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TIK ROOT, ROBERT JOYCE/CONTRIBUTORS

Middle East Revolutions Affect Students and Faculty on Campus

IPEK BAKIR & ETHAN HARFENIST
CONTRIBUTOR & STAFF WRITER

As Professor Caroleen Sayej handed out her syllabus in Government 236, Middle East Politics, a sense of irony clouded the room. Most of the class was well aware of the uproar and civil disobedience taking place in Tunisia and Egypt that was rocking (and continues to rock) the study of the Middle East. Every article and journal on the syllabus somehow suddenly seemed irrelevant. Even Sayej voiced her concern. "I am having a bit of a panic attack," she joked.

Who isn't?

What is happening in Egypt and Tunisia is shocking, exciting, and most of all, puzzling. It is nearly impossible to escape the images of popular uprising and turmoil

currently streaming out of Egypt and Tunisia. Nearly every day for the past five weeks, the *New York Times*, along with many other international papers, has run a huge color front-page photo of triumphant, flag-wielding Arabs reveling in protest against their governments. Constant coverage and the general disillusionment associated with the movements aside, it is hard to make sense of all of this. Nobody predicted it—no scholar, no politician, no historian, no Tunisian, no Egyptian.

Ikram Ladkhar '13, a native Tunisian student in Washington, D.C. at the time, recounts seeing her country passively mentioned on CNN's news crawl. "I freaked out and started looking for more information online," she said. "I couldn't find anything." She started asking her friends in Tunisia if they had heard any news.

They hadn't. Suddenly, primarily through social media outlets, word began to spread throughout the country of people killed in protests and the shocking demonstration by Mohammad Bouazizi's. Students also started coming out and voicing their opinions.

Popular opinion holds that the actions of Bouazizi, a 26-year-old Tunisian, helped fuel the revolutionary spirit in the region. Bouazizi was a desperate college graduate who could not find a job in his native country and felt that his government was ignoring his and his peers' pleas to find real work. In a rage, he lit himself on fire in protest of his government. A small group of Tunisians began to protest in response to the martyred Bouazizi, whose actions were caught on videotape and quickly went viral. Slowly but

surely, protests began to pick up momentum, still as largely local movements.

"There was no idea that the protests would go nationwide," said Ladkhar. As the protests began to swell, the authoritarian regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali began taking decisive action against his people: schools were shut down indefinitely. A curfew was enacted. Tear gas was used against the citizens of Tunisia. Despite these tried and true tactics of absolute power, the Tunisian people would not submit. Twitter, Facebook, and blogs erupted in fury, spreading word of the revolution.

"Members of the lower class were primarily on the street," said Ladkhar. "My generation was online posting and spreading the word. The Tunisian streets near my home were a battlefield; I wanted to be there." As the protests raged on, Ben Ali, in an embarrassing stunt, addressed his people in their native dialect, uttering the oft-quoted sound bite, "I understand you!" He promised constitutional amendments, free and fair elections, and ending Internet censorship; crowds of people were shown cheering on television. Later, news sources revealed that the former president had hired people to do this for him. Tunisia's fury burned even hotter.

By now, we all know how this story ends. Ben Ali fled the country and now Tunisia is in a transition state, the feelings of liberty and freedom far from fading.

Tunisia is not a typical Arab country—very small, it lays in the Maghreb, or North Africa, and is generally perceived to be a more secular country than its neighbors. As great a victory as Ben Ali's departure was, no one predicted that this revolutionary feeling would spread through the Middle East, particularly to Egypt, a country generally considered the leader of the Arab world.

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"Photographs as Poems"

Photography Professor Ted Hendrickson exhibits work downtown

ANDREW CRIMER
STAFF WRITER

For those of us who only occasionally spend occasional time in New London, everyday sights can easily slip by, unnoticed, behind a stimulus shield built up by full gas tanks and their attendant trips to bigger, flashier cities. For residents, however, every street

corner is a record of a public history, as inscrutable to the novice eye as cuneiform on a clay tablet.

Conn Associate Professor of Art Ted Hendrickson, a lifelong resident of New London who has been with the College since 1989, unveiled a new collection of photographs last Wednesday at the College's downtown Provenance Center that aims to make

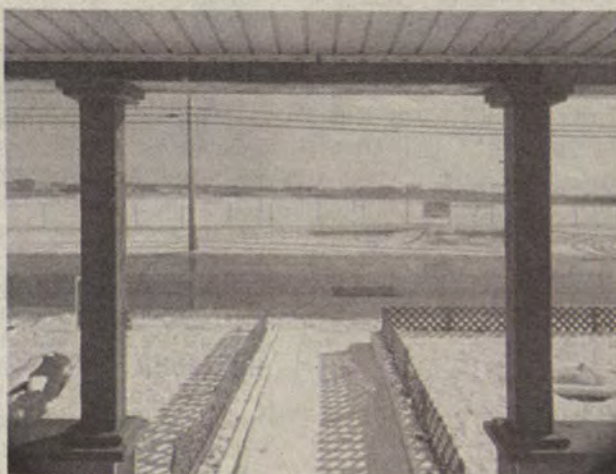
that history relatable, contrasting landscapes from 1980 to 2010 in order to tell the story of a city in search of its identity.

"Photographs are like poems," said Hendrickson. "You take the mundane, and select carefully to turn the simple into the profound."

The collection, which features both color and black and white

photographs of local spaces, relied on context and contrast to tell its stories. Two triptychs of the same corner on the Fort Trumbull peninsula, for example, revealed the desolate blankness of the post-Pfizer landscape. The first, from 1999, shows a brick bakery and a few residences; the second, from 2009, merely depicts weeds on a small hill.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



"Pfizer Site," a triptych by art professor Ted Hendrickson. Hendrickson's photography is currently being featured at Connections: Connecticut College and New London, an exhibition at New London's Provenance Center (165 State Street).

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is confused.
a few seconds ago

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EDITORIALS/LETTERS

THE COLLEGE VOICE

"The views and opinions expressed in *The College Voice* are strictly those of student authors, and not of Connecticut College. All content and editorial decisions remain in the hands of the students; neither the College's administration nor its faculty exercise control over the content."

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Editorials

On Why We're Here

Last week, when a *Voice* staff member was researching an article regarding Chris Bylone, former South Campus Area Coordinator for Residential Life, he approached the remaining professional staff to find some answers. Bylone's resignation happened quietly over winter break, with an e-mail sent only to Housefellow and Floor Governors informing them that he wouldn't be returning in the spring. The office refused to answer any of the writer's questions, saying they would not comment on matters concerning personnel. Later that evening, the Residential Life student staff, myself included, received an e-mail encouraging us to follow their lead in not speaking on the matter: "...you are paid employees of the College and in that role, you are expected to exercise confidentiality with this and all personnel matters." We gave up on the article.

The previous week, a different writer attempted to find information on the resignation of another member of the College: Robyne Watkin, former guest artist in the Dance Department. In this case, the greater college community was informed of her departure via e-mail over winter break, but upon returning, many students in the Dance Department preferred not to comment, calling it a sensitive subject. Additionally, many members of the Dance Department were not fully informed of the details

on Watkin's resignation.

I mention these two instances not only because of their timeliness and relevance, but also because I am a member of both groups involved—a former student of Robyne's and a member of the Residential Life staff team—and I understand the jarring effect the removal of a staff member has on a department or office. I am not criticizing the Office of Residential Life nor the Dance Department for their reluctance to discuss these problems, but rather highlighting a general problem that the *Voice*, and I presume any publication, often runs into. It happened with Peter St. John, Lobstergate, and Lan-Lan: administrators don't want to talk, students don't want to put their name to their opinions. These aren't unique situations, nor was I surprised.

Over winter break, Lilah sent the editorial staff a "Declaration of Independence" she found in an issue of the *College Voice* predecessor *ConnCensus*, written by Betsy Carter Bannerman '62, the managing editor of the 1961-1962 school year. Lilah wants to paint it on our walls.

The declaration reads (you can read it in its entirety below): "As editors, as columnists and as journalists, it is our right and privilege to take any side of a controversy, to support our arguments with unprejudiced, valid points and to come to conclusions which are well-founded and logical. [...] We do not plan to avoid any issue which we feel would be of

interest to the student body, unless the issue is irrelevant, ill-timed or in poor taste... we are intent upon improving the school, its traditions, its regulations and its systems. We shall not cease in our drive for improvement and shall use the power of the press to offer new ideas or alternatives to present systems as means to this end." Betsy Carter sounds dope.

The italics are my own, but you get the idea. Education happens both inside and outside of the classroom. Yes, I have learned about my frontal lobe in psychology class, but I've also learned about navigating Harris at 6:30 on a Tuesday. It's important that we exercise the 'thinking critically' muscles that we've developed at Conn, and *Voice* articles should push all of us to think deeper and consider the alternative, and if the paper isn't doing that for you, let us know. We, as students, cannot let our education, informal or otherwise, be guided solely by hearsay and venues like ConnCollConfessional. We, as the staff of the *College Voice*, have a responsibility to uphold the newspaper as a forum in which students are not only informed, but also educated. We realize there are matters that people simply do not want to discuss, but it is our duty to press on and report back what we've found. We aren't being self-righteous or intrusive: it's why we're here.

- Jazmine Hughes

Page Two

ConnCensus

Thursday, February 8, 1962

Our Declaration of Independence

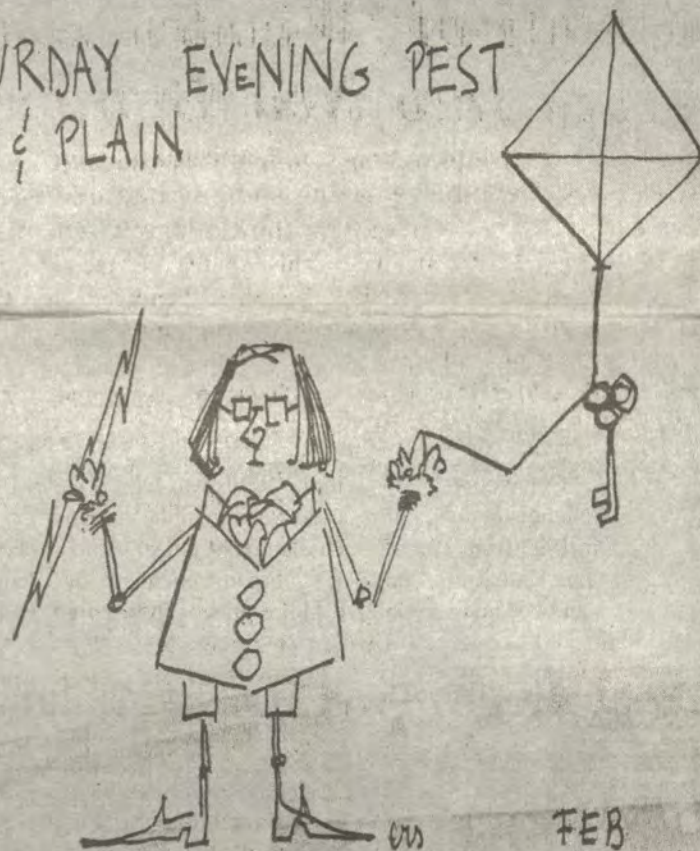
An opinion has been expressed by several students concerning the viewpoints taken by the editors in recent issues of *ConnCensus*. This automatically brings up the question of the freedom of the press, which we would like to reaffirm at this time. The purpose of any college newspaper is not only to present the details of news events past and future, to offer informative feature articles, such as critical reviews and personal experiences, and to give the students an opportunity to air their views through the *Letters to the Editor*, but also to use our prerogative as editors in expressing ideas and taking stands on current issues, both campus- and nation-wide. As editors, as columnists and as journalists, it is our right and privilege to take any side of a controversy, to support our arguments with unprejudiced, valid points and to come to conclusions which are well-founded and logical. The *ConnCensus* has been responsible for creating vehement reactions to controversial topics and has taken pride in the response of students and faculty alike. We do not plan to avoid any issue which we feel would be of interest to the student body, unless the issue is irrelevant, ill-timed or in poor taste. Our main concern in presenting editorials of a so-called "negative" or "radical" nature is to allow the student a chance to examine each side of the question, so that she will be fully aware of all aspects of the situation before deciding on her own position. We are intent upon improving the school, its traditions, its regulations and its systems. We shall not cease in our drive for improvement and shall use the power of the press to offer new ideas or alternatives to present systems as means to this end. If there are those members of the student body who feel that the *ConnCensus* has been too liberal, too radical or too one-sided in its presentation of various viewpoints, we would enjoy hearing these opinions through letters to the editor. All persons are encouraged to use the newspaper to make known their sentiments, and we are open to constructive criticisms at all times. Perhaps the most prominent characteristic of the stands taken by the editorial board is that of modernity. We are in favor of progress and changes which will not only reflect the will of the majority, but will also keep pace with modern times and with the newest and best possible systems for conducting a student government. We feel that the *ConnCensus* has been realistic, constructive and well-supported in its attitudes, rather than merely "negative" or "radical," and we do not believe that we have taken unfair advantage of our position behind the typewriter or that we have wrongly exercised our right of independence and freedom of the press. B.C.

ConnCensus

Established 1916

Published by the students of Connecticut College every Thursday throughout the college year from September to June, except during mid-years and vacations.

Second class entry authorized at New London, Connecticut.

SATURDAY EVENING PEST
5¢ PLAIN

FREE SPEECH

A Forum of Opinion From On and Off the Campus
The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect those of the editors.

To the Editor:

I wish to comment on two points of view expressed in your current issue (January 11, 1962). I hope no one will assume from the fact that I choose to speak to the two points that in my opinion no other points need consideration and comment; I am being selective and speaking to the two which seem most important to me at this time in the life of this College.

My first point is concerned with the statement in the Editorial to the effect that student faith in the infallibility of a democratic system is shaken by recent events here. I do not quarrel with an assertion that one's faith in democratic institutions is shaken by failure to use them properly—this seems to me quite within the democratic tradition and necessary to its survival. What I object to is the assumption that the

System—has bothered me for years. I believe that part of the trouble stems from the very name, and from its interpretation in an absolute way. Some students seem to assume that honor is not completely adhered to by all students at all times; there is no honor and there is a "true" Honor System. I believe that this assumption is as fallacious as the one about the infallibility of democracy.

I suggest that the Honor System is probably a better way to secure enforcement of College rules than any other alternative method. One of your writers suggests an alternative of no enforcement as the solution. This is an absolute position, and dangerous accordingly. Juxtaposing absolutes does not make for reasonable discussion. I suggest a third possibility as an alternative method of law enforcement

FREE SPEECH

To the Editor:

I have an idea for an article for the *College Voice*, which we read with interest when it arrives in the mail.

My son is currently a junior at Conn, and I probably wouldn't dare write to you with this suggestion if he were on campus this semester. But he isn't. And with Valentine's Day just around the corner, this seems like a timely topic.

It seems to me as a casual observer that there is more dating and there are more boyfriend-girlfriend relationships at Connecticut College than on some other college campuses.

Friends of mine with children at the University of Notre Dame, Williams, Colgate, and Hamilton have complained to me that there is little "serious" dating on those campuses,

and that the students seem to usually travel in packs, not in twos. Their parental viewpoint is that their sons and daughters are interested in finding someone to connect to in a romantic relationship, but it just isn't that common or easy to do at their schools. It seems to me that a number of my son's friends are in committed emotional romantic relationships at Conn. This is somewhat unique. I don't know how you would go about proving or disproving this hypothesis, but if it is true, I think the students are fortunate and that the school

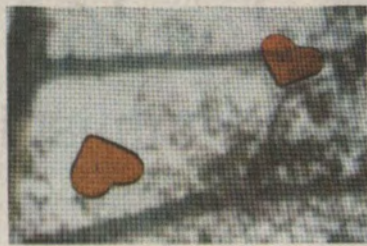
should use it as a marketing tool.

Sincerely,
A parent

monday

Celebrate Valentine's Day
with the Voice Staff.

All Staff Voice Meeting, 10 pm
Cro 215
There will be Krispy Kremes.



wednesday

New London Winter Film Festival
at the Garde: **The Illusionist**

7:30 pm
Garde Arts Center, 325 State Street, New London

tuesday

Tune in to **WCNI** 90.9 FM

9 pm - 12 am

Shows stream online at <http://www.wcniradio.org/>

thursday

**"A New Middle East?
Revolution, Democracy and the
Authoritarian Legacy"**

4:30 PM
Charles Chu Room, Library

The Department of Government invites you to attend a lecture by Professor Caroleen Marji Sayej. Popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt are sparking a discussion on democratic transitions in a region traditionally labeled as "immune to democracy." This talk will discuss the revolutions underway as well as the regional and international implications of these changes. See related article in this issue.

friday

N2O

8:00pm
Olin 014

Spotlight on Human Rights

8pm
(Reception 7:15 catered by 2Wives)
Oliva Hall, Cummings Arts Center

Student research
presentations and dance
performances

saturday

Vagina Monologues

2:00pm
7:30pm

Evans Hall, Cummings

Tickets are \$8 for students

all week

**Swan Song:
Works by Maureen McCabe**

Maureen McCabe, the Joanne Toor Cummings '50 Professor of Art/Art Studio, presents "Swan Song," an exhibit featuring some of her mixed media works. This exhibit coincides with her retirement after 40 years at the College. On display now through March 3, in the Cummings Arts Center

Connecticut College, 1920-1930

Connecticut College in the 1920s was led primarily by Benjamin T. Marshall (1917-1928), an ordained Presbyterian pastor living, at the time, in Nichols House. This decade welcomed the construction of Vinal Cottage in 1922 (now the CELS house), built for cooperative living; Palmer Library in 1923 (now Blaustein Humanities Center); Colonial House in 1925 (now Knowlton House); and Holmes Hall (behind the Chapel) in 1928. In 1929, one Katharine Blunt, PhD in organic chemistry and dedicated to establishing Home Economics as a profession and science, moved into Unity House and became the College's third president. Below are excerpts from the College News in the 1920s, amidst photos from the College Archives. -LR



"Toothpaste ad" (left) and "Ginny & Gal" (right) - photos by Prudence Drake '27.



May 5, 1922: "Prom Days—"
Prom days, prom days, anything but
calm days,
Special, and phone-call and telegram,
Speeding to C. C. From The Man:
"Sorry I can't come up the 6th,
Can't get away—in an awful fix
Sending my roommate up instead,
Sweet disposition and hair brick red—
Awfully good sport,
I'm sure he'll fall,
Pretty fair dancer but that's about all.
Better luck next time,
But I forgot to say
How about our Prom
The last of May?"



President Marshall



Wink Bus, Helen, Babe + Moi



Lyla & Gal with Bill



Gal, Kay, Lyla, Deb, Bill, Lib, & Gus



Picnic in Kelleys

Photos from the scrapbook of Prudence Drake '27.

November 3, 1922:

There is a widespread movement among the colleges to decrease the quantity of the curriculum and increase the quality. Here at Connecticut, most of us take at least six subjects, and in our endeavor to keep them going and at the same time attend to the necessary non-academic affairs, we find that at the end of the day it is almost physically impossible to summon the energy to prepare for the next day... Are we at Connecticut in danger of becoming scholastic Jacks-of-all-trades, of doing a great many things and doing none of them well?

March 11, 1921: Totem Pole Returns: Juniors and Sophomores Smoke the Pipe of Peace.



Freshmen in the mid 1920s pose in the Arboretum during Freshmen Pageant, a performance for the up-



"6 Sardines" - photo by Prudence Drake '27

PERSPECTIVE

Who is Cynthia Enloe '60?

Graduation speaker, political theorist and feminist inspirational at last Friday's Wine and Cheese

JAZMIN ACUNA CANTERO
STAFF WRITER

"That is okay. That is absolutely wonderful," she says with a look full of conviction, and I realize that Cynthia Enloe has pierced right through my inner thoughts and feelings. Although I embrace feminism with assertiveness, a tinge of insecurity remains when I meet someone outspoken about issues so often skeptically received. "You don't need to sound apologetic when you say that you are feminist," she continues, and in a reassuring gesture, gives me a smile. We are at yet another Wine and Cheese reception that will become more frequent as the semester draws to an end, sporadic but certain reminders of a hard-to-face fact for the senior class: we are graduating. But this time around, all my attention is set on the woman who has contributed to feminist literature in an immeasurable way, and who, to our fortune, will be delivering this year's Commencement keynote speech.

When I first spotted Cynthia Enloe '60, I felt strangely relieved. Finally, I saw the face of the scholar whose activism I've read so much about in Professor Tristan Borer's seminar "Women and World Politics." Perhaps inadvertently, I have always pictured Enloe as a giant. Blame it on my inability to wrap my head around metaphors like "you are as big as the size of your ideas." Right. But if this adage were true, and the magnitude of our ideas were proportional to our physical heights, then she would be much bigger than her actual size: something resembling an intellectual she-Hulk.

"Political theory used to terrify me," she tells the student who asked her about her most challenging course as a student at Connecticut College. I silently giggle at the irony; I find it amusing that the very woman who's placed her finger on the flaws and contradictions of conventional



Ms. Enloe, 1960 and today. Yearbook photo from Koine.

CYNTHIA H. ENLOE
34 The Terrace Manhasset, New York
Government

"Hey there, gang!" ... A profession tripper ... Watch out Washington! ... Earl Warren's competitor ... Leaves her toothbrush in the library ... "Were there more than 24 hours a day!" ... "Dear Cinnie, I was 2 minutes late ..." ... Cinnie.



understandings of economics, globalization, militarization and plenty of other subjects was once scared of them. But I presume that this is the reason she majored in government: to overcome the troubles of realism and challenge it at its core. And there is no doubt she has raised an intellectual battle by turning everything we learn in Politics 101 on its head. Her weapon is an unfaltering "curiosity" that she praises as a remnant of her education at Conn. "What if," she says, "can be a radical question."

Enloe believes that there is no such thing as "collateral damage" in a war, only women and children who are being misplaced, wounded and killed amidst the theatrical battle of men with big guns. There is no "cheap labor," she denounces, but only labor that has been made cheap. And she does not go about rationalizing prostitution like many do. She questions notions of this practice that make it appear as commonplace defiantly. "Prostitution seems routine. Rape can be shocking," she once wrote in her book *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*. "Around a military camp, prostitutes connote tradition, not

rupture; leisure, not horror; ordinariness, not mayhem. To many, militarized prostitution thus becomes unnewsworthy."

Now she is addressing the whole room: "Last year I came to..." she pauses, whispers, "my fiftieth reunion." I wonder if fifty years from now, I will be able to look in retrospect without fearing disappointment. I wish I could

Enloe is interested in finding links where there appear to be none.

fast forward time five decades and see if I will still find anything interesting to talk about, if I will not decide to withdraw from society and hide in a cave because I rather not bear with the fact that my generation, actually, has not changed the world.

"There was no nostalgia in the conversations I had with my classmates," Enloe says of the reunion, and I must say I was a bit surprised by her comment. She

carries on: "We didn't talk about the good old days and how much we missed them. Instead, we talked about the war in Iraq, issues in the media and so on, and all because we came out of here and share the same kind of curiosity."

Enloe is interested in finding links where there appear to be none. She is the best at making those connections that make us all responsible for each other. "I could not go about living in this world without thinking about it all the time after Conn," she tells me when I ask her about the impact of college on her life. Her statement is proof of what the books she has written convey, which is an acute awareness of the way our decisions have a reverberating effect. In her writings, it's clear that she will not let any ideas that guide our lives and shape institutions go unchecked. And she does so by humanizing the theories that dominate political, social and economic discourse. At the end side of any policy, there will be a human, and let us not ever forget that.

"To be a feminist is to take women's lives seriously," Enloe expresses with a clarity that I envy. I still shamefully struggle to counter the prejudices that

ill-informed people have about feminism. "It does not mean that if you are feminist, you will consider all women to be angels. But you will certainly make much better sense of the world if you ask yourself where we fall in the bigger scheme of things."

I look at her and I wonder what she will tell us on that day before we leave the comfort of college, when all our worries and hopes will be focused on finding a place in the market jungle. "Certainly, I will bring up the fact that you are, as I was, very privileged to be here, at this great institution." Indeed, I have been immensely lucky to be exposed to the works of brilliant minds as hers, which have totally redefined my perceptions of everything. "But you may not forget that with more privileges also comes more responsibility," she tells me. A chill of fright travels down my spine. Will any of the four hundred of us who are graduating this year be able to honor our education at Conn in the admirable way that she has? Can we be responsible? Fifty years ahead, and we perhaps will know. •

Single Stream Recycling Gives Conn an Edge in Recyclemania

DAVID SHANFIELD
STAFF WRITER

RecycleMania started last weekend, coinciding with Conn's latest addition in a campaign to become more environmentally sustainable: single-stream recycling. RecycleMania is designed to raise recycling awareness for the length of the ten-week competition, with hopes that students will continue the behavior after the tournament is over.

"The basic premise of RecycleMania, is that it's an international recycling competition between different-sized colleges and universities that takes place over the course of a couple months. It gives the school a chance to really focus its efforts and helps to kick-start the dialogue about recycling. Conn is environmentally friendly year-round, but the couple months in the spring help to focus environmental drive and stewardship," explained Andrew Greaves '13, Branford House Senator,

RecycleMania is divided into separate categories of competition. Conn cannot compete for the "Gorilla Prize" Competition Division, which measures the highest gross tonnage of recyclables, simply because the school is too small.

Elias Kauders '12 Chair of Environmental Affairs for SGA said, "When Conn first participated in RecycleMania five years ago, there were 87 participating schools." This year, there are 630.

Conn tends to do well in the "Per Capita Classic" and "Waste Minimization" divisions, al-



HANNAH PLISITIN / STAFF

though the Coast Guard Academy does even better. But this year, single-stream recycling may be enough to gain a win.

"Single-stream recycling should increase our standings," said Kauders.

Bright orange signs explain that paper, plastic, glass and metal no longer need to be separated into individual recycling bins, and can all be placed in one single bin; a single stream.

"The new system is easier, simpler and just intuitive," explained Kauders. "Students here are apathetic about recycling not because

they don't care, but because the process in the past has been unnecessarily complicated."

Kauders also explained that, in using single-stream recycling, the variety of materials that the College community can recycle has greatly expanded. Solo cups and the plastic sandwich containers that Oasis uses can now be recycled, along with scrap metals and plastics, like aluminum foil and hangers.

The College's recycling is collected from the outdoor bins by the Grounds Department, and from indoor bins by the custodial

staff. "The recycling is then taken by Grounds to the New London transfer station, and from there it goes to Willimantic Waste in CT," said Kauders.

Willimantic Waste Paper Company uses a state-of-the-art "Bollegraaf single stream system," which, according to their website, processes and separates all recyclables into sellable end products at a rate of over twenty-five tons per hour.

The Grounds Department delivers Conn's waste to Preston Incinerator in Preston, Connecticut, where the school pays to have

the trash incinerated. "We pay to dump our waste, but not our recyclables," said Jean Michaud, a Physical Plant Custodial Supervisor.

"Single-stream means a higher volume of recyclables and lower volume of trash; so fewer trips to Preston (which is farther than the NL transfer station) and less money sent to the incinerator," Kauders said.

Greaves expressed hope that with the help of single-stream recycling, Conn's "overall recycling effort will increase." •

A Guide to Grad School

MELANIE THIBEAULT
STAFF WRITER

As a second semester freshman, the idea of graduating from Conn and entering the "real world" seems about as far away as the invention of Pajama Jeans (just kidding; we're already there). Then again, I felt the same way about graduating high school when I was a freshman back in the 2006 - 2007 school year and here I am living away from home and trying to remember where my first semester of college went. So maybe my perception of time is a little screwy.

At any rate, graduate school is the furthest thing from my mind and the most pressing question I'm facing is how to get my ten-page analysis of Wuthering Heights to print in the library since my printer crapped out. Also, I've been thinking a lot about when Harris will be serving tacos again. If you were to ask me what I want to be doing with my life in three and a half years, I would probably reply with a vague answer like "I want to be a writer? For a publication? Maybe?" I honestly have no idea about the specifics.

But if the wonderful program that is Career Enhancing Life Skills, or simply CELS, has taught me anything, it's that it's never too early to start planning for the future. Before we know it, we'll all be scrambling to apply for fellowships, graduate school programs or careers in our chosen fields and we'll all be walking around in jeans made of cotton and spandex and business suits made of flannel (but don't worry, they'll look real professional for those interviews we'll have).

Now that I had a plan in mind, I had to ask, "How does a Conn student prepare for graduate school?" The answer: it depends. First off, students need to ask themselves if grad school is the right choice for them. Some students may want to jump right into a career and to hell with a graduate degree.

One such student, Zach Balomenos '14, said, "There's no way in hell I will be going to grad school after Conn. I'm going to be so burned out after this. But I suspect my parents would say otherwise."

So if you choose the other path — to continue your education post-Conn, there are many options from which to choose: MFA programs for those artistically-inclined among us, master's programs for those interested in the sciences, law school, business school and med school. There's a variety of choices depending upon what one wants to study.

TO DO LIST

1. Decide when you want to apply.
2. Pick a program, not a school, and look for related scholarships and fellowships.
3. Consider taking your GREs before you graduate and forget your math and vocabulary.
4. Be specific in your application essay: have multiple people read over it.
4. Have letters of recommendation that relate to your program of study.
5. Take advantage of your resources, available before and after graduation: CELS counselors and Associate Dean for Fellowships and Scholarships Deb Dreher.

Carly Allard '09 was a human development major at Conn who recently completed the process of applying to pre-health graduate programs. She works in the OVCS office at Conn and waited two years to apply to grad school.

"Some of the better schools look for two years of work experience, and now that I'm back at Conn, it's the perfect time to apply because I have many resources available to me, like CELS ad-

visors and old professors," Allard said.

Allard recommends applying to schools where you would consider actually living and that have the degree you are looking for. She knew she wanted to go to graduate school, but not immediately after Conn. "If I don't go now, I'll never go," she said, adding, "I'm glad for the work experience."

"Some students feel that taking time off can be a good thing to develop some more maturity, but if you want to move right on to grad school [after Conn], we don't hold it against you," said Jack Tinker, the pre-law and pre-MBA advisor at Conn.

The next step after deciding that you want to apply to graduate programs is picking where to apply. According to Deborah Dreher, graduate school advisor for Connecticut College, "Students shouldn't pick a school; they should pick a program." Some great schools may not have the best programs for one's desired field.

Dreher's job as a grad school advisor is not to advise students in program selection. That task is up to the faculty advisors who have more specific expertise in their fields. Instead, Dreher assists in the actual application process, once a student knows where he or she is applying.

Some essays are more technical, some are more personal, but as Dreher said, "The essay is critical." She edits the essays for mechanical issues, while she said the faculty should be looking at them for content. She also added, "Lots of people should be looking at the essays." She emphasizes asking many people to take a look at one's work; the more eyes that peruse the essay the better because different people will pick out different things to improve.

In addition to the essay, it is critical to have the right GPA, the right Graduate Record Exams scores (GREs), good letters of recommendation and to make sure that one is a good match for the program s/he is applying for.

In addition to those advantages, faculty mentoring, independent research and close, amiable faculty/student relationships are all helpful to the process. "Students can receive really good advice when they open up to faculty about their dreams and aspirations," said Dreher.

A big component of post-Conn success is in the hands of the students. Advice, fellowships and programs aren't going to jump out of the woodwork at anyone; students must be proactive and seek out the help of their professors and advisors.

CELS counselors are also a good resource for students. The counselors become involved and help students choose paths that would interest them in the future; they point students in the right direction in their chosen path and students can even receive advice from people in their desired field.

Dreher works with students on the applications for grad school or fellowships, which are usually due by February of senior year. "The fall is a very stressful time for seniors because they have fellowship applications and grad school applications," she said. She likes to have students work on their grad school applications over the summer between junior and senior year; students can communicate with her via Skype, e-mail and telephone.

Advising services that are offered to seniors are also offered to all alumni and according to Dreher, most advising is to recent alums. She will also help students who are considering grad programs but who may have no intention of actually making grad school definite. They work on mock applications, and if the student decides to actually apply, they will just have to tweak their work when the time comes to fill out the applications.

So to go to grad school or to not go to grad school: the decision is yours and yours alone. As for me, I still have no idea what I'm doing with my life, but I hear Harris is serving tacos tomorrow night. One problem down, one to go. •

"Photographs as Poems"



A photo of Eugene O'Neill Drive and Masonic Street approximately 30 years ago.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In keeping with his view of photography as a document of perspective, he was clear to even the desolation is an impression.

In contrast to the archival shots in the Black Line Gallery of the Provenance Center, Hendrickson's New London is indeed empty -- where photographs of the city in its heyday show throngs of sailors and townies working their way down State Street, the new collection's sole visible person is a Pfizer worker tearing recyclable materials off a house acquired via the pharmaceutical company's controversial eminent domain acquisitions.

"When I returned [after college], I saw emptiness and disappointment," he said. "People

were leaving; businesses were shutting down."

Hendrickson's bleak take on the town has often netted some criticism for its lonely editorializing.

"People say, 'the pictures are nice, but it looks like a neutron bomb went off,'" he said. "But it's not like I'm going in and erasing the people," he added.

Hendrickson also theorized that his semi-conscious attempt to leave his frames empty of people was ideological, and defended his unpopulated shots as an attempt to invite the viewer in: "If it's empty, you have to put yourself there."

But Hendrickson also seemed to think of himself as less interpretive than honest. As the de facto historian for a town with

a lot to think about, he said that the emptiness in his photographs was more representative than interpretive -- his collection is the end result of years of casual photography rather than a completed archival project.

"I'm going to be taking photographs as long as I can still drag my sorry ass around town with a camera," he said. "I try to keep my finger on the pulse by reading the papers and listening to people talk."

As for insight into where the city is headed, Hendrickson was less forthcoming.

"There's a recent optimism here, fueled by the arts," he offered, "but I'm not so smart nor so proud as to think I have any answers." •

Middle East Revolutions Affect Community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nicole Moomjy '12 was recently evacuated from Alexandria, Egypt after a brief stint studying abroad. Though Cairo was the focal point of most news sources, many parts of Egypt saw similarly intense protests. Moomjy remembered hearing about protests in Tunisia, but her program didn't stress their importance. They were generally dismissed as isolated incidents that needed no further investigation or concern.

Life went on as usual in Alexandria. Moomjy and her classmates began asking their professors and Egyptian friends whether they believed Egypt would be next. Most answered no, saying that Egypt was too big to fall to a "domino effect," although political analysts in America were already predicting the demise of Egypt's authoritarian regime. If true, this would post a serious threat to American interests in the region, since Hosni Mubarak was a key ally for America.

Around the country, Egyptians took a cue from Tunisia and initiated a revolution of their own. Because the Egyptian government blocked Internet usage by its citizens, Twitter and Facebook accounts were roaring with calls to protest the government, and videos of young Egyptians slamming the regime of Hosni Mubarak, who had been ruling Egypt for the last thirty years. These protests were meant to coincide with a holiday called Police Day, a celebration of the Egyptian National Police. Many citizens came out to protest, but there was still no feeling that the regime was in serious jeopardy.

"People were protesting against 'the government.' Mubarak's name wasn't being mentioned, for fear of imprisonment or death," said Moomjy.

Once the phone and Internet services were shut down, the citizens of Egypt began to realize that things were truly going wrong. The next day, they knew another protest would be initiated: people had nowhere to protest but the streets. The protest that followed spurred violence and began placing blame directly on Mubarak. Before leaving, Moomjy herself participated in several of these protests.

Afterward, Moomjy and her peers began hearing turmoil from their rooms in the only dormitory in the country still open. They heard sounds of guns being



Students protest in Alexandria (top); aftermath of one of many fires sparked by the revolution (bottom).

fired, fires raging, and pleads to stop the violence out of mosque loudspeakers. After a tumultuous round of evacuating the nation, Moomjy returned safely to America. She is now living back on campus and enrolled in classes for the spring semester.

On February 11, Hosni Mubarak stepped down as President of Egypt and transferred power to the military. Crowds erupted in joy, some even waving Tunisian flags. Now, as the citizens of Egypt clean Tahrir Square and contemplate the future of their nation, all we can do in America is wait to see what will happen next.

"They are shattering our expectations," said Sayej of the Egyptian people. "For me, even though there is a human cost and these things are never clean, it is very inspiring to see that people are in collective action and are organizing and breaking with all of the myths about the region being apolitical and submissive." Sayej will give a talk about the recent developments in the region on February 17th, where she will

delve further into the consequences of the revolutions in the Middle East.

The flames ignited by Bouazizi spread to the rest of the Tunisian nation and found their way into Egypt, leaving the authoritarian regimes of both countries in ashes. In the last month, the events in Tunisia and Egypt have rebutted the preconceived notion of the region as a barren wasteland for democracy. We are living history in the present.

In Sayej's words, "The stage of state consolidation is ending in the Middle East. Populism or uprisings or social groups are forming, the era of building nationalism and domination and compliance is over."

This is the post-Islamic Middle East, where the people are not fighting against an external power, but are fighting for their human rights and completing the puzzle of nationhood. The paradigm of study for the Middle East will be in a constant flux for years to come. Professors, start revising your syllabi. •

OPINIONS

On the Oddly Blurred Boundaries between Facebook and Life

JOHN SHERMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

The saying goes that nothing has truly happened until it's "Facebook official"—relationships, friendships, and, in the inexorable march of social media into every stage of life, engagements, marriages and birth announcements. All meet first with veracity beneath the comforting, steel blue banner of Facebook. Everything of apparent social note is set into the electronic record through photo albums, event pages and status updates. The entire exercise is tantamount to scrap-booking for the Information Age.

In one of its more recent renaissances, Facebook added a link on everyone's page that reads "View Friendship." On the other side of this startling hyperlink, years-long real-life friendships of incalculable emotional depth and history can be reduced to a single page of photos and wall posts, common interests and events attended—you know, in case you'd forgotten.

All shared data is sorted and nested in slick JavaScript, crisply delineating the mutual online awareness here identified as "Friendship." Oh, the clarity! Searchable and catalogued, the traces of real human connection read like logbook entries. How else to remember the past? How else, indeed, to truly View Friendship?

Somehow, the View Friendship view of friendship is consistent with an increasingly ubiquitous attitude we have toward information: *less, faster*. String theory, Ursa Minor, Ganymede (disambiguation) and every wife of Henry VIII are a correct spelling away on Wikipedia (Bowlin? Boelyn?), while Urban Dictionary abates our confusion over such linguistic vanguards as "boregasm" and "pizzarrhea." In all manner of search engine and database, we consistently and unapologetically prefer summary to elaboration, essence to context. Depth is not our long suit, but breadth we have in spades.



John Sherman
is confused.

2 seconds ago • Like • Comment

Mixed playing card metaphors aside, we generally have a cocktail party understanding of a number of things—the most recent episode of *The Office*, congressional warfare over Healthcare and DADT, a handful of required-reading novels from high school—that is to say, we know enough to pretend we know more, and more often than not this exactly how much we care to know. Certainly we are

Somehow, the View Friendship view of friendship is consistent with an increasingly ubiquitous attitude we have toward information: less, faster.

not unacademic. Why else would we be here, at this liberal arts college? As a generation, we are not uncurious about the world. Why else would we find Wikipedia so indispensable? *Because it tells us about the world, but not too much.*

This is the double-edged sword of what may be termed "cultural abbreviation"—the compression of information such that we absorb more, while in reality retaining infinitely less. This makes for dynamic small talk, but big talk suffers big time. If *less, faster* is the wave of the future, *more, slower* seems as current as the 1996 *World Book*. Far be it from me to decry the decline of the encyclopedia set, but it seems that the closer at hand we find information, the less we take from it. Easy come, easy go. What has *less, faster* done to us?

Facebook friendship is a backlit LCD facsimile of a life experience, constructed in a virtual world in which fifty photos

of Francine in Venice are more real than Francine's journey, physically or emotionally, in which the Facebook status ":(" and the News Feed update "Chris is Single" heal more than a pint of Phish Food and a tear-stained pillow.

On the other side of the same coin, it's hard to deny the assertive power of certain Facebook events (such as they are). The addition of "In a relationship" to one's profile may very well be the most concrete validation a relationship will ever receive. A Facebook "Like" of something is an equally straightforward vote of confidence, and its categorical lack of ambiguity is refreshing in an otherwise confusing world of minimally punctuated text messages and the endless internal debate between ":(" and ";) " in all manner of electronic flirting.

Truly, I only wish there were more things one could Facebook Like: specific people, entire friendships, times of day. These, sadly, remain the purview of real-life Like-ing—Lifebook, as it were.

As much as we might wish it, concreteness is a pipe dream in Lifebook. My "status" in Lifebook is never as clear as my status on Facebook, and unprogramming speed dials and burning love letters will never match the cool, passive certainty of unfriendship. On Facebook, closure is a button to push, and new friendships come with photographic evidence.

Inasmuch as Facebook began is an extension of life, life has become in some ways an extension of Facebook—technology imitates life, imitating technology. Cyclical, tautological, recursive—John Sherman is confused. (See how much sense that makes?) •

GOP Pledge To (Destroy) America

DEVIN COHEN
CONTRIBUTOR

Congratulations, Republicans! You've managed to do it again. Even in the face of adversity and what seemed two years ago to be an impossible task, you've somehow regained the House of Representatives during a Democratic administration. I'll bet this new legislative arrangement makes you want to party like its 1996, right? It's evident that the media is having a fiesta with these headlines, imparting such labels unto the GOP as "rejuvenated," "confident" and "determined," even going so far as to define them as "turbocharged." That's right, "turbocharged." In a bizarre twist, though, I find this last description to be shockingly accurate.

The Republicans do have high voltage rhetoric and a newfound position of superiority within the House, but this energy is in no way indicative of a new direction or a fresh perspective on this nation's controversial issues. They are still the same dilapidated GOP they were prior to their resurgence of power, who still in good conscience cannot correctly prioritize this nation's problems and prescribe any effective remedies. In terms of imaginative capacity, this "turbocharged" party is a cricket that somehow got strapped to a rocket, gaining enough velocity and accumulating enough interest to somehow impede upon a progressive legislative process.

The GOP's repetition of ill-conceived ideas has given birth to an adulterated truth that many Americans are considering credible and passively buying into. Make no mistake though, the new Republican Party is only transforming themselves as much the new Hezbollah did: relying on fresh faces and assertive language to distract the public from their unalterable stances and unwavering interests.

John Boehner, our new Speaker of the House, exemplifies the replacement of persons over ideas like no one else. The Ohio Republican with David Hasselhoff's tan and the political capital of the *Baywatch* cast was recently quoted saying that, "For too long, Washington has been doing what's best for Washington and not what's best for America. Tonight that begins to change." This comes from a man who has been spotted handing out checks from big tobacco corporations on the House floor, a man who is so entrenched in representing the interests of big business that it is shocking he is considered a legitimate politician. He lacks eloquence, a clearly articulated course of action and, apparently, Kleenex. He might be crying for any of several reasons.

Maybe he has been crestfallen ever since someone divulged his true political identity, or someone is continually whispering the idiom "social democracy" in his ear or reminding him that his favorite activity, golf, is not actually a sport. But most likely the tears emanating from his perpetually perplexed puppy eyes are tears of happiness, as he and fellow compatriots such as obstructionist Senator Mitch McConnell have managed to hijack America and put the country into an elaborate holding pattern.

Last November, a discombobulated America beseeched the government to provide something prescriptive. In response, the new management has conjured up a "Pledge to America." The GOP's newest legislative agenda is counterintuitive at best and unpatriotic at worst. This plan recently posited by Republicans will not only cause stagnation and deter long-term growth on a massive level, but negatively and disproportionately affect American citizens who need assistance most while lining the pockets of the recession-proof class. The political parody that is the GOP must be exposed for what it truly is: irresolute, irresponsible and irrational for working off an agenda that will irrevocably damage the American future.

First and foremost, the GOP can't seem to comprehend that taxation and government spending are two components that are absolutely necessary for the state to function. As our nation has grown, our national government has increased in size to cater to the needs of more Americans with greater demands. Although it

Don't Do That!

Kiefer Roberts' open letters to the campus community

KIEFER ROBERTS
COLUMNIST

Dear Couple Rounding What I Believe is Third Base in the 1941 room,

Yes, I just reverted back to using "bases" to refer to your sexual activity. How childish and tacky, right? SO different from your *Titanic* steamy-car-scene-style sexy time in public. I'm all about showing others who you are with and whom you love (keeps the hounds and stage-5 clingers at bay), but not many people care to see you doing it while sitting in Oasis waiting for your popcorn chicken.

Then again, I will admit and say that I get it. Love and music (and musical references galore in this article) are in the air, you guys! Hell, it's Valentine's Day! And just when you thought the bitterly cold weather would keep people across campus from mingling, this is actually exactly the time of year when couples get closer and the bachelors and bachelorettes across campus start revving up their engines.

Seeing as winter will soon be over, and April showers bring May flowers

(and, thankfully, free STD testing), I figured I'd make it rain some advice on both Valentine's Day and on how to continue playing this crazy game I call "Releasing Sexual Frustration in a Restricting College Environment with Crazy and Unrealistic Expectations about Hooking Up"... I'm still working on a more succinct name. Onward!

First and foremost, if you're feeling as though you *need* to be hooking up with someone, you don't. The last thing you want is to get yourself into a situation where you really aren't *that* into a person. I mean, if you wouldn't Facebook him/her to show a friend you don't con-

The happy couple is rare, but exists, which is a nice thing to know in a place as small as Conn.

sider your best friend, but a close friend (you know the one — s/he's hyper judgmental and would be all "Oh, Got it. I know them," thereby relinquishing any full-on judgment until you weren't at dinner with your core group of friends, which is *exactly* where he/she would all of sudden bring up the topic. "By the way, what the HELL is [your name] doing with ____?! Jesus!"), then sit down, eat the chocolate of your choice and couple it with some Bailey's if need be, because hooking up with someone is not about the sound of settling.

To all the single women with a man who might not always be the best but tries, I suggest all you ladies leave your man at home. After all, the club is full of ballers with their pockets full-blown. Or at least, their hair is in a full blow-out. Nonetheless, wear something black and get your dance on — eventually the music (or the DJ) will have you falling in love again.

To the recently jaded by experience, I offer you some advice from the little-known Baltimore MC Kid Sister. In her song "Telephone" she puts it simply: "I got 900 anytime minutes, you get

NONE." Here, Kid Sister teaches us an important lesson: priorities.

The happy couple is rare, but exists, which is a nice thing to know in a place as small as Conn.

The biggest thing I see and hear is the ability to let the feelings or expectations of others get in the way of one's happiness. Don't let this happen. Get away as often as is necessary to escape the unscrupulous judgments and enjoy each other for Christ's sake.

Also, ladies: not all guys here want to just hook up with you. As hard as that is to believe, start looking around a little bit more. The entire "there are no good guys at Conn" routine is getting older and older by the day. Sure, some are taken, but not all of them. If you're not attracted to the person, that's one thing, but the excuse of all guys being complete assholes is a weak one. I'm hearing all and seeing some, and thinking that blame is a convenient excuse for lack of initiative. Not all gents are womanizers, not all gents are Toxic, and if you seek, I'm sure you'll find a dynamite guy. Okay, that last one is blaring with music. Anyone catch anything? Bueller?

I leave you, potential and current love birds, with a few final thoughts: don't Facebook-friend close friends of exes with whom you've had a particularly bad breakup. Truth is, their friends probably don't like you, and it looks/feels really tacky. Don't spit game at people across large public spaces. I've heard (verbatim), "Wanna stop by later and say hello? We can keep it innocent!" yelled across Harris. Are you *serious*? Step your game up, and try some flowers. Lastly, whenever, wherever with whomever — protection is key. Take that how you want. I don't work at the health center. Oh, and stop peeing the bed with other people in it. It's gross, it's strange because you're an adult and it's costly on comforters.

Xoxoxo,
Kiefer •



Republicans' Pledge To (Destroy) America

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

seems rational to augment taxes and spending to allow the government to achieve something other than being a placid figurehead, Republicans portray these two governmental elements as invasive and unconstitutional even though the state depends on them to exist. Putting this relationship in terms that a conservative can understand, it's similar to wanting a healthy economy but telling every citizen that they can't acquire monetary resources, and if they have them, they can't purchase anything. Taxes and state spending aren't demonic Democratic devices used to strip you of your rights, but essential factors that buttress the ability of the government to protect your rights.

We should not characterize taxes as government theft of our income, but the rather the sacrifice we make to live in a nation that protects and provides for us. For generations this country has been built upon the sacrifice of its citizens, and we cannot continue with the current trend of asking nothing from Americans. We cannot reap that which we do

aire spends on his next Ferrari or mink coat will stimulate the businesses of average Americans or have any formidable effect on industries that are in trouble, taking away the only excuse not to tax our upper echelon heavily.

How can Republicans lobby for reduced taxes on businesses and the wealthy when ninety-five percent of the wealth of this nation is controlled by close to one percent of its population? How about we suck all the oxygen out the room and try to light a match? Because this is exactly what they are attempting. Their failure to properly implement constructive taxes is fittingly accompanied by unwillingness to spend money to stimulate our nation. Historically, has it ever been a solution for the government to cut spending to reduce the deficit in the midst of an economic recession? In addition to ironically displaying a failure in our educational system (as most Republicans seemed to have not taken or passed an American history class), the GOP's actions illustrate a failure to enact a policy that has facilitated our ascent out of tough economic times in the past: spending today to save tomorrow.



President Barack Obama greets Speaker of the House John Boehner immediately before the 2011 State of the Union address

IMAGE FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A PLEDGE TO AMERICA



a new governing agenda built on

THE PRIORITIES OF OUR NATION,
THE PRINCIPLES WE STAND FOR



AMERICA'S FOUNDING VALUES

The cover of a print edition of congressional Republicans' new agenda.

no sow.

When applied correctly, taxes can be used to influence certain behavior, discourage others and generate positive norms for Americans to follow. Taxing gasoline, cars that get less than 20 MPG, office buildings that leave their lights on at night, fast food and unhealthy food would bring in money that reduces our deficit (the number one Republican priority) and reinforce positive tendencies that are beneficial to our collective well being.

The GOP, however, would never tax these items, as it would mean Americans having to be accountable for their futures and actually put in the effort to change. Instead they propose and uphold massive tax cuts that they believe will alleviate our economic problems. One foundation of the Republican "Pledge to America" is "stop job-killing tax hikes." If referring to small businesses, I couldn't agree more. I believe that small business owners should receive tax breaks and assistance, but big business should not receive the same benefits as mom and pop stores. Sorry but not sorry that the government would be taking a higher percentage out of your annual multi-million dollar revenues to ensure the health of this nation and maintain its needs.

Big business will always do what's in the best interest of their shareholders, and that is why our government must do right by us and tax wealth when it becomes exorbitant. This makes the continued implementation of the Bush-era tax cuts even more incomprehensible, especially when we saw how the Republicans employed them as a precondition for their cooperation. It is highly unlikely the money that a billion-

Deficit spending was invented for a specific purpose: to jump start the economy and provide millions with jobs, each of whom would subsequently use their income to consume and inject money back into the circular system of capital. Instead of using this strategy, one that has stood the test of time and history, the GOP has decided to rollback the deficit (as if this were Wal-Mart) to the levels of 2008, consequently making the eyes of economists roll back into their skulls.

One can't be completely averse to scaling back the deficit, as it is important for America to invest in a sustainable future, but it must be done in the correct manner. Republicans could have built their idea of reforming malpractice suits by additionally reforming court appeals processes, which extraneously use millions of dollars each year. We could also stop using billions of tax dollars to pursue, try and incarcerate non-violent drug offenders, and instead consider cutting back gratuitous, hegemonically-instituted programs like abstinence-only sex education (which has a billion dollar annual budget). These practical cutbacks serve as simple examples of how to wisely diminish our deficit, thus freeing some of our nation's money to invest in alternative energy, infrastructure, small business, smart business and a bright American future. The probability of this actually happening? About the same chance as Newt Gingrich opening up a chain of soup kitchens for the homeless.

The methods that Republicans are employing to bring down the deficit in these tumultuous economic times are quite possibly the most inflammatory since the Reagan era. The programs this

so-called "Pledge" plans to cut are the ones that provide aid to Americans in the most vulnerable positions, subtracting nearly one hundred billion dollars from our budget, as well as any dignity the Right may have had before these provisions.

The first system to come under attack is government pension systems, although they make up only a fraction of national and state budgets. Apparently, Republicans want our elderly to work until they die, stating out of the blue that a system fully functioning for over fifty years is no longer working. But wait, it gets a whole lot richer. The Right is also aiming to cut programs such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which subsidizes heating costs for low-income households, the Women, Infants and Children Program that provides a million pregnant women with assistance and, the icing on the cake, cutting 1.4 billion dollars from special education.

The message these cuts sends is clear: the poor can freeze, pregnant women can starve and disabled Americans don't deserve an opportunity for advancement. These insensitive, insulting actions exemplify how much Republicans truly care about protecting our inherent rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

This must be why the Right

thinks that a new improved healthcare system, protecting average Americans from extortion by for-profit healthcare companies and insuring thirty-two million new people is unthinkable. But as calamitous as it may be to consider helping the desperate and the despondent, this bill helps what Republicans love

The message these budget cuts sends is clear: the poor can freeze, pregnant women can starve and disabled Americans don't deserve an opportunity for advancement.

most: our economy. Healthcare reform implicitly provides myriad economic benefits, yet Conservatives are unable to perceive this measure as preventative medicine. The benefits of having a healthy and vigorous American population far outweigh the cost of flipping the bill to necessitate this change. And in the long run we actually SAVE MONEY. A healthier population means that less money will be spent in emergency rooms, hospitals will be less crowded and costly medical procedures will happen less frequently. All this will happen against the backdrop of a more productive and driven American populace. This bill appeals to

those of all political persuasions, even those who are more concerned with the economy than the general welfare of Americans. To oppose or attempt to repeal this legislation (as Republicans have) is contradictory, ill conceived, and unpatriotic. God forbid Democrats dare slap that emblem on the Right.

Republicans made a "Pledge to America," but what they're pledging to do is still a mystery. It's something I'd rather not see come to fruition. They won't tax anything, they won't spend anything and yet they claim to protect the rights of our underprivileged constituency. The Grand Old Party is yet again showcasing its grand old detachment from compassion and empathy. They are pledging to do nothing in the face of adversity, pledging not to take advantage of a golden opportunity to rebuild this nation, pledging to stand silent in the wake of inequality. With so much of our future at stake, we must pledge to oppose these statutes with every ounce of energy we have. It is our duty, our responsibility. The Republicans have banished pragmatism and humanity from governance. If we do not act, we are simply pledging to see our nation decline and perish through eyes blinded by indifference. •

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Single-Stream Sabotage: RecycleManiacs Exposed

NICK RODRICKS
CONTRIBUTOR

Connecticut College is a small community in which secrets are scarce. Rumors spread like H1N1—our private lives are all but communal and as a result little escapes our ever-judging eyes. Yet for the past five years our col-

lege has hosted a secret. It lurks in our halls veiled by pleasant signs for RecycleMania and single stream recycling. An average student recycles his bottle as an act of courtesy, with little knowledge of the hyper-competitive world he is fueling. Few know its true nature, but to those who do, the world of competitive recycling is

a one-way street. Once you start recycling you never go back.

RecycleMania is what started it all. Conn began participating in 2006 and since then has continually been near the top, placing in the top five in the country in the "Targeted Materials—Bottles and Cans" competition in 2009. Few know about the year-long grind of the competitive recycling circuit, the long hours spent collecting, the dumpster dives and sabotages of competitors' receptacles.

"I remember pouring an entire truckload of dirty tissues into receptacles at Duke University," says Caith McKee '12. "It was a low point for me, but I've never been out-recycled." McKee has since taken his recycling talents to Frieberg University in Germany to test the European circuit. "Some people think that Snooki is trashy. You should have seen Duke by the time I was done with it."

Most consider RecycleMania the Stanley Cup of the recycling world, but day-long speed competitions are sprouting up all over the country. "I participate in fifteen to twenty recycling tournaments throughout the year," said Annie Motch '11 in September 2010. "I've been training all summer for this." The competitions involve events such as the loose-leaf scramble (competitors chase a piece of paper caught in wind currents), the can crush (self explanatory), bottle scrounger and Motch's personal favorite, the obscure recyclable challenge.

"You wouldn't believe some of the random things that can go in a recycling bin," she said.

Some students may have noted the recent addition of single stream recycling bins on campus. Carra Cheslin '11, the student RecycleMania coordinator, says she along with Jean Michaud (Head of Custodial Services), Elias Kauders (SGA Chair of Environmental Affairs) and Amy Cabaniss (Conn's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator) have been quite "involved in the goings-on regarding the switch to single stream recycling."

Prior to the switch to single stream, students were often seen blankly staring at receptacles attempting to discern which was appropriate for his or her bottle or piece of cardboard. All of this

*Few know its true nature,
but to those who do,
the world of competitive
recycling is a one-way street.
Once you start recycling you
never go back.*

confusion posed serious issues for recycling enthusiast: bottles and cans, valuable points, wasted away in trash cans after being improperly sorted.

"I think single stream recycling will really boost our competitive edge," says competitive recycler Anders Nielsen '12. "If we limit the sorting we have to do, well that's a leg up on our rivals. It's almost too easy."

From a practical perspective, single stream recycling is intended to decrease the amount of sorting that needs to be done on campus by students. Instead all recyclables are now put in one receptacle and taken by the grounds

staff to the New London transfer station. All trash leaving the campus is either in a clear bag for recyclables or a gray bag for waste. According to Jean Michaud, the more recyclables we have, the lower the cost will be. "We pay to dump our trash, but not our recyclables." Single-stream should mean a higher flow of recyclables and thus lower overall trash costs. Overall cost is an essential part of intercollegiate competition.

Michaud says the new system shouldn't change much for the custodial staff, many of whom are retired competitors themselves. "Really from the custodians perspective, it shouldn't change much," said Michaud. "Having a new standard of labels means help in identifying and educating the campus for recycling and waste." Increasing the ease of sorting is a shot at increasing the points the school receives. The recyclables are ultimately sent to Willimantic Waste in Willimantic, Connecticut, where the results are tallied. In such cutthroat intercollegiate competition, every bottle counts.

With RecycleMania just kicking off and the addition of single-stream recycling to the school, it seems that recycling has become a top priority on campus. Connecticut College has a reputation to protect and the recycling community plans to help it to do just that. "In the long run, the whole campus is competing. We're just the glory hogs who get it done," said McKee. "We may not win many NESCAC championships, but we won't be out-recycled." Glory doesn't come cheap, but at Connecticut College, an empty



This sign introduces single-stream recycling to Conn's residential houses. The rules are rather simple: everything in one bin.

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ENLIGHTENMENT THROUGH BOOKS

(A Student Initiated Program to Build a School in Rural Pakistan)

Connecticut College students have proven to be passionate about a number of issues including, awareness on climate change, increasing humanitarian aid in Africa, protesting the U.S. presence in Afghanistan, etc. This is seen with the 30+ activist clubs and organizations on campus. Obviously the various goals of these individuals and clubs are magnificent, but the slight differences in objectives lead to separation. What is the reason Conn students take on such initiatives? To create a better world (I know cliché, but stay with me). What I want to do is unify the activism on campus to achieve one large goal.

WHAT?

Enlightenment Through Books (E.T.B.) is a student-initiated program (not club) to build and finance a Connecticut College sister school in rural Pakistan by the summer of 2012.

WHO?

E.T.B. is meant to increase the educated population in Pakistan, while steering the youth away from madrasas, radical Islamic schools run by the Taliban.

WHY?

Increasing the educated youth, especially in an area of the world where only 45% of the population is literate (Source: Pakistan Ministry of Education), will help solve many extreme issues, such as extremism, sexism, and classism.

HOW?

Raise \$50,000 by March 2012 to build and finance a school through the NGO Developments in Literacy (DIL), whose focus is building safe balanced schools in Pakistan.

WHEN?

If the target sum is raised by March 2012, expected construction of the school will be August 2012. If the target sum is not raised, then fundraising will continue through the Yalla Bina club.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This program is already underway. Officially E.T.B. is apart of the club Yalla Bina (commonly known as the Arabic Club) but other student groups such as Human Rights Now and STAND have already started communication to plan fundraising events and coordinate efforts to reach this goal. The program is looking for students with grant writing experience, interest in fundraising, or who just want to get involved.

Intrigued?

Want to know more?

Please come to a Yalla Bina meeting on **Tuesday nights at 9:00 pm** in the Knowlton common room or email Karam.Sethi@conncoll.edu or Ryan.Dillon@conncoll.edu.

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The Road to the Oscars, Part II

Mr. Mays examines two movies that tackle technology



PHOTO FROM WEB

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, surrounded by his costars, in *Inception*, one of this writer's least favorite picks for Best Picture.

JERELL MAYS STAFF WRITER

The Oscars are fast approaching and my goal of watching all ten best picture nominees before February 27 is still at the top of my priority list. So how far have I gotten? In the course of the week, I managed to watch two more nominees, bringing me to a grand total of four out of ten! Yes, I'm aware that at this rate I won't even be close to finished before Oscar night rolls around and, to be perfectly honest, the internet has proven to be a significantly less reliable source of films than most anti-pirating ads would have me think. Illegality aside, however, I'm staying positive and hoping to knock out six more films by the end of the week.

On a related note, due to an inefficient immune system I spent a very strange Wednesday afternoon slipping in and out of fever dreams rather than attending class. The reason I mention this is because despite critical acclaim, I still preferred my fever dreams to the first movie on the agenda: *Inception*.

Let me be very clear: I did not really like this movie. Now, I was looking forward to *Inception* for a while, particularly after Peter Travers practically built a shrine around it in his review. Watching *Inception* reminded me of why it's always good to see a movie for yourself before you form an opinion on it. For all its supposed depth, *Inception* is actually pretty damn shallow. This was supposed to be an action movie that made you think, but all I was thinking while watching was "Oh look, Ellen Page's character wandered unnecessarily into the scene again." and "Snowmobiles? Really?" Let's not get caught up on little stuff, however — let's talk about the nominations.

Inception is being nominated for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Original Score, Best...jeez this list is long. Okay, it's got eight nominations, let's just focus on what matters most. If *Inception* gets Best Picture, I will make the reasonable assumption that Christopher Nolan sent Leo into the Academy's collective dreams to plant the idea there. This movie is OKAY at best, and I feel like that's being generous. It does not deserve a Best Picture nomination at all in my opinion, and if it weren't for the expansion to ten nominees it probably wouldn't even be getting one.

Best Original Screenplay? Oh, you've got to be kidding me, there were more clichés flying from Joseph Gordon-Levitt's mouth in the first fifteen minutes of this movie than there were from the rest of the characters combined. The mediocre writing in this movie is baffling. Why wasn't it written better?

But I'm being critical; what does *Inception* do right, you might be wondering? It's got Best Visual Effects on lockdown, and Best Cinematography is also a strong probability. I can't even recall the score though, so sorry Hans Zimmer (the poor guy has been trying to snag another Oscar since *The Lion King*).

Aside from that, I really don't know what people saw in this movie. I mean, sure the cast is incredibly charming and well-dressed and the budget is through the roof, but the characters are underdeveloped and it runs a full half-hour longer than necessary. Don't get me wrong, it's a visionary film and I feel like some great films will come about because of it, but it's ultimately pretty forgettable in my opinion.

Now for a film that was not forgettable. Yes, that's right, I'm about to start praising *The Social Network*. Why? Because *The Social Network* is a very good movie. I wouldn't say it's the greatest movie I've ever seen, or that it's the voice of the digital age, or that I need to see it again and again, but I will say that I thoroughly enjoyed it from beginning to end. The writing is so razor-sharp I'm willing

to bet you could stick a butter knife in-between the pages of the script and pull out a sword.

There are no bad performances here, not even from Brenda Song. Yes, it plays god with the facts and it's probably the most overhyped movie in years, but Brenda Song is good in this movie! Do you see the gravity of that? As for Best Actor, I think Jesse Eisenberg definitely deserves the nod and part of me wants him to get it, but I don't think he will. The Academy's no doubt got a crush on Mr. Darcy — I mean, Colin Firth — and I think we all know how they feel about giving Best Actor to anyone under thirty, unless you're Adrian Brody.

The Social Network is the best bet for Best Picture that I've seen so far. In fact, I'd say it's my first choice, not because it's my favorite movie of the year, but because I honestly think it deserves it. The whole film was simply

executed so well on just about every front. Of course keep in mind that as a male aged 18-35, I'm required by law to love anything David Fincher puts his hands on, due to his direction of the movie *Fight Club*. As I mentioned last week, *The Social Network* has Best Adapted Screenplay written all over it, and it's got a great chance of Best Director, Best Film Editing, and Best Original Score (even if you don't like Nine Inch Nails, Trent Reznor does a good job here).

Six movies to go! That sounds like a lot, but don't lose hope. I have an unnamed and legal movie source for the coming week, so my final predictions are on the way. Also: I apologize if *True Grit* ends up being so awesome that I forsake watching the other movies out of pointlessness. Don't blame me; blame the Coen Brothers. •

CC Gaming Club Gets Magical

MATTHEW ROLIN CONTRIBUTOR

The Gaming Club was gathered around the couches outside of the 1941 Room for the semester's first meeting, eagerly waiting to pitch ideas for events. Club President Dan Whittington '11 opened up the meeting with a declaration: "We're going to be hosting a promotional *Magic* event." For a moment, as the statement sunk in, the group became uncharacteristically hushed. Normally, the club tends to be highly democratic when deciding which games should be used for an event. Members throw out ideas, suggestions, arguments and the occasional chair in an attempt to turn their favorite game into an event. This event is different. It marks the first time an organization has come to the Gaming Club to host an event. Wide-eyed club members watched as Whittington unwrapped one of the many packages sent to the school, giving the event an air of legitimacy.

Wizards of The Coast, a prominent table-top gaming company known primarily for *Magic: The Gathering* and *Dungeons and Dragons*, sent Connecticut College a promotional package with over 300 premade decks for people to play with. *Magic: The Gathering* is a collectible card game (CCG). The goal of the game is to defeat the opposing player. Players buy random packs of cards and use them to build decks. Cards represent spells, and are used to summon creatures and other kinds of magic. The rules can be quite complex but the basic idea — attack the other player with monsters while casting spells to hinder your opponent's abilities — is a bit

simpler. New cards are constantly being developed by Wizards to keep the game fresh.

There's no clear reason how Connecticut College was chosen by Wizards. "They mailed it to Jeanette Williams, and she just passed it along. I had no idea whatsoever," Whittington said. Nevertheless, the Gaming Club seemed happy to host the event. A wave of excitement went through the club's members when Whittington revealed the news. Wide eyes looked on as he took out a small box full of decks, one of many sent to the school.

While the Gaming Club has held tabletop events in the past, it has shied away from collectible card games like *Magic*. In the past, club members have used meetings to find other *Magic* players, and have had small meet-ups in the past. However, the club has never had the resources to put on an event like this. "Logistically, it would be a nightmare without a promotional kit," Whittington said. "Getting people interested and involved is a concern already. If people had to bring their own decks, it would require a level of expertise that this event could not provide."

"I think it's probably going to be one of our most accessible events because we were provided with all the necessary materials to put it on," said member Kim Marker '13. With our video game tournaments we can only accommodate a few people at a time but with this we can cater to a larger number of people."

The event could be seen as one big advertisement for Wizards. According to Whittington, "We got this stuff free from Wizards of The Coast, and Wizards wants us to give

us this stuff away for free. We're certainly proud to host the event. Ultimately, it is an opportunity to play *Magic* with no prerequisites for free. Advertisements or no, it should still be really fun."

Club members are especially hopeful that the event will draw new people to the game and expand the campus's *Magic*-playing community. People who have never played, or even heard of the game need not worry. "It's a teaching event," Whittington continues. "This is an opportunity to play and learn for free. Rules shouldn't be a barrier, and there will be a system put in place for people who haven't played in a long time or have never played before."

"I always thought [*Magic*] was too complicated to just jump into," said Marker. "I'm happy that it's an introductory event rather than a hardcore tournament."

Whittington's goal is that the event be fun and relaxed, not super competitive. There is no entry fee. Everybody gets to keep the cards they get, and there will be other prizes as well.

Though details are still being hammered out, the general plan is to choose a format that allows everybody to play as long as they want. "No one is going to get kicked out [for losing]," Whittington says. In addition to play guides Wizards provided, veteran players will be there to help and teach new players. The event looks like it will be a win/win for Gaming Club, the campus, and Wizards of The Coast.

The event will be held February 25 in the Alice Johnson Room (Cro) at 4:30. •

The Vagina Monologues: A Breakthrough in Consciousness

A look inside Conn's annual vagina-friendly event

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The show reminds women like Eliza Bryant '12, another director, that "vaginas are *not* gross," and that we can, and should, talk about them.

This play addresses topics that are still considered taboo and forces the viewer to think about things that make him or her uncomfortable. Professor Boyd called it the "elephant in the room effect." We all know about gender inequality, we all know about violence toward women, but we are too afraid to vocalize this knowledge or these feelings. This play allows women to speak out about mistreatment, to give voices to their vaginas, and suggest that, "If my vagina could talk, it would say..." This play reminds women of the right to speak up for themselves, to vocalize what they feel and not to be ashamed of it.

I asked some of the girls what their favorite pieces were, and an overwhelming majority cited "The Flood," a comical performance about an old woman's deteriorating (to the point of being nonexistent) relationships with her vagina. Other standouts were "My Vagina Was My Village," a somber piece about a Bosnian rape camp, and "Reclaiming Cunt," a "joyous and orgasmic" tribute to the word "cunt."

The *Monologues* bring women around the world together, in addition to being liberating for each woman personally. Laura Newman '11, as well as every one of the directors and performers I spoke with, noted the camaraderie and strong relationships developed among the cast members. Cast bonding is a necessary element of *The Vagina Monologues* and it includes its own committee during the weeks preceding



Members of last year's Vagina Monologues. This year's show will be held this Saturday, February 19, at 2:00 and 7:30 in Evans Hall.

the show. The building of such strong bonds is not surprising when we consider the way that these women completely let their

guards down and open up to each other, and to their audiences, and speak out about words and topics that are usually whispered.

As Mollie Doherty '12 reminded us, the play features the same monologues year after year (in fact, Ms. Ensler's only require-

ment for students performing the play is that they not change anything), and she believes that one of the biggest challenges of being a director is to make the monologues unique to the women performing and directing them.

Audiences this year can expect a performance as varied as the cast itself, which includes Boyd and Professor Mab Segrest performing the monologue, "I Was There in the Room," a performance that should be particularly poignant, as both of women experienced seeing their children being born. I asked Boyd what she hopes the audience will take from seeing this performance next Saturday, and she replied, "freedom... and courage."

Conn's performance of *The Vagina Monologues* is a fundraiser, and 100% of the proceeds will go toward helping women in Haiti, and the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut. Keep your eye out for V-Week events this week (including a teach-in about who this play benefits). •

V-Week Calendar of Events

- Monday, February 14: Teach-in highlighting Eve Ensler's voyage with the Vagina Monologues and spotlight on the Women of Haiti ~ 8PM, Women's Center
- Tuesday, February 15: Roundtable discussion with representatives from the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut and the Sexual Assault Resource Center ~ 5PM, Women's Center
- Tuesday, February 15: "When did you decide to be straight?" discussing heterosexism with the Diversity Peer Educators 8:30PM, Harkness Common Room
- Wednesday, February 16: Panel discussion with Conn faculty speaking about the impact of the earthquake on women in Haiti and women's issues on a global level ~ 4:30PM, Cro's Nest
- Thursday, February 17: Vagina Community Fair (the {V}aginafair) to teach students how to be healthy and happy mentally, physically, and socially ~ 12-4PM, Cro CONNECTION Hall
- Thursday, February 17: Vagina Mic, an open-mic night in collaboration with the Spoken Word group Reflexion 6PM, Coffee Grounds
- Friday, February 18: Green Dot Training, training students to be activists against sexual and social violence on campus, in collaboration with Darcie Folsom ~ 10AM-4PM, Cro's Nest
- Saturday, February 19: The Vagina Monologues ~ 2PM and 7:30PM, Evans Hall

24-Hour Theatre

Wig & Candle's fast-paced theater experiment draws standing room-only crowds



TANAHA SIMON / PHOTO EDITOR



TOP: Ben Yahle CGA '11, Matthew Rolin '13, and Victoria Gordon '13 in Alex Marz '13's "Flex Pipe," directed by Kristin Kerr '11.
BOTTOM: Cassie Haines '14, Dann Goldman '13, and Grant Linder '13 in Grant Jacoby '13's "Thumbs Up," directed by Racine Oxtoby '11.

Intergalactic Rollerskating

Hidden in Groton, Galaxy Roller Rink offers rentals, rides, and helpful strangers

LUKE CARNEAL
STAFF WRITER

As my friends and I pulled into the Galaxy Roller Rink parking lot in Groton, I had no idea what to expect. My only previous knowledge of roller rink culture had been informed by the T.I.-starring 2006 film *A.T.L.*, which, as the name suggests, takes place in Atlanta, Georgia. I knew that Groton's roller scene would be entirely different.

While the outside of Galaxy resembles a storage warehouse facility, once you get past the drab exterior, you will find a world inside teeming with colors, flashing lights, "hot jamz" and an eclectic group of skaters stylishly going around in circles.

After paying the reasonable \$2 student entrance fee (Wednesday night is College Night, with \$4 off entry with a student ID), plus another \$2 for rollerblade rentals, my friends and I laced up and inched our way to the track, intent on keeping our balance in front of these seasoned veterans. As I stumbled awkwardly onto the track, it felt like merging onto a major highway for the first time: I was both excited and scared out of my wits.

It was a busy night, with at least 100 people on the rink, and my friends and I seemed to be the only beginners in the whole joint. I watched as a young man dashed recklessly right towards a wall, only to casually jump four feet in the air right before contact and literally skate onto the concrete for a second or two, before kicking off.

And the show was far from over. I looked over to see another skilled Galaxy patron, frozen in the middle of the floor in a breakdance position, with his skates jutting over his head and his arms holding his body up in a handstand. A roller rink is not limited to the art of skating. There is always room for b-boying.

While this exposition of talent was unfolding before us, my friends and I were having some difficulties mastering the form and technique that is required of an expert "blader." "It's like ice skating, but there aren't as many walls to use for stopping," Anna Williams '13 explained. "This can create problems." Indeed, being able to brake on roller blades is decidedly more difficult than with ice skates.

As Annie Cutler '13 discovered, sometimes the use of another human must take the place of a wall. This rookie skater found that crashing into another skater was a very effective way of bringing herself to a full stop. After this collision, Cutler kept an optimistic attitude about the incident. "Sure, I may end up



Emma Wittenberg '13 skates at Galaxy Roller Rink.

having two large bruises on my leg, but that's not going to stop me from having a great time!" The positive vibes in a roller rink are simply infectious.

As the night started winding down and us Camels were still clinging to the border walls, a kind rollerblading gentleman, who looked strikingly like Allen Ginsberg, took it upon himself to teach us newbies how to blade. "Start with your feet together and push outward like this," he instructed his flock of eager students. We made our way around the rink a few times with the bohemian rollerblader and improved our abilities slightly.

Before taking off to resume his normal speed, the gentleman turned to us and said, "I hope you all enjoy yourselves tonight." With the hot jamz, disco ball, breakdancers, and compassionate people, it is hard not to enjoy oneself.

As the public skating session came to a close, Emma Wittenberg '13, who had initially been somewhat skeptical of the roller blade scene, exclaimed, "Well now I know what I'm going to do every Wednesday night!" Galaxy made her a believer. •

Super Bowl XLV: America Strikes Back

KIEFER ROBERTS
STAFF WRITER

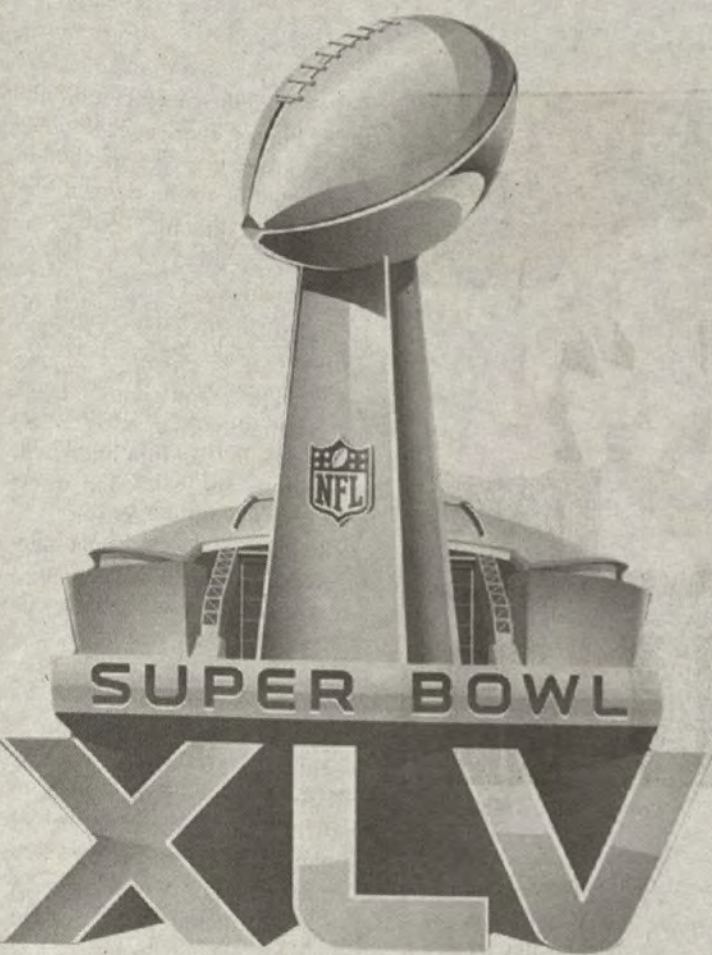


PHOTO FROM WEB

Fellow Cheese heads, rejoice! Now I've been known to watch some ESPN in my day (read: recently started) and I know better than to ask the question, "Who Needs Bret Favre?!" Though, since he's recently crossed over into the pop culture realm, I'd answer: the Jets PR team, Hotels.com, future Viagra/Cialis endorsements, etc.

Despite what was a rather tame, less-than-thrilling football game (unless you're a Packers' fan, in which case, congrats), and one of the more excruciating "music" moments I can remember, this year's Super Bowl seemed to have one overarching theme: AMERICA. It seemed that the NFL, on behalf of the unemployed, the hopeless and somewhat optimistic, the discouraged, the proud and the faltering, took it upon themselves to essentially say, "Hello, World!"

In a nation that used to be enraptured by baseball, it seems football has finally reached the crown success as "America's Sport." Beginning with the patriotic (and somewhat threatening) reading of the Declaration of Independence, and continuing through a sad rendition of our National Anthem, the theme itself was continued in the advertisements, which weren't all super, though a few were shining stars.

Numerous outlets have already named the real winner of this year's Super Bowl as the American car industry, and with a two-minute ad (estimated cost: a casual \$9 million) provided by Chrysler, apparently America's revivalism is starting in Detroit. If Eminem and the man with the baritone voice didn't inspire your faith in America, perhaps Diddy and the Mercedes Benz commercial did, or even the Bridgestone tire commercial with a rabbit that has your back as long as you don't make it into road kill.

The nuclear family with children just behaving as children (how adorable was that Volkswagen ad with little dude Darth Vader?), the promotion of young stars (Justin Bieber is OURS now, Canada), and even our ability to both laugh at and be uncomfortable with man-on-man licking (see Doritos) all returned to TV this year.

Post-recession demand for exorbitant spending also made a comeback, as did our desire to be

seen as the insensitive American bully, as experienced through the Groupon commercials. Making fun of countries in turmoil is both hilarious and American, so eat it Tibet.

Seriously though, the Super Bowl had this energy surrounding it (no thanks to The Black Eyed Peas) that smelled strongly of hamburgers and the Fourth of July – the return of American ideals. Working hard and having it pay off, taking the number one spot back from whoever we thought held it while we teetered for a bit, and doing so in a way that, somehow, cooperates with the idea of democracy. My friend attributed the feeling to a renaissance of the middle class and all that it represents, but I see it more as a national push to return to our "normal" selves, uniting around a place and ideals. Is that not what was supposed to be communicated by having politicians, athletes, American troops, celebrities and artists come together to recite the founding document of our nation? It was the semblance of unity, and while there was an effort made to include socioeconomic and racial diversity (that, in my mind, fell extremely flat), it became clear that we still have a while to go before we get there.

If we're a nation of and for everyone, of Americans first and every other label second—similar to the title of Super Bowl Champions—then we have to think that way, and overlook a lot more than how much money we make or our position of power and the race component. This isn't a criticism, it's a suggestion.

Plays made on the field are about adjusting to the situation to best accomplish the goal of winning. I think we as a nation could be on the upswing, on our way to "winning" again, but it's the unity that is being forced upon us that we must develop organically. Until we do that, there will be Super Bowl Champions, and rallying around the quintessential American sport of football, but all the ballyhoo about America being America again will be lost. There is no amount of commercials with rap stars to save us from that truth, so it's time to put up or shut up, America; let's try and emulate what this year's Super Bowl ads were talking about. May the Force be with you. •

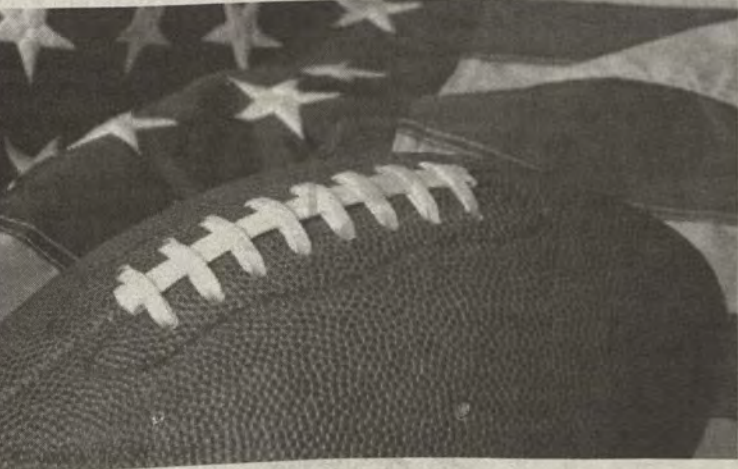


PHOTO FROM WEB

Pay Attention to CC Squash

EMILY WEBB
STAFF WRITER

The men's and women's squash teams may be two of the most overlooked teams on campus; however, this is probably because only a select number of students on this campus understand the sport and all of its intricacies.

Squash is a grueling tennis-like sport played in singles or doubles formation. Unlike tennis, squash is played on an indoor walled-in half-court in which the ball is strategically hit off of the walls and backboard, rather than over a net, requiring a unique combination of hand-eye coordination, agility and speed. As such, the sport and the Camels are quite deserving of more attention for their efforts and successes as a team.

For the Camels squash program, this season began with the introduction of new head coach Chris O'Brien. O'Brien previously coached men's and women's tennis at Roger Williams University and the University of Rochester, where he also coached men's and women's squash.

"I had no expectations going into the season, as it is my first year coaching this team," O'Brien said. He still believes "this season has been a success. We gained

valuable experience and have a good start to build on for the next few years."

Earlier this year, the men's team beat Tufts University 7-2 in the NESCAC Tournament, after losing to the Jumbos 5-4 earlier in the season. The women's team also had two resounding victories during the Smith College Round Robin against Wellesley College and Northeastern University.

Throughout the season, both the men's and women's teams have been plagued with injuries. According to O'Brien, the number of injuries has been the biggest challenge for the Camels this year.

Early in the season, the women's team was forced to play the bottom half of their line-up because of the number of injuries. Despite being less experienced, O'Brien says they have done an "outstanding job" and have helped the team to their eight victories.

For the men's squad, Hunter Bolling '14, Jon Sluder '14 and Justin Curtis '14 have made excellent progress this year. According to O'Brien, "[Bolling, Sluder and Curtis] have really stepped up their games in the their first season of competition and their improvement throughout the

year has been a great asset to the team."

Clearly, the depth of the rosters for both squads has been a key component to competition this season.

Although the NESCAC Tournament is over, the season has one major competition left: the National Tournament. Unlike in other sports, each squash team goes to the National Tournament every year.

"The National Tournament is really the culmination of squash," said O'Brien. "The whole season you are trying to get the highest seed possible in the National Tournament."

Currently, the men's team is ranked 27 out of 64 teams and the women's team is ranked 25 out of 37 teams. The women's National Tournament is set to take place February 18-20 at Princeton University and the men's Tournament will be at Harvard University from February 25-27. The Camels' first-round competitor will not be released until several days prior to the date of competition. •

Connecticut College's Dance Team Performs at Saturday's Basketball Game



AMYDEGENARO/STAFF



POWER RANKINGS

COMPILED BY THE TUFTS DAILY

With the conference tournaments starting up for men's and women's basketball soon, Amherst has retained its seat on the throne atop the NESCAC Power Rankings. In the latest results, the Lord Jeffs stayed below the 3.00-point plateau, thanks to a unanimous No. 1 showing in women's hoops.

Middlebury held serve in the second-place spot, while both Williams and Hamilton leap-frogged Bowdoin into third and fourth, respectively. The Polar Bears, undone by a seventh-place showing in men's basketball, fell to fifth.

Meanwhile, Trinity and Bates flopped spots at six and seven, while the bottom four – Colby, Tufts, Conn. College and Wesleyan remained unchanged.

With the regular-season slate winding down, the Power Rankings will continue throughout the NESCAC Tournaments, before opening up the spring season with a fresh batch of standings.

THIS WEEK	SCHOOL	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	MEN'S HOCKEY	WOMEN'S HOCKEY	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
1	AMHERST	3.00	1.00	4.00	2.00	2.50	1 ↔
2	MIDDLEBURY	2.00	7.50	1.75	1.00	3.06	2 ↔
3	WILLIAMS	1.00	3.75	2.50	8.00	3.81	4 ↑
4	HAMILTON	—	—	2.25	6.00	4.13	5 ↑
5	BOWDOIN	7.00	2.75	4.50	4.40	4.56	3 ↓
6	TRINITY	4.00	7.50	6.25	3.00	5.19	7 ↑
7	BATES	6.00	5.75	—	—	5.88	6 ↓
8	COLBY	9.50	2.50	6.75	7.00	6.44	8 ↔
9	TUFTS	5.75	5.25	10.00	—	7.00	9 ↔
10	CONN. COLLEGE	7.75	9.25	9.00	5.00	7.75	10 ↔
11	WESLEYAN	9.00	9.75	8.00	9.00	8.94	11 ↔

The poll was devised as follows: Each voter ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport, and those scores were averaged to create a composite ranking for each sport. The composites were then averaged to determine each school's overall ranking. Note that Hamilton does not compete in men's and women's basketball in the NESCAC, Bates does not compete in men's and women's hockey and Tufts does not compete in women's hockey.

This week's list was determined by polling Amro El-Adle (Amherst Student), Seth Walder (Bowdoin Orient), Mike Flint and Nick Woolf (Conn. College Voice) and Alex Prewitt (Tufts Daily).

SPORTS

Men's Hockey Battles for Tournament Spot

NESCAC gets increasingly competitive every season

DAN MOORIN
CONTRIBUTOR

The competition in NESCAC hockey is at its highest. The skill gap between teams is increasingly shrinking, with the top six teams all currently within three points of each other in the standings. The tight race for first place in the NESCAC is a result of inconsistent play by all teams this season.

"I don't understand the up and down," said Amherst head coach Jack Arena. "When we really play with intensity and effort, we are a very good hockey team, but for whatever reason it is not there every night. With such a short season, or relatively short with 24 or so games, you would think it wouldn't be an issue to have your team come and play every night they step out on the ice." Amherst, along with the rest of the NESCAC, is having trouble keeping up the high level of intensity and effort it takes to string together wins.

"It is hard to consistently win in the NESCAC because it is a very competitive league," said Camel defenseman Jake Colby '13. "The point spread in league standings never really differs more than five wins between first and eighth place. No points come easy."

Perennial powerhouse Middlebury, for example, who has captured seven out of the last ten NESCAC championships, opened its season with losses to both Tufts and Conn.

And now teams such as Wesleyan, Conn and Tufts, who have in recent years struggled to be competitive, are gaining more respect. There are no longer any NESCAC games considered "easy" wins. The Camels took



From left to right: Andrew Margolin '12, Lucas Chavira-Schramm '12 and Jordan Gray '11

down current number one Bowdoin in a 2-1 nail-biter at Dayton Arena two weeks ago, but still have suffered some tough losses, including a recent 6-2 defeat at the hands of rival Trinity.

"In order to beat Bowdoin, who at the time was one of the top five teams in the nation, we had to come together as a team and everyone did their job," explained Colby. "In the Trinity game, however, we deterred from the game plan. It was a lack of focus on what we needed to do to get the win."

This year Conn has added good wins against Babson, Bowdoin and Tufts, as well as hard-fought ties against Amherst, Wesleyan and Trinity, putting their current record at 6-11-3 (5-9-1 in the NESCAC). With the loss to Wesleyan last week, the Camels have dropped to ninth in the stand-

ings, though, one position shy of a berth in the NESCAC Tournament.

Conn has missed out on the tournament in seven of the last ten years, only qualifying in 2007, 2008 and 2009. The 2009 season proved to be a landmark year for Conn, as the team posted its most wins since 1998, as well as its best NESCAC record ever (9-7-3). In 2010, however, the team was unable to live up to the expectations from the year before, as the Camels failed to secure one of the top eight spots in the conference.

Now, with only two games remaining in 2011, the Camels will have to make a late push for a playoff spot. If they manage to squeeze their way in, it will be despite the numerous injuries that set Conn back this season.

"Injuries plagued our team this

year," said Colby. "We lost some key players and it forced some other guys to step into the rotation."

The remaining games are both against teams outside of the NESCAC: fourth-ranked Norwich University and St. Michael's, who are both members of the ECAC East conference. These games are still important, however, as ECAC East match-ups carry over to the NESCAC point total for the playoff race.

Under the current system, NESCAC teams play each other only once during the season, aside from tournament games played during vacation breaks. The rest of their schedules are filled by mostly ECAC East teams.

However, starting next season, the NESCAC will break its close ties with the ECAC East and play 18 of 24 games within the NES-

CAC, leaving six games for out of conference and tournament games. This means each NESCAC team will get the opportunity to play each other twice.

What does this mean for the future of NESCAC hockey? More games in conference will heighten rivalries among all teams. The NESCAC grows more competitive each year, and giving players and coaches the chance to face off against rivals multiple times will increase the intensity and effort given throughout the season.

As Colby put it, "With the new schedule, I think it will create a larger rivalry between the teams in the NESCAC, resulting in a higher level of competitiveness in each game."

Fans, players and coaches get amped up for NESCAC battles. Ask anyone who was at Dayton Arena during the Conn-Bowdoin matchup, and they will tell you that the excitement and energy in the building was palpable. The NESCAC rivalry gave extra meaning to the game.

Dayton Arena will host many exciting contests in the years to come as the Camels and their New England rivals compete for NESCAC pride. The Camels will be a competitive force as they look to continue on their recent success in making the NESCAC championships.

Jack Arena quote taken from Tim Costello's article, "In Search of Consistency," from USCHO.org

Camel Tennis Teams Ready for 2011 Season

Chris O'Brien prepares for his first full season as head coach

JOHN KELLY
CONTRIBUTOR

Even though Old Man Winter has rendered the courts of south campus unusable, the men's and women's tennis teams are already warming up and getting pumped for the fast-approaching spring 2011 season.

"Our goal is to play beyond last season," said Michael DeCorato '13. After a rocky past few seasons, the teams are looking toward the spring to make a big turnaround in their game.

The team's most significant change is the addition of coach Chris O'Brien in the spring 2010 season. O'Brien was hired as an interim coach after the sudden departure of former head coach Paul Hutch and was soon after hired as full time coach of both men's and women's tennis and men's squash.

O'Brien has coached for over fourteen years at schools such as Roger Williams and the University of Rochester and has been playing an active role in getting the team on track towards a successful season.

"I had always been eager to find a [full time] coaching position where I could just focus in on coaching, and was excited about the opportunity to come,"

O'Brien said. "I'm really looking forward to getting back to an institution like Conn that is academically rigorous with athletic potential."

O'Brien was hired a week before the start of last year's spring season and was pleased with the state of the teams when he arrived. "They were motivated to have something new and different...definitely a good core group of athletes to work with," said O'Brien.

Such an attitude has made the coaching transition an easy one for the teams, and the coaching style of O'Brien is a welcome change.

"Chris is definitely more of a technical coach," DeCorato said. "I think that's really going to help."

In addition to focusing more on technique improvement, O'Brien has also ratcheted up the team's conditioning routine. "He's really good on fitness and keeping us in shape, it definitely improves



Head coach Chris O'Brien

our tennis game," said Brittney Cangemi '13 as she cranked up a net in Luce Fieldhouse for a hitting session.

The team does dynamic warm-ups before every practice session, in addition to regular intensive cardio such as hill sprints and

sessions with Coach Wuyke.

Overall, the team is being pushed to their limits, which is crucial to improving their performance this season. They are currently ranked in the bottom half of NESCAC, which is notoriously competitive for tennis. Schools ranked in the top three of the league are also within the top ten in the nation and regularly win nationals.

Nonetheless, the Camels still have a shot at improving their standing in NESCAC this season under O'Brien's guidance. With more players returning from playing another fall sport or studying abroad, there is a lot of excitement for the spring.

O'Brien cited improving the team rankings and having new players start to step up their game as central aims for the season.

"We want to continue to chip away at NESCAC schools and also keep building from the ground up and have newer players

working their way to start impacting the team," he said. "Building depth is a huge piece of what I'm trying to accomplish."

O'Brien also emphasizes senior leadership, and since the teams will be losing several senior players after this season, their guidance is essential to bringing the younger members up to a higher level.

Members of the women's team seemed confident in a successful spring season as they trained together last Tuesday. "Last year we were kind of a new team. I think this year we have more depth and we're looking to turn things around," said Sara Krivoshek '13.

Players seemed confident in improving their NESCAC ranking from last season. "There were definitely a lot of close ones last year," Cangemi said.

With the season underway, there is confidence in the team's potential, but also a need for more preparation before the first ball is served. "Each season is so different you never really know what's going to happen," said DeCorato. "People are getting ready to play and we need to see where we are as a team." •

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Men's Basketball (12-12):
2/12 Conn 53 - 59 Colby
2/11 Conn 62 - 60 Bowdoin

Women's Basketball (9-15):
2/12 Conn 36 - 67 Colby
2/11 Conn 33 - 81 Bowdoin

Men's Ice Hockey (7-12-3):
2/12 Conn 3 - 6 UNE
2/11 Conn 6 - 1 Southern Maine

Women's Ice Hockey (11-9-2):
2/12 Conn 4 - 1 Hamilton
2/11 Conn 4 - 3 Hamilton

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SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Men's Ice Hockey:
at Norwich University: Friday, Feb. 18 @ 7PM
at Saint Michael's: Saturday, Feb. 19 @ 4PM

Women's Ice Hockey:
vs. WESLEYAN: Friday, Feb. 18 @ 7PM in Dayton Arena
vs. TRINITY: Saturday, Feb. 19 @ 3PM in Dayton Arena

Squash:
Howe Cup at Princeton University: Friday-Sunday, Feb. 18-20

Men's Basketball:
NESCAC Championship Quarterfinal at #2 Middlebury: Saturday, Feb. 19 @ 1PM

Track and Field:
New England Division III Championship at MIT: Friday, Feb. 18
New England Division III Championship at Springfield College: Friday & Saturday, Feb. 18-19

Swimming and Diving:
NESCAC Championship at Williams: Friday-Sunday, Feb. 18-20