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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 13



GRACE ASTROVE/CONTRIBUTOR

Vagina Monologues producers and cast celebrate the second and final performance's end. This is the seventh consecutive year that *The Vagina Monologues*, a play celebrating female sexuality, have been performed at the college. The *Monologues* are based on interviews with over 200 women and are part of the international V-Day campaign which generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation and sexual slavery. Conn's performances of *The Vagina Monologues* raised money for abuse prevention in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Women's Center of Southeastern Conn.

Secret Sporting Lives of Conn Staff

NICK WOOLF
SPORTS EDITOR

Around midday, while most of us are eating lunch at Harris, staff members Claire Gadrow, Laurie and John Schaeffer and Amy Wilson regularly enjoy each other's company as they train on the Silfen track and around campus.

Claire Gadrow, Assistant Vice President of College Advancement, has been involved in competitive running ever since she was in high school. After a hiatus from the sport during college, Gadrow rediscovered her love for long-distance running while working at an accounting firm in Boston. She joined Connecticut College four years ago, and she cites Conn's "student-athlete factor" as a major reason why she was so attracted

to the college. Once here, Claire discovered from her colleagues that she was not the only staff runner on campus. She subsequently sought out John and Laurie Schaeffer, and the staff running group was born.

While she trains year-round and competes for Reebok Providence in several long-distance races around the country, Claire has also found time to be a mentor to aspiring runners from the state of Rhode Island. While she trains year-round and competes for Reebok Providence in several long-distance races around the country, Claire has also found time to be a mentor to aspiring runners from the state of Rhode Island.

SEE STAFF PAGE 8



Assistant VP of College Advancement Claire Gadrow completes the California International Marathon this past December. (Photo courtesy of Claire Gadrow)

SGA Votes Down Purchase of RECs, Deemed Merely Short-term Solution

CLAIRE S. GOULD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When Amy Cabaniss, Campus Environmental Coordinator, and Ian Phillips, SGA Environmental Representative, presented the Environmental Model Committee's (EMC) yearly request to purchase Green-e certified, renewable energy certificates (RECs) to offset the college's energy purchase this past Thursday at SGA, the Assembly's response was unprecedented.

In 2001, students rallied around the idea of adding \$25 to the college's comprehensive fee to be allocated towards renewable energy, a fund that accrues approximately \$40,000 each year.

This budget has been used to purchase RECs to support renewable energy sources and help to displace non-renewable energy sources from the national electric grid.

RECs help compensate for Conn's electricity use, bringing down our net greenhouse gas emissions through offsets.

This budget, however, does not need to be used solely for the purchase of RECs.

According to the original Renewable Energy Policy, the student body authorizes the use of the funds to go toward the purchase renewable energy directly from the source of generation, to purchase equipment to establish renewable energy sources on campus or at a nearby location, to purchase renewable energy through a local electric utility, to make a grant or loan towards the construction of a new renewable energy facility or purchase independently certified Tradable Renewable Certificates.

Yearly, the EMC meets to decide how the fund should best be used, while SGA maintains the right to approve or reject their proposal.

Their proposal has previously always been passed by the Assembly.

Former recommendations from EMC have included using the fund to purchase wind energy RECs to offset the college's energy usage by up to 100 percent.

The last three years, SGA and EMC were proud to offset the college's energy usage by almost 100 percent by purchasing certificates.

After last year's RECs purchase, leftover funds were allocated towards a campus wind feasibility study.

Last Thursday, the SGA Assembly did not pass EMC's proposal to pay \$39,900 to offset the college's electricity purchase by 100 percent for both this and the next fiscal year.

This purchase from vendor 3Degrees Energy would have offset the college's yearly electricity purchase of approximately 15,000 MWh/year.

Although the proposal was passed 16-1, it did not meet the 4/5 majority vote necessary to pass.

Leland Stillman, Senator of River Ridge/Winchester, is one Assembly member who rejected the proposal.

"We are ultimately allowing companies to buy credits that

SEE RECs, PAGE 3

Flushing Out the Truth

The College Voice Delves Deep into Intrigue, Taboo and the Absurd in Order to Clear Up Rumors

STEVE BLOOM,
STAFF WRITER
AND ELI MANGOLD,
CONTRIBUTOR

The Connecticut College website makes a point of mentioning the many interesting stories amongst our student body. Some of these stories have been mythologized, even while the students involved in them continue to attend Conn. It has become our mission to dig deep into stories of intrigue, taboo and the absurd in order to clear up rumors or outright lies. This week we sat down with "S.G.," who is known around town as "the girl

who shat in the recycling bin."

