promising. Other new releases include the Chemical Brothers in late January and a live compilation from The Doors in February. The spring promises to bring Weezer's follow up to their largely successful "Green" album released in 2001 and Elliot Smith's upcoming album, entitled *From the Basement on the Hill*. Following disappointing ticket sales for arena tours over the past year, this summer will mark the re-emergence of festival tours, including Lollapalooza, which will look for new alternative bands to fit its bill. One thing is certain though, that there will always be vapid, brainless pop music around. Christina Aguilera will remind us of this fact when her latest effort is released in the spring. If 2002 follows last year's suit, real musicians and songwriters will hopefully build enough momentum to outshine and outsell the many who rely on glossy studio gimmicks to sell their sound. We can hope that this year, audiences will continue to breathe life into new, passionate bands that provide us with inspiration. Because I don't know how much more TRL I can take.

### Aquila Theatre Company Presents "The Tempest"

By NANCY DINSMORE  
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

Last March, the Aquila Theatre Company performed "Cyrano de Bergerac" for the Connecticut College community. Anyone who missed that wonderful performance should be sure not to miss the Company this Friday, February 1, when they return to the college to present William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" in Palmer Auditorium. One of the last plays written by Shakespeare, "The Tempest" is the story of a group of travelers returning from a wedding who are caught in a terrible storm. After the storm, they find themselves washed up on the shore of a magical island. "The Tempest" is an intricate play that examines human behavior and relationships as it tells the story of the magician Prospero, who influences the travelers, all are vying for supremacy of the island. In the play, Shakespeare touches upon the universal themes of love, greed and murder. The Aquila Theatre Company brings highly acclaimed acting and staging techniques, original music, and imaginative storytelling to this classic tale of shipwrecked survivors. The production is adapted and directed by Robert Richmond and has been heralded as highly original and imaginative.

The Boston Globe said in its review of the Company's performance, "If energy be the food of Shakespeare, then Aquila Theatre Company of London serves up a smorgasbord." This seems to be the consensus among critics, who enjoy the inventive and skilled performances that bring classic stage productions back to life for audiences. The Company brings together a talented group of experienced performers from such diverse venues as Broadway, the Royal Shakespeare



Aquila Theatre players perform a scene from *The Tempest*

Company, the Royal National Theatre, and London's West End. Founded in 1991 by Peter Meineck, the Aquila Theatre Company has gained an international reputation for presenting superb and innovative performances of classical theatre. The critically acclaimed company has performed around the world and was named Company in Residence at the Center for Ancient Studies at New York University last year. The Company has also received several British Council Touring awards. For more information about the Company, please visit their website at [www.aquilatheatre.com](http://www.aquilatheatre.com).

Tickets for the performance on the evening of February 1 at 8pm are \$25, 20, and 15; students and children are \$12.50, 10, and 7.50. For more information and for tickets contact the Ticket Office at 860-439-ARTS, or visit the Office in Palmer.

### Strong Performances enrich *I Am Sam* at the Box Office

#### *I Am Sam*



**Rated:** PG-13  
**Length:** 2 hours 12 minutes  
**Starring:** Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer  
**Directed by:**  
**Summary:** A mentally retarded man fights for the custody of his 7 year-old daughter.

By MAUREEN MIESMER  
STAFF WRITER

As is the case with many forms of modern entertainment, the purpose and function of American cinema is often contested among movie producers, actors and those who ultimately determine the fate of the business—the ticket holders. Movies can be entertaining, enlightening, and distracting, and it is the unequivocal goal of many actors to achieve these effects through acting performances that are both creative and credible. *I Am Sam*, starring Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer, is a movie that both entertains and enlightens, due to masterful performances by the actors involved.

The premise of *I Am Sam*, written by Kristine Johnson and Jessie Nelson, seems destined to falter and

fail from the beginning. Penn plays Sam Dawson, a mentally retarded adult whose intellectual capacities do not exceed those of a seven-year-old child. Through no fault of his own, Sam is unexpectedly left to raise his daughter, Lucy, alone. Trouble arises when Lucy turns seven and begins to mentally surpass her father, and the courts begin to question Sam's abilities as a parent. The rest of the movie follows Sam's dogged legal battle to regain custody of Lucy.

The greatest weakness of this movie could be its intent to show the struggles of a disabled adult by relying on the ability of a non-disabled actor, Penn. The role could easily have been over-acted, insensitive, or inaccurate. Luckily for *I Am Sam*, the greatest strength of this movie is Penn's ability to transcend what seemingly impossible obstacles. It is incredible that an actor could lend such compassion, sensitivity and understanding to a role that he could never understand first-hand, and yet Penn succeeds in achieving a believable portrayal of Sam.

Pfeiffer's acting skills are also not to be overlooked. She plays Rita Harrison, an over-worked corporate attorney with little time for her own child let alone Sam. She initially takes Sam's case pro-bono as an attempt to impress her colleagues, and over the course of the custody trial, Rita's and Sam's relationship evolves into something that is heartfelt and poignant without being



Sean Penn and Michelle Pfeiffer give dynamic performances in *I Am Sam*.

melodramatic. Dakota Fanning as Lucy Diamond Dawson, Sam's daughter, is exceptionally poised for such a young actress; she portrays this young girl with a wisdom far beyond her seven years.

Directed by co-writer Nelson, *I Am Sam* is a film that could easily become an unintentional parody of the sensitive issues it deals with, including mental retardation, child custody battles and parenting issues. It has the potential to offer sentimentality ad nauseum, and yet it manages to balance heartfelt scenes with genuinely comic moments, making this film both a drama and a comedy. *I Am Sam* also features actors with special needs as Sam's close friends, who lend sincerity to

the premise of the movie while also providing many intentionally comic moments.

While many moviegoers may disagree with the credibility of the film's outcome, it is hard to argue with Penn's portrayal of Sam and the excellent performances put forth by Pfeiffer, Fanning and the talented supporting cast, which includes Laura Dern as a foster parent and Dianne Weist as Sam's neighbor. *I Am Sam* is a movie that deals with a variety of sensitive topics, which might conceivably have been disastrous, and yet the result is a film that is both entertaining and enlightening.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Violinist and Pianist Present Imaginative Works

By HEATHER DE BARI  
STAFF WRITER

Violinist Janet Packer and pianist Orin Grossman presented an edgy, eclectic program this past Sunday in the John C. Cummings arts center in Evans. Together, they performed three innovative pieces: "Chicago Bells" (1997) by Andrew Imbrie, "Sonata No.2" (1922) by Bela Bartok, "Divertimento" (1932) by Igor Stravinsky. Janet Packer, who has visited Connecticut College on two occasions, has performed in the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Symphony of Panama, the Rochester Philharmonic, and Boston Pops Orchestra. An hour prior to the recital, Janet treated the audience to a forty-minute lecture discussing the loose, but essential relationship between composer and performer. During that time, the audience listened to four recordings of the works she performed by the

forementioned composers. Orin Grossman, winner of a concerto competition and co-founder of the Round Hill Chamber Players, is primarily interested in contemporary music and jazz. He earned his Ph.D. in Music, and is recognized for his ability to fuse classical ideals with modern concepts. He has given recitals in the US and in other countries.

Packer has performed violin works by Mary Mageau, Edwin London (Gypsy Heirs), Gardner Read (Five Aforisms), Juan Orrego-Sales, and William McKinley. She explained that sometimes a composer may undermotate his or her score, which means that precise directions for performance are not included. This gives the performer the responsibility of deciding when to slur notes or when to group them, for example. Performers can decide whether or not to perform a piece in accordance with the stylistic markings of the composer, but Janet

Packer feels that as a professional musician, it is her duty to comply with the composer's intent, if designated.

The main motive in Andrew Imbrie's works is the unexpected ringing of bells. In "Chicago Bells" the final notes are slowly drawn out until they can be heard no more. Most of the piece is dotted by brisk stops, interspersed with high notes. This structure lends the piece an erratic and random feel; it certainly isn't soothing to listen to. Whether or not there is a story behind "Chicago Bells" is left to the imagination. What I found really intriguing about this first piece was that the notes of the piano and violin did not match. There are many ways to tell a story, and the piano and violin expressed themselves differently to tell that story.

"Sonata No.2," contains even more highly-pitched and more staccato notes than "Chicago Bells." Sharp musical expletives are fol-

lowed by a brief space of tension-filled peace, after which the music bursts out with even sharper notes. The two-minute intercession of the pizzicato (plucking the strings of the violin rather than bowing), enhances this effect-the sonic equivalent of a scream. Transient dance tunes trick the audience into believing that they will continue, but instead chaotic sounds ensue as the piano and violin race each other. Overall, "Sonata No.2" lacks a sense of wholeness. Instead, the piece is linked by sections of independent musical motives, a sonic collage.

The third piece, "Divertimento," seems to tell the story of a traveler on a mission. There are times of tension, followed by moments of repose, alluding to the vicissitudes of any journey.

I was impressed at the contagious enthusiasm of the performers. "Twentieth Century Masters" was an enlightening and pleasurable way to spend Sunday afternoon.

# Be Kind, Rewind: No Break From Fun



By BEN MORSE

Ah, winter break: a time for family, relaxation, fun...and a Blockbuster in a different state that doesn't yet have my face on a wanted poster! This winter break I had a great time with all that holiday jazz, but as always, nothing beat my video rental indulgence. There was some funny stuff, there was sad stuff...and then there was *Pi*...oh *Pi*...

As always, I desire nothing more than to share my knowledge with my fellow Connecticut College students (and with Ellen Hartnett-you rock Mrs. H!). I'm not going to do "Loser of the Week" this time around, and not just because some gentleman in Hamilton taped my column to his door with "Loser of the Week" circled and an arrow pointing to my picture. My rental topics for this past break were parody and "mockumentary," so here are two movies you might not think to pick up on your next trip to the video store...but you should!

range (he plays a brain dead rocker in *This Is Spinal Tap* and a Southern dog trainer in *Best In Show* is phenomenal, and you can't help but at least chuckle at every line, action and even facial expression the man delivers. By the time the "documentary" winds down, and you learn of the fates of each character, you'll find yourself pining for a sequel.

**HOTSHOTS!** (Charlie Sheen, Lloyd Bridges, Cary Elwes)

I also saw *Not Another Teen Movie* over break in the theaters, and it was highly entertaining, but will never quite match up to the classic spoof comedies of the eighties and early nineties. While the movies of today do a great job taking cheap shots at other popular movies, genres, and celebrities, movies like the *Naked Gun* series and Mel Brooks films went beyond mere parody and generated both fantastic visual gags as well as subtle jokes you really had to listen for. It may not have been the most critically acclaimed or best-remembered parody film of its generation, but *Hotshots!* has always held a special place in my heart as one of my favorite movies.

*Hotshots!* has most definitely stood the test of time. Charlie Sheen is even funnier here than he is in *Major League*. His overly rigid tone and stiff movements, which would seem out of place in a non-parody are perfect here as he makes tough guy without a cause Topper Harley a character memorable enough to rival Leslie Nielsen's inept Frank Drebin from *Naked Gun*. Cary Elwes plays the perfect foil in the *Top Gun* parody portion of the film, using his trademark eyebrow-raised smile to come across as the model of cockiness. But the person who truly steals the show is the late Lloyd Bridges, who plays an incompetent General who has everything from a steel plate in his head to an artificial inner ear. Bridge's over-the-top physical comedy carries the film's pace and has any viewer rolling on the floor.

*Hotshots!* may be a movie you laugh at so much you'll want to make it a permanent part of your video collection.

So remember kids: winter break may be over, but the things that were really important about the break (the videos) live on forever! Until next week, enjoy going to class, suckers! Oh wait...crap.

## WAITING FOR GUFFMAN

(Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Fred Willard, Parker Posey)

Christopher Guest, the man who along with Rob Reiner and other collaborators defined "mockumentary" with *This Is Spinal Tap* returns for another hilarious take on a most bizarre subject, with one of the best ensemble casts you'll ever see. The story centers around the centennial celebration of a fictional town of Blaine, Missouri. The film follows the production of an original play entitled "Red, White & Blaine," directed by flamboyant New Yorker Corky St. Clair (Guest) and starring the town's eclectic group of locals. The film is shot in a faux documentary style, and the calm manner in which the actors discuss the increasingly ridiculous situations they find themselves in evokes a unique humor one can also find in *This Is Spinal Tap*, *Best In Show* (another Guest film with essentially the same cast) and more recently in Kevin Smith's series of movies.

O'Hara and Willard have a great chemistry as a husband and wife travel agent duo that dreams of Hollywood fame, while the always-talented Posey portrays the stereotypical backwater teenager working at Dairy Queen (and is incredibly convincing in her portrayal of a character fifteen years younger than the actress actually is.) Fans of Levy from the *American Pie* series (in which he plays Jim's dad) will really get a kick out of seeing him in a much bigger role, that of the clumsy but kindly dentist Dr. Allan Pearl, to which he brings his trademark deadpan humor. The star of course is Guest as St. Clair. Guest's

# Addison Groove Project Takes First Headlining Tour to Hartford



By KEVIN HARRINGTON  
STAFF WRITER

For all you students who were disappointed that the performance of Deep Banana Blackout was canceled last semester, there is good news. Listen up and mark it on your calendars; the funk is coming to town. Addison Groove Project is an up and coming funk-fusion band from Boston and are hitting the road for their first headlining tour of the Northeast. They are performing at

the Webster theatre in Hartford, Connecticut on February 8th. It is an all-ages event. Soulwork and other special guests will be opening for the band. The cost is \$10 and Addison Groove Project will be playing two sets. These guys have been the beneficiaries of an amazing buzz going around the jamband scene, from a few solid festival performances last summer and a Jammy nomination from Jambands.com last year. They are also gaining success from their latest live album, *Wicked Live*. The

guys are moving up in the world, despite the fact that all six of them are full-time college students. What makes Addison Groove Project different from the rest of the jambands seen today is their solid horn lineup. The sextet has a versatile lead man Brendan McGuinn on the trumpet, guitar and vocals. Followed by Benn Groppe on tenor sax, Dave Adams on alto sax, keyboardist Rob Marscher, drummer Andrew Keith and bass player John Hall. Addison Groove Project has

opened for bands such as Dispatch, which performed at Conn's benefit concert in the fall of 2000. They opened for their friends Strangefolk at the Worcester Palladium last New Year's Eve. So ditch your depressing dorm room and get your groove on with the funky sounds of Addison Groove Project, Friday, February 8 at the Webster Theater. For more information, go to [www.webstertheatre.com](http://www.webstertheatre.com).

## MOVIE TIMES

**Hoyts Waterford 9**

- I am Sam (PG-13) Sat-Thu (12:00 3:10) 6:30 9:35
- The Mothman Prophecies (PG-13) Sat-Thu (12:30 3:45) 7:00 9:40
- The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13) Sat-Thu (12:20 3:20) 6:50 9:50
- A Walk to Remember (PG) Sat-Thu (12:05 2:30 4:55) 7:25 9:55
- Black Hawk Down (R) Sat-Thu (12:05 3:25) 6:40 9:40
- Snow Dogs (PG) Sat-Thu (11:50 2:25 4:45) 7:10 9:30
- Orange County (PG-13) Sat-Thu (11:55 2:00 4:15) 7:20 9:25
- A Beautiful Mind (R) Sat-Thu (12:15 3:15) 6:35 9:35
- The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) Sat-Thu (12:10 3:55) 7:40

**Hoyts Groton 6**

- Slackers (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (5:00) 7:10 9:15, Sat-Sun (1:00 3:00 5:00) 7:10 9:15
- Kung Pow: Enter the Fist (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:50) 7:15 9:30, Sat-Sun (12:45 2:45 4:50) 7:15 9:30
- The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:45) 6:45 9:40, Sat-Sun (12:15 3:45) 6:45 9:40
- Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:30), Sat-Sun (12:20 3:30)
- Ocean's Eleven (PG-13) Fri-Thu 7:20 9:55
- Snow Dogs (PG) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:45) 7:05 9:30, Sat-Sun (12:10 2:30 4:45) 7:05 9:30
- Black Hawk Down (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:40) 6:50 9:50, Sat-Sun (12:30 3:40) 6:50 9:50

**Hoyts Mystic 3**

- Godsford Park (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:30) 6:30 9:30, Sat-Sun (12:20 3:30) 6:30 9:30
- In the Bedroom (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:45) 6:45 9:35, Sat-Sun (12:45 3:45) 6:45 9:35
- The Royal Tenenbaums (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:00) 7:00 9:25, Sat-Sun (1:00 4:00) 7:00 9:25

# This "Orange" Is Not Quite Ripe, Hollywood Offspring Disappoints

**Orange County**

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

Rated: PG-13  
Length: 1 hour 23 minutes  
Starring: Colin Hanks, Jack Black, Catherine O'Hara  
Directed by: Jake Kasdan  
Summary: A high school senior gets rejected from Stanford and travels to the University to gain admittance.

By JESSE ERDHEIM  
STAFF WRITER

Should children of famous artists try to strike out on their own in the entertainment business? So far my experience in this matter has been limited to the music industry. For example, I enjoy Jakob Dylan's music even though none of it is as memorable as his father's. Of course, the young singer/songwriter has some pretty large shoes to fill. The same could be said of Sean Lennon.

This is what sparked my interest in *Orange County*. I had heard the film features Colin Hanks (son of Tom), Schuyler Fisk (daughter of Sissy Spacek), and director Jake

Kasdan (son of Lawrence). I guess you could look at this movie as a perfect example of how Hollywood has dumbed down in recent years.

In the 1960's and 70's, up and coming filmmakers were making names for themselves by directing *Star Wars* and *A Clockwork Orange*, *Easy Rider*, and *Taxi Driver*. You had Robert De Niro staring into his mirror, muttering "You talkin' to me..." Today, we get hack directors making *Say It Isn't So* and actors uttering trademark lines such as "Yo, bro, let's catch some surf." What an inspiring development.

*Orange County* takes the Hollywood formula for teen comedies and runs with it. We get the lovable stoner, Shaun Brumder (Colin Hanks), trying to get into Stanford. To this, I say "as if!" After finding a copy of Stanford professor Marcus Skinner's book, *Straight Jacket*, which depicts those rough teenage years to a T, Shaun decides to become a writer.

Ditching his surf board and bong for pen and paper to the great disappointment of his beach bum buddies, he hopes one day to attend Stanford and study with Skinner. Oh, how things never go as planned in the movies though.

We get the insufferable adults, so dense we wonder how they ever figured out how to procreate in the first place. Enter Shaun's alcoholic

mother (Catherine O'Hara), his mean father (John Lithgow), and his moronic guidance counselor (Lilly Tomlin) who mails the wrong transcript to Stanford (as if this really happens) and then denies her responsibility in getting Shaun rejected.

Last but not least, we get the slacker: Shaun's brother, Lance (Jack Black), so stoned he is usually concerned only with finding a sample of urine that will pass his parole officer's drug test. The dedicated girlfriend, Ashley, is played by Schuyler Fisk, who constantly insists that Shaun doesn't need to leave Orange County to be a success. Her nagging alone would be cause to leave the area even if Shaun didn't aspire to be a writer.

The long and short of it is that after Shaun gets rejected from Stanford, Lance takes Shaun and Ashley on a road trip to the University, so Shaun can talk the Dean of Admission into accepting him. (I wondered if this was really the course of thought a Stanford caliber student would have, but nevermind.)

The normal hijinks ensue (in no apparent order)... a college party, a fight between boyfriend and girlfriend, a fire, lots of pot smoking, incompetent police searches, and of course the inevitable reunion of high school boyfriend and girlfriend. It's

all pretty meaningless and has been done better in movies such as *American Pie* and *Road Trip*.

The funny parts (all two of them), are few and far between. Both involve Lance, who just seems to be doing a bad Chris Farley impression throughout the entire film. Hanks and Fisk are just plain irritating. The cameos by Ben Stiller, Chevy Chase, Kevin Kline, and Harold Ramis are wasted. Lithgow and O'Hara clearly needed some money now that "Third Rock From the Sun" finally went off the air, and in O'Hara's case, *Home Alone VI* got canned.

Look, this isn't to say that I don't enjoy teen comedies. Quite contrarily, my friends constantly make fun of my admiration for *American Pie*, *American Pie II*, *Road Trip*, and *Can't Hardly Wait*. The problem with *Orange County* is that the characters never really come to life. They're simply caricatures of the characters we've come to expect in this type of cinematic fare. And that's just not going to cut it.

What this film demonstrates over all is that talent is not necessarily inherited. Never has the saying "Like father like son" been so far from the truth. You, like Shaun, need to steer clear of *Orange County* at all costs.

# Pink Harris Walls Cause (Quiet) Uproar Two Students Bring *The New York Times* to Conn

By BEN MORSE  
NEWS EDITOR

In a year in which it seems nothing can go right for the beleaguered Dining Services of Connecticut College, a seemingly insignificant cosmetic change made to Harris Dining Hall over winter break has yet again spurred student animosity towards the troubled department.

Throughout the fall 2001 semester, Dining Services was plagued by budget and staffing crises that forced them to close the Jane Addams dining room, among other cutbacks. Student backlash to the closing of the auxiliary dining areas was harsh, though in reality, Dining Services was left with few other options.

Since the college has reopened for the spring 2002 semester, students have taken issue with frequent overcrowding in Harris during dinner time, but also with Dining

Services' decision to repaint several of the walls in the dining hall pink.

The painting was done over the break so as not to affect student comfort, and consisted of repainting several of Harris's blank white walls with a sponged shade of pink. The area around the cereal section of the dining hall, which had formerly been decorated by renditions of several cereal mascots, was also painted over.

"The painting of the walls was an attempt to increase the comfort level of Harris," explained Mary Zawieski, Director of Auxiliary Services. "Since the renovation of the plex and Harris, we've received complaints that the atmosphere was very stark and sterile. This was our attempt to change that perception."

Unfortunately, students have not received the repainted walls the way Zawieski and others had hoped they would. Student response to the din-

ing hall's new tint has ranged from "It's giving me a headache" to "It looks like somebody threw Pepto-Bismol on the walls."

Additionally, some students have complained that the repainting of the walls is a poor and evasive response to requests for student artwork to be displayed on the previously blank walls.

"We wanted to try and display student artwork on the walls, but with our current budget, we would have no way of insuring and protecting that artwork," Zawieski explained. "Similarly, we do not have the financial resources at this time either to purchase or protect outside artwork to put on the walls."

Unfortunately, focus on the prominent wall changes has caused students to overlook some of the less outstanding but more important changes made to Harris over break. Foremost among the improvements

is the addition of two new water dispensers, one that works at a higher speed. This supplement was long overdue and has done much to cut down on traffic around the drink areas and the amount of time students must wait in line. Several new drinks have also been added, and improvements have been made to the coffee and tea stations.

It is unfortunate that after all the hurdles Dining Services has had to overcome this past year their attempts to improve the quality of dining for students have gone either overlooked or unappreciated. In the coming months, in addition to dealing with their ongoing staffing and budget issues, the department will also have to rebuild a positive image in the eyes of a displeased student body.

By BRYAN SERINO  
STAFF WRITER

Kate Keene and Alex Band want Connecticut College students and faculty to have free access to the New York Times on a daily basis.

Inspired by a similar program at Wesleyan, these two Connecticut College seniors have worked tirelessly to bring the renowned newspaper to their own school. They believe participation in this program will have far-reaching, positive effects for the college community.

"It will allow students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real life situations," said Band.

Keene and Band believe this program will help both students and professors by allowing a sharing of information that will enhance the intellectual atmosphere at Connecticut College. Both agree it will allow students to have another resource in their search for news and information.

"This will ease the transition from college into the real world," says Keene. "Especially in job interviews."

Before Connecticut College

begins receiving the Times on a regular basis, the school will undergo a one-month trial period. During this pilot program, the college will receive 250 issues of the New York Times every Monday through Friday, for four weeks.

Because financing provided by the New York Times will only last a few weeks, the largest obstacle facing Keene and Band is fundraising.

"Right now we are literally checking the cracks in the sofa to help fund this project," said Band.

Keene and Band initially sought funding through the college itself, but after a meeting with Dean Hoffmann, they were denied on grounds of questionable demand. The two students have now turned to the alumni and New London communities in hopes of finding a financial provider.

Besides the issue of continued funding, the biggest problem facing Keene and Band is ensuring that all their hard work will not go to waste after they graduate in the spring. They are currently seeking younger students to continue expanding the program after they have left the college.

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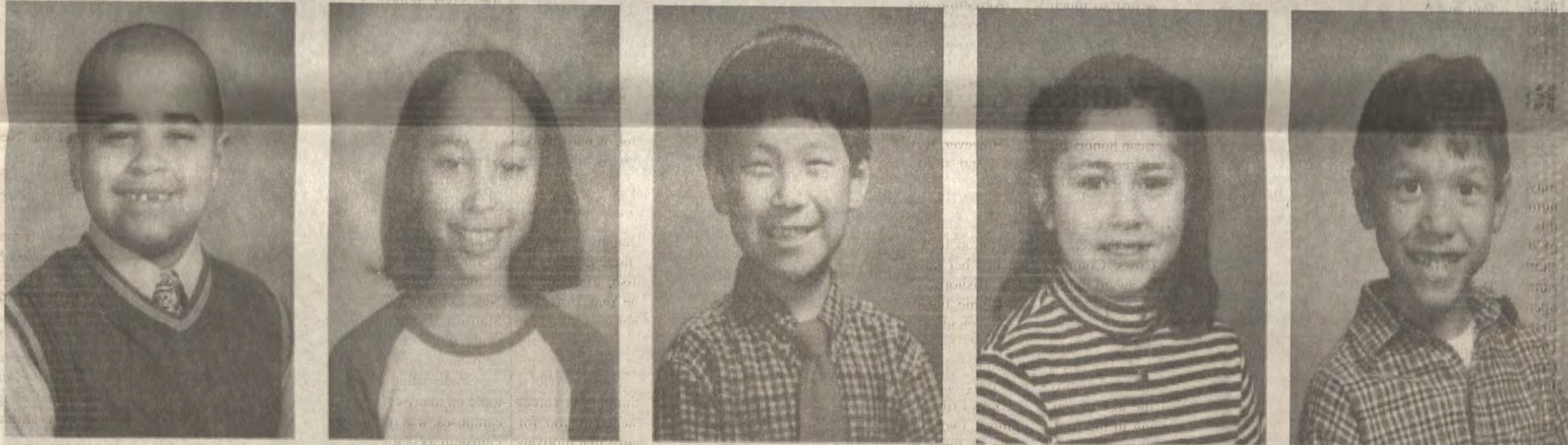
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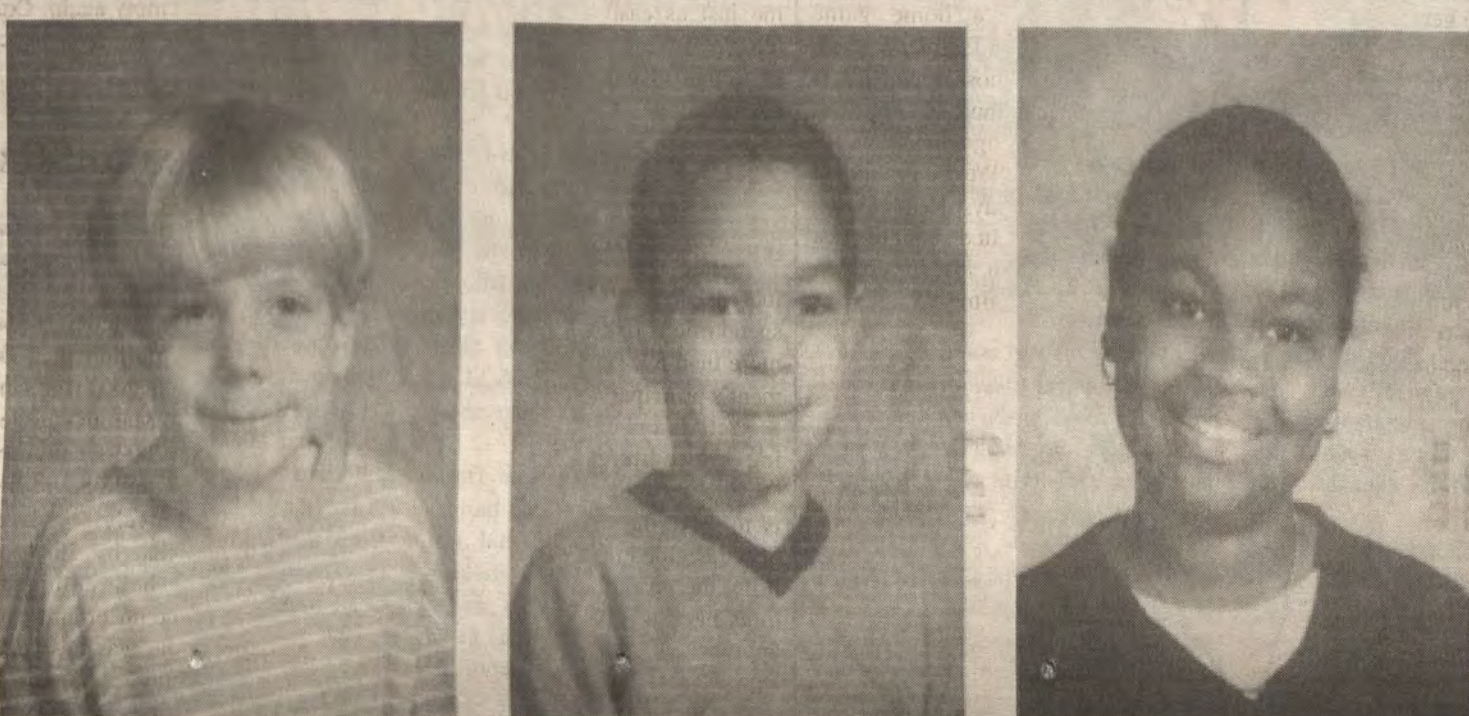
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## SPORTS

## The Fitness Center of the Universe

My back pocket felt light and the plastic bags I was carrying dug into the cracks of my fingers. It was the first Monday back at Condergarten after Winter Break, and I was heading back to my dorm after spending the lunchtime hours in the newest playground on campus: the Connecticut College Bookstore. My arms hurt from carrying the nineteen assorted texts and novels, but knowing that I had just completed shopping for two of my four classes drove me onward. I felt the weight of the world and the weight of the books pushing down on me. I sought sanity in the weight room.

Bad idea.

At around 3:30 that afternoon, the fitness center was the place to be. Whether it was folks looking to blow off some steam like I

was, or folks looking to sweat off a few of those holiday pounds, or the athletes who were much less than pleased to have these newcomers sharing their space, the weight room was about as full as the last good TNE that I went to.

And just like a TNE, the smell of over-exertion wafted through the air. Unlike a TNE, however, just about everyone was well covered; tank tops were at a minimum, shorts were as long as pants, and pants were as baggy as they could have been. Maybe it was the cold and slushy weather, and maybe it were those wonderful Christmas cookies that Grandma Hazel made, but regardless almost everyone there was covered enough to keep even the most over-protective parents pleased. If spandex was to be found amidst the crowd of faculty, staff and students, it was most certainly guarded by a warily tied sweater or long-sleeved shirt.

People were running, climbing, cycling and sliding 13 wide and two- or three-deep on the cardio machines (that is, if you discount the treadmill broken by someone who will remain nameless, and will most likely never show his or her face in the fitness center again). With the spring season on the horizon, the lacrosse players continued rep after rep, blasting their legs into even better shape so they can run circles around their NESCAC opponents. The line for the bench press more closely resembled something you would find in Disney Land, as the non-athletes recognize that there are only 47 days until Spring Break (their big season) begins.

The proud few stayed in shape over break; they were easily spotted by how long they can hold their breath as they watch themselves in the mirror. Others have not been to a gym since the pre-first-semester-exam-cram-period began. And some have never been in a weight room before.

New Year's resolutions can do amazing things to people.

For some reason the clock striking midnight on one particular day makes millions of people begin crazy new walks of life. Last year my mother thought that learning to appreciate wine would be an apt goal for the following 365 days. This year, like many of those in the weight room around me, she has vowed to get back into shape (according to her, yes, there was once a time). My goal for the upcoming year is simply to survive.

So far so good (knock on wood), but you wouldn't know it on a day like today. My computer has a virus. My toes are cold due to a combination of the hole in my sock and the slush that I trekked through on way to a class I got deferred from. My glasses are dirty, and I had trouble finding a parking space close to the

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## Men's Basketball Primes for Final Stretch of Season

By DAVID BYRD  
STAFF WRITER



Dave Brown '02 shoots a lay-up in a recent game against Wesleyan (Savage).

This is a warning to the other NESCAC schools: the Connecticut College Camels have their swagger back. It has not been a smooth year for men's basketball team, but they have fought through off-court adversity and turmoil, and have turned their season around at just the right time.

Last Saturday, the Camels hosted rival Wesleyan in an important NESCAC match-up. Playing with great intensity in what tri-captain Mizan Ayers described as a "must-win game," the team responded with a convincing 80-65 win over the Cardinals. Senior tri-captain Leland McKenna led all scorers with 19 points and hit two three-point shots in the first half to lead the Camels on 19-6 run. Tri-captain Rich Futia finished with 18 points and nine rebounds. Conn showed that it could score almost at will, hitting 11 three pointers, while playing an effective inside game with Futia, junior Travis Reid, and senior Dave Brown. McKenna feels that it "Was the best game of my career—they were supposed to be one of the best teams and we blew them out."

More impressive than the offensive display, though, was the Camel's defense. Wesleyan guard Leo Jones is second in the NESCAC in scoring, but strong defensive pressure by Conn kept Jones scoreless until midway through the second half. Jones finished with 11 points; most of them scored well after the game was out of hand.

Connecticut College was not expected to have a good season in 2001-2002. With the loss of three key players from last year's squad, many NESCAC members felt that the Camels would finish last in the league. Ayers called this a "Challenge to the returning players. People didn't expect a lot from us, but we expected a lot from ourselves." However, improvements in team defense, free-throw shooting, and increased team unity have helped the Camels surpass all but their own expectations this season.

Defense has been the focus for the Camels during the second half of the season. Ironically, Conn lost to MIT on January 5, but allowed the opponent to score only 57 points, which seemed to spark a new intensity and attitude for the team. "It was the worst game offensively," says Ayers, "but defensively, it was

obvious we were a different team." Since losing that game, Conn has won five out of their last six games.

Regarding defense, McKenna comments, "We are helping each other out more and we trust each other—that's the big difference."

Ayers credits the improvement to a more defined defense with a different, higher intensity, better communication, and good coaching. "We're a more cohesive unit now," he says. "We're all on the same page and we are helping each other out on the floor."

The Camels free-throw shooting has noticeably improved during the latter part of the season as well. In a few close games earlier this season, missed free throws hurt the team. However, free throws have become more competitive during practice, in order to increase the team's focus for the crucial shots. "If you keep missing in practice," says Futia "you run a lot, and that keeps the pressure on and helps us focus." This focus in practice has carried over to the games as the free-throws have started falling with much greater consistency.

One other key reason for the

continued on page 7

## Men's and Women's Squash Teams Look to Nationals

By KELLY HART  
STAFF WRITER

With only a handful of matches left to be played, both the Men's and Women's Squash teams are gearing up for what promises to be an exciting finale to their season: the Nationals. Players on both teams emphasize that "expectations are high" and that they plan to continue

the success of their growing squash program at Connecticut College. The Men's and Women's Squash teams have been practicing hard while keeping an incredibly optimistic attitude, and blessed with a coaching staff that has been described as "amazing," these teams are destined to bring victory and pride to the name of Connecticut College.

The Men's Squash team has been pushing forward this season, with a particular goal to improve as a group. While their record is currently 4-9, the men's team has risen to the occasion by truly playing up to their potential. Co-Captain Ben Jordan '02 states, "We are winning the ones we should win, and losing the ones we should lose."

Serious efforts to establish their

program has given the team reason enough to celebrate. "We are making solid steps," claims Co-Captain Jay Mann '02. "Squash is a program now. Progress is being made." Continuing support from the school is necessary for the achievements of the squash program in the future. States Mann, "We want to thank the school for the new squash courts they gave us a year and a half ago.

We really appreciate them."

Being a new program, the Men's Squash team has become "a pretty strong team out of nothing," claims Jordan. The Camels are confident that there is nothing but improvement in their future.

The men's season has been far from disappointing despite their

continued on page 7

## Women's Swim Team Remains Undefeated, Men Tread Water

By NORA MIRICK  
STAFF WRITER

What is pride? Is it arrogance? A fierce passion for competition? Or is it just knowing deep inside of you that you're a mighty Connecticut College Camel? Pride is a confidence that comes from months and months of dedication and hard work, and the ladies and gentlemen of Conn's swim teams have it.

The Connecticut College Women's Swimming and Diving team opened their season back in November with a win over UMass-Dartmouth and have been on a roll ever since, defeating all competition in their path. The Men's team has also had much success this year, which speaks highly of the 12 gentlemen who comprise it.

What was a month of rest and relaxation for most Conn students was considerably less for these athletes as they cut their winter break short for a team trip to sunny Florida. There they spent their days training, putting in four hours a day in the water plus extra dry-land training. After seven days of hard work, they returned to campus, where the women faced the Coast Guard, winning 143 to 99, then sweeping a seven team RPI Invitational.

Says senior Abbi Miles, "Florida was intense, but it really helps. It is

amazing what all of this has done for our team. We are stronger and in better condition than ever before. In addition to being physically tougher, we are working better as a team. Spending an hour together at the crack of dawn will do that for you!"

The Men's team, on the other hand, suffered a tough loss in the Coast Guard meet, but that only added fuel to their fire, as both the men and the women prepared for the upcoming tri-meet against Clark College and Colby Sawyer College.

The stage was set Saturday and the stands were packed. Fans were not disappointed as the women continued their winning streak, beating Clark 144 to 99 and Colby Sawyer 90 to 81. The men, however, were not as fortunate, suffering a tough loss to Clark, 82-114. The day was not a complete disappointment for the men; they added another win to their record due to a forfeit by Colby Sawyer, who lacked male representation that day.

"Well, at least we beat one team (Colby Sawyer). We'll get the rest next time," were the wise words from junior Pike Severence, in regards to Saturday's events.

One of the big winners of the day was freshman Kate Kovenock, who was recently honored by the prestigious NCAA Division III Swimmer of the Week Award, continued her

continued on page 7

## Nowhere to Go but Up for Women's Hockey

By RYAN WOODWARD  
STAFF WRITER

There is no mistaking it: the 2001-2002 season is a rebuilding season for the Connecticut College Women's Ice Hockey Team. The team's record to date is 1-14 overall, the lone victory coming at home against intrastate rival Trinity College back on November 30, 2001. Katie Dubendorf '03 and Kyle Ridgway '04 each netted one goal as the Lady Camels defeated the Bantams 2-1 at Dayton Arena.

However, the team's unfortunate win/loss record does not have them down. As Dubendorf describes, "It is easy to play every day when you have a winning record, but when you have a losing record, like we do, it's a lot harder to make it to every practice and every game. But the heart is what makes us athletes, and good athletes that is, because if it wasn't hard, anyone would do it."

The team may be small in numbers but it is large in heart. Its sixteen-woman roster has been the root of much of the team's difficulties. Many games have been close through the first period or two, but as time drags on, the reality of having only two forward lines catches up to the players. In NESCAC hockey, at least three, and sometimes four lines, are necessary for surviving the night-in, night-out, sixty-minute battles.

"You have no idea. I cannot

explain the exhaustion my body feels at the end of a weekend like this one," exclaims Ridgway, referring to the recent completion of a weekend that featured games Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The lady pucksters dropped two in a row to Williams College (both games were 5-0) and then fell again at the hands of the St. Catherine College in Minnesota by a score of 4-1.

Even with six games remaining, the team has not cashed it all in yet. Recognizing that this is a rebuilding season, the team has adopted the mentality that next season starts now. The team is fully aware that making the 2002 playoffs is out of the picture, and also that saving a .500 season is mathematically impossible, but it has still set small goals to carry them out of this season and into the next.

In their upcoming games against Sacred Heart, Hamilton, Salve Regina, and Wesleyan, the team has set their sights on not getting shut out once, and beating each team once so that they will finish with a win percentage over .500 for their last six games.

With only four seniors, Anna Trafton, Christina Johnston, Jessica Hane, and Katri Morley, the seasons to come serve as the light at the end of the tunnel for the women's hockey team. First year head coach Kristen Steele is already making an impact; she has kept morale up, recruited heavily for the future class-



es, worked to get the team a new locker room, and, according to Dubendorf, "[Steele] has worked harder than any coach that I have ever seen."

Dubendorf went on to say that Steele's passion for the team should yield "a complete rebirth of this team within the next three years... Right now we are in a state of constant improvement. With only 12 skaters (excluding the two goal-tenders and the team's two injured players) there is plenty of ice time for everyone. And with that ice time comes lots of experience and improvement."

## Camel Scoreboard

## Men's Basketball:

1/21, vs. Coast Guard, 75-67  
1/26, vs. Wesleyan, 80-65  
2/1, at Middlebury, 7:30 p.m.  
2/2, at Williams, 3:00 p.m.

## Women's Basketball:

1/26, at Wesleyan, 38-78  
1/29, at E. Connecticut, 57-86  
2/1, vs. Middlebury, 7:00 p.m.  
2/2, vs. Williams, 3:00 p.m.

## Men's Hockey:

1/25, at Southern Maine, 4-2  
1/26, at Salem State, 3-2  
2/1, vs. UMass-Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
2/2, vs. Babson, 4:00 p.m.

## Women's Hockey:

1/26, vs. Williams, 0-5  
1/27, vs. St. Catherine, 1-4  
2/5, vs. Sacred Heart, 7:00 p.m.  
2/8, vs. Hamilton, 7:00 p.m.

## Men's Squash:

1/20, vs. Rochester, 6-3  
—vs. Navy, 0-9  
1/22, vs. Wesleyan, 0-9  
2/1, vs. Fordham, 5:00 p.m.  
2/2, vs. Bates, 5:00 p.m.

## Women's Squash:

1/26, at St. Lawrence, 3-6  
—vs. William Smith, 6-3  
—vs. Middlebury, 0-9  
2/7, at Wellesley, 7:00 p.m.  
2/9, vs. Smith & Bard, 1:00 p.m.

## Men's Swimming:

1/26, vs. Clark, 82-114  
—vs. Colby Sawyer, 13-0  
2/2, at Bates, 12:00 p.m.  
2/9, vs. Wheaton, 1:30 p.m.

## Women's Swimming:

1/26, vs. Clark, 144-99  
—vs. Colby Sawyer, 90-81  
2/2, at Bates, 12:00 p.m.  
2/11, at Wesleyan, 6:00 p.m.