S.G. popped a squat with us recently in hopes of spreading the truth.

Q: Why did you not just use the bathroom?

S.G. I couldn't move. I literally couldn't move. This happened, then two minutes later I'm on the floor. Like, I pulled down a towel from my towel rack because I thought I would throw up. Two of my friends came into my room and were like "What did you do?" I wanted to deal with it but I couldn't move. I had no strength.

Q: Were you drinking irre-

sponsibly?

S.G. Ohh yes. There is no other way. Why else would I have done this? It was the first semester back from winter break. I hadn't been drinking at home so I was not very good at drinking come spring semester. And yeah, I had a cocktail mixture. Rum, white wine, tequila.

Q: Was this an easier way to poop? Would you recommend it?

S.G. I would say no. Because although there is the convenience factor of being able to shit in my own room, the aftermath is not worth it.

SEE FLUSHING, PAGE 4

Sports

CLUB HOCKEY, CANS AND CGA

A perspective on the match on February 13 p.8

Arts

TRANSESTITES IN TANSILL

Rocky Horror Picture show preview. p.6

Opinions

CLEAN YOUR PLATE, SCHLUB

A little more food, a little less food in the trash p.11

Editorials

SUSTAINABILITY

Covering the college's enthusiasm p.12

THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS

VAGINA MONOLOGUES



NICK EDWARDS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

N20



S stapler
U Carl Weathers
lactates
g filters coffee
g my pants
e Jason Sprung
death by dehydra-
tion
s shower stall
st pleasure dungeon
t jersey shore
i hamburger
o Leo Higdon
n Oprah in The Col-
or Purple
s Bill Clinton's
house
train
Mexico
Uggs

from the audience



STAFF

RECYCLEMANIA



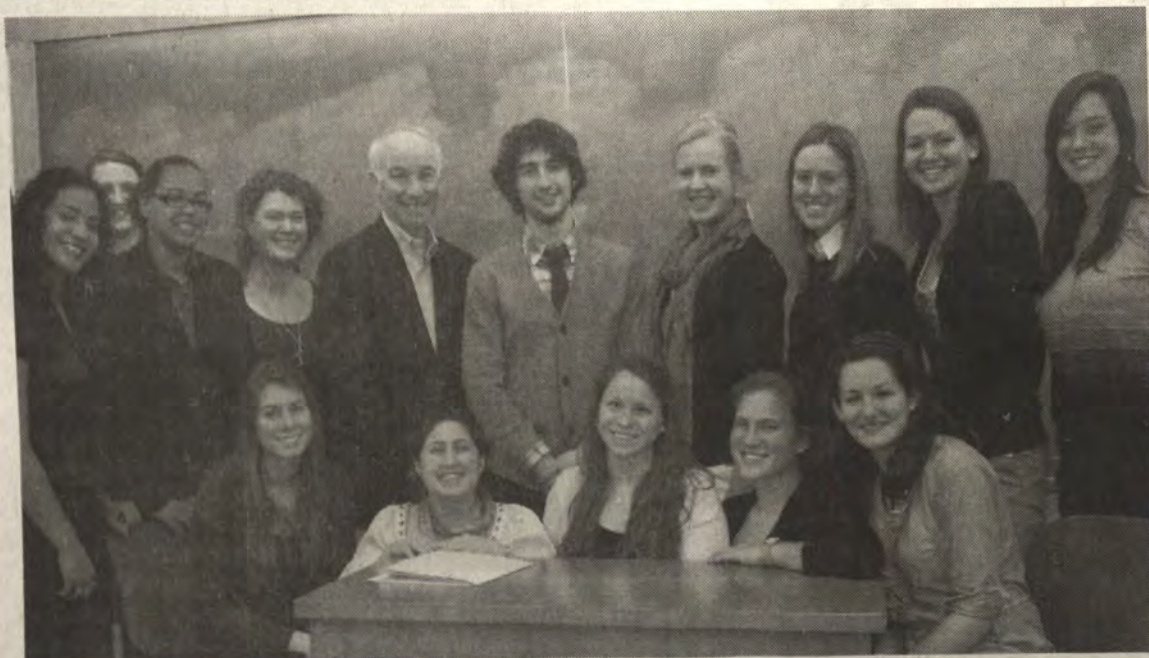
FREYA LEVETT/CONTRIBUTOR



DRAG BALL



SARAH KOSOFKY/STAFF WRITER



Women and U.S. Politics Class Hears from Man in Politics

SAMANTHA HERNDON
NEWS EDITOR

Second District Congressman Joe Courtney gave an interview to Professor Borrelli's government class on February 11.

Professor MaryAnne Borrelli encourages her classes to conduct elite interviews to examine political theories in practice; students in her Politics of Bureaucracy course last semester had the chance to interview President Higdon.

This semester's Women and U.S. Politics course students had but a short time in which to prepare for the interview. Fortunately for the class, one of Courtney's staffers is a Connecticut College alumna and helped to facilitate Courtney's visit. After learning that very week that one of the state's two House representatives would be coming to speak that Thursday, students raced to research the congressman's background, voting record and House Committee involvement, then formulated questions for the interview.

"Being a resident of Connecticut, I really appreciated him giving us some of his time, personally and academically," said Julie Sizer '11. "He really added a lot to my knowledge of how things are run in Congress. I'm not a Gov[ernment] major or minor, so I didn't know what to expect from his answers."

Senior Logan Zemetres was im-

pressed by Courtney's frankness. "He ventured away from prestructured answers more than other politicians I've seen interviewed."

However, Zemetres found the content of the responses somewhat lacking.

"We didn't talk about gender in politics at all, nearly," he said. "Though we didn't push [Courtney] in that direction."

"I do wish he had more of an angle on our course material," said Sizer.

She found the Congressman to be very relatable.

Joe Courtney brought copies for the class of a recent *New York Times* article detailing congressional efforts to change the student loan process. He spoke about the need for broader access to affordable higher education, a subject about which he is passionate. The Vernon, Conn. resident sits on the House Education and Labor Committee. There, he advocates for an end to exploitative practices from private lending companies.

"Private colleges must also be held accountable for keeping tuition low," Courtney said.

The Armed Services Committee is Courtney's other main congressional responsibility. He has used his position in that body to ensure that the nearby Naval Submarine base remains open and employing residents of the Nutmeg State.

Women and U.S. Politics stu-

dents were also reminded of the importance of individuals' political participation. Courtney was elected by an incredible margin of eighty-three votes, out of a total of 242,000 votes cast.

Courtney explained to the class, "They called me 'Landslide Courtney' and I thought that they were dissing me. But then I embraced that. It made me very much aware of what people had done for me. I am proof that every vote counts." Joe Courtney also emphasized the importance of the many colleges and universities in his district in his winning the seat.

Government Professor MaryAnne Borrelli is a former director of the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy, and serves currently as a fellow with the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment.

The Women and U.S. Politics course investigates women's contributions to national politics as citizens and as officeholders, examining in particular the representation and lack thereof in the three branches of government.

In the House, there are currently 357 men and 78 women, and in the Senate, there are 18 women and 82 men, according to ThisNation. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that females made up 50.7 percent of the U.S. American population, as of 2008.

A Fallen Queen

Fashion Loses Beloved, Inspirational Icon

KIEFER ROBERTS
CONTRIBUTOR

On February 11, fashion blogs exploded with activity after news of critically acclaimed fashion designer Alexander McQueen's death. At a mere forty years old, his cause of death as of now has been ruled suicide. It has been insinuated that the death of his mother on February 2, a week before his own death, devastated McQueen while he was already in the midst of immense stress in preparation for his showing at fashion week in Paris.

News of McQueen's death was all the more prevalent because of its timing. The story broke during the beginning of New York's Fashion Week, where stylists, magazine editors, models and store buyers were all in one place for a week's worth of runway shows and fashion presentations.

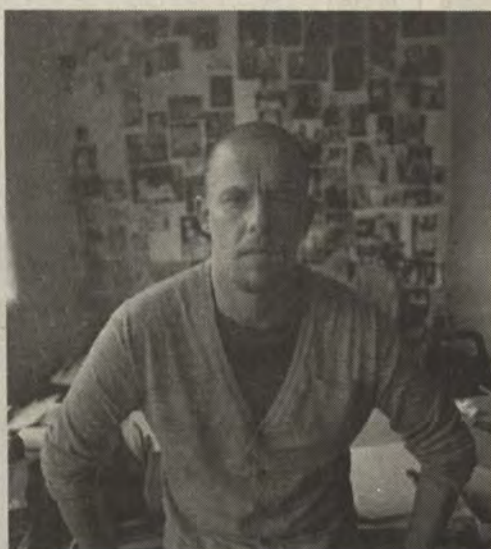
His name became a Twitter 'trending' topic for a week to follow, and his memory was celebrated by other designers during Fashion Week (*Vogue* editor-in-chief Anna Wintour hailed McQueen as being "one of the greatest talents of his generation"). McQueen was also lauded at the recent Brit Awards, the British version of the Grammy Awards, and by loyal consumer and fashion's current pop-star darling, Lady Gaga (who wore McQueen's now infamous lobster claw or 'armadillo' shoes in her video for "Bad Romance"). Lady Gaga dedicated her performance to Mr. McQueen.

McQueen, loved by the aforementioned Gaga as well as Sarah Jessica Parker, Cate Blanchett and Kate Moss, did more than just make beautiful garments, dress celebrities and create runway shows often described as whimsical delights and dreamlike experiences. He inspired other designers and models to be and to present their best.

Christian Siriano, of Project

Runway fame, interned with McQueen and attributes much of his success to the tutelage he received under him. He challenged magazine editors to do more than put the most recent "it" girl on their cover and then throw her in a typical ball gown with train in the pages. McQueen also challenged and inspired artists outside the fashion medium in many different ways, rousing them to be better, to dare to be different again.

Either through his seemingly



endless struggle for a postmodern idea of beauty, or his obvious knack for designing breathtaking clothes with structure and substance, McQueen wasn't just another designer who sewed and constructed clothing - he was a leader in his industry and an archangel of beauty.

Alexander McQueen's beauty and inspiration came from things he found fascinating - body modification and distortion, a strong sense of tailoring, and the delicate relationship of embracing the avant-garde.

He was fashion's poster child for the artistic notion and it was this that made him great, but also made him a mystery to most. Bloggers, critics and editors often condemned his eccentric designs as, at best, not being wearable or sellable, and at worst, not fitting into today's idea of fashion and the identity the industry has within the

realm of art.

McQueen shook off these critiques, once saying he was "not interested in being liked." It was McQueen's passion however, that made him an important and prominent fashion figure, and that passion earned him the title of an icon.

Aside from the presentations and the gorgeous clothing, it was his desire to speak about social issues through his clothing, to initiate the consumer's artistic side as opposed

to the embedded capitalists in the fashion world, to spark a kind of important fashion revolution - to make it about something more. McQueen wasn't in the industry to simply make an elegant gown or a revealing cocktail dress and then sell these items to the masses - he cared for the artistry behind the construction and dedicated incredible amounts of time to the idea of his handiwork and presented it all in dazzling ways, often transporting spectators to surreal worlds with small touches of malice thrown in for excitement.

McQueen was as much an artist as he was a designer, and it is this loss of creative and passionate talent in the middle of what seems like a severe drought for artistic thought and expression that's such a deafening blow to many.

Known for sometime as the "bad boy" of fashion, McQueen took risks - he was a ballsy, off the cuff rebel who refused to give in or shut up and simply make something pretty.

McQueen is survived by his father, five siblings and a world of fashion lovers and appreciators. In the fashion world, which is often criticized as being spoiled, vain and trivial, McQueen challenged these notions, fought back and attempted to save the world of fashion from itself and from others. With his loss, fashion loses one of its protectors, a potential savior and its Queen.

Purchase of RECs Deemed Merely Short-term Solution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

allow them to pollute. I think it is more constructive to try to get actual renewable energy on campus rather than to purchase credits," said Stillman at last week's SGA meeting.

Ian Phillips, the Environmental Representative, reminded the Assembly that any money leftover in the fund rolls over from year to year.

"We could roll it over until we could make a much larger purchase, like buying solar panels for every rooftop on campus, but we purchase RECs each year because our college has the reputation of being a 'green college.' We do these things because it draws in like-minded, environmentally conscious students."

SGA President Peter Friedrichs agreed with Stillman.

"Although I think this is an amazing practice, I also think the trend is moving away from renewable credits and now it is more appropriate to have tangible things on campus."

EMC will either have to go back to the drawing board on how to use the \$40K fund this

year, present a revised version of their initial plan or wait until next year to offer an on-campus renewable energy alternative for what will then be a \$80K fund. This augmented sum may be used for LEED certification of the Fitness Center and Silfen Auditorium and an on-campus renewable energy study.

Up For Vote:

1. To purchase 100% wind, Green-e Certified Renewable Energy Certificates to offset nearly 100% of our electricity purchase

2. For a REC purchase agreement for two fiscal years (7/1/09 - 6/30/11).

3. To purchase the RECs from 3Degrees at \$1.33/MWh/year under a two year contract for \$19,950/year to be paid this fiscal year for \$39,900.

Recorded Votes:

16 yay - 10 nay

22 yay - 6 nay

5 yay - 16 nay

Last Week at SGA ...In Brief

annual budget of \$40,000 which is created from a tuition surcharge of \$25 dollars per student. The Environmental Model Committee (EMC) supported purchasing wind energy RECs for two years, offsetting almost 100 percent of our annual electricity purchase; yet presenting this and several other options for the Assembly, they all failed to pass. The EMC will reconvene and present alternatives for the Assembly.

There will be a temporary labeling on currently unnamed major roads on campus, for the ease the New London police when they make their rounds every six months.



JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

- Windham House Senator Teddy Fisher '12, with support from Ingrid Bushwack, Director of Dining Services, presented "Hope for Haiti," an Oxfam-style dinner in which students can give up their evening meal in Harris Refectory, choosing instead to donate the money used for their dinner to a worthy charity.

- Environmental Affairs Representative Ian Phillips and Campus Environmental Coordinator Amy Cabaniss presented a plan for Conn to offset its electricity use by purchasing RECs, or Renewable Energy Certificates, using their

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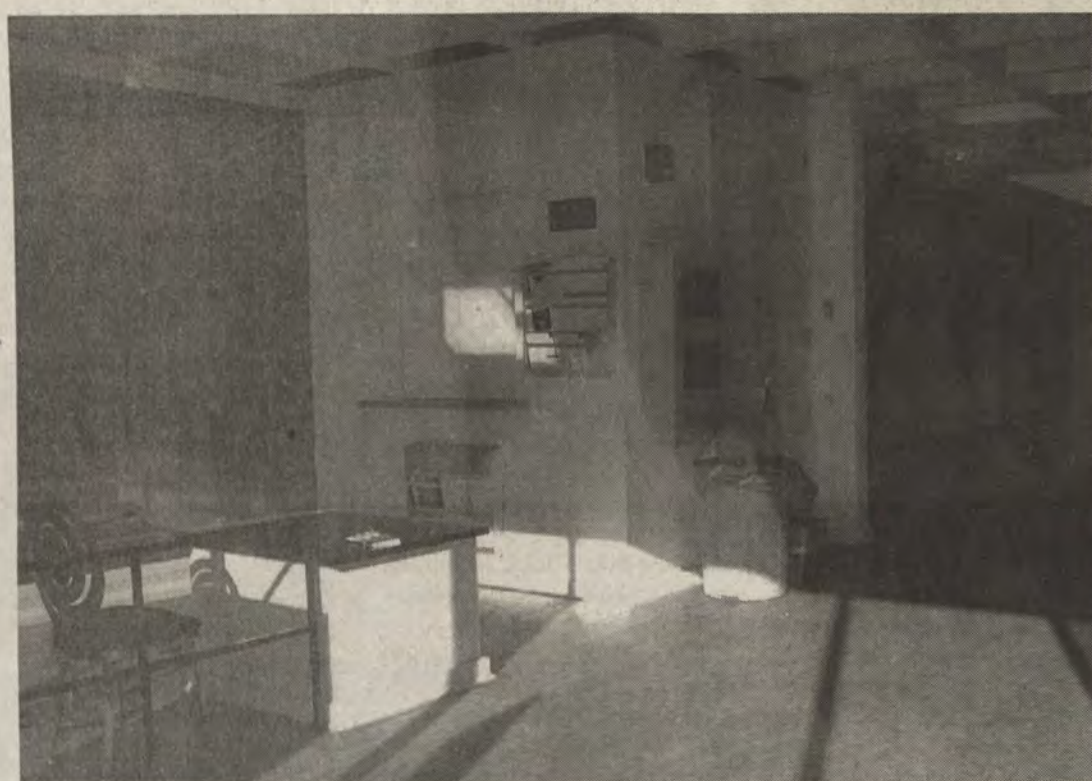
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South Campus Soon To Be Caffeinated

Cummings Gallery Space to Once Again Host Student-Run Coffee Shop



SARAH KOSOFSKY
STAFF WRITER

Walking into the second floor of Cummings, one might notice that next to the wall-sized mosaic is a mysterious box, its window shuttered up, its door seemingly closed for good. This marks the remnants of a student-run coffee shop. At the moment, it is unoccupied and quiet.

Soon, however, it will be open once again, thanks to the efforts of a few Student Government Association (SGA) members.

The little shop was initially run by SGA and it is now the responsibility of SGA's Academic and Social Spaces Commission. Over the years, the number of open hours began to decline, which led non-SGA affiliated students to open it for individual profit. The space has seen little consistency over the years.

SGA House Senators Freya Levett and Ipek Bakir and Vice President Bobby Romanow, are now working to reopen the coffee shop. The three recently visited Cummings to see what equipment was salvageable, but

they found only what Romanow called a "disaster." Nothing was useable. Deciding to start from scratch, the students met with Ingrid Bushwack of Dining Services to figure out what equipment is needed and how much it will cost.

Romanow, Levett and Bakir will soon present a proposal to the SGA Finance Committee with a budget for new equipment.

Romanow, as SGA Vice President, serves as chair of the SGA Finance Committee, but in this case will only present the proposed budget and will not take part in any deliberations about the coffee shop's allocation.

Until the shop begins making a profit, SGA will rely on volunteers to take care of its everyday operations. Guaranteed and consistent pay is contingent on the success of the shop.

Initially, revenue will go toward maintaining the space. After employee salaries, any further profits will go towards the SGA, and could be distributed among a variety of SGA projects or funds.

Romanow emphasized that

the Cummings Coffee Shop was not meant to compete with Coffee Grounds or the Blue Camel Café. The coffee shop is for students, professors and staff from South campus who aren't within a comfortable walking distance of the other cafes on campus.

Lorelei Farntz, owner of the Blue Camel Café, thought that bringing a coffee shop to South was a great idea. Since Cummings is far from the Blue Camel Café, she doesn't think her business will be directly affected by the new café.

"I don't think of it as competition. It's good for the students," Farntz said.

Clara Euam '12 agrees with Farntz. "As an art student, it's good to be able to go to someplace nearby to get something to eat or drink," she said. "I think it will be a good thing to have available to us."

Romanow said, pending SGA approval, the coffee shop will open for business as soon as the equipment is delivered. He is looking forward to opening the shop as "a place run by students, for the students."

Flushing the Truth



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Q: Why did you choose the recycling bin over the trash can? Was this an environmentally-charged decision?

S.G. My recycling bin was plastic and the trash can was a mesh one with a plastic bag. It was more practical.

Q: Are you into recycling?

S.G. It is a very big thing with me. It is a big thing in my family.

Q: Speaking of your family, do they know about this?

S.G. No! I never told my parents. I don't want to make things worse. My parents both went to Conn.

Q: Will you tell your children?

S.G. I don't think I will tell my children. It freaks me out when my dad tells me stories about his acid trips. Actually, if they do something similar one day, maybe I'll share.

Q: I think you should. Now what did you do with the feces after the incident?

S.G. We took the recycle bin and threw that into a trash can.

Q: Have you shat in weirder receptacles?

S.G. Yes. When I was in Thailand and the Philippines, I shat into holes. I mean, I also used to shit in a diaper as a baby.

Q: What's the weirdest rumor you've heard about this incident?

S.G. For the most part, it's been pretty true to form. Most people think it was a trash can instead of a recycling bin. The problem is, the same night, another girl shat in a weird place. Her poop story was overshadowed by mine. Mine is gross, and mine is hilarious, but she SHAT on a DUDE while they

were DOING it.

Q: What's that story?

S.G. So, it was the same same night. They are hooking up in his room. They're naked. Making out. About to do it. IT! He goes, "did you fart?" She's like, "No!" So they keep going at it. She lifts up her leg and there is shit all down her leg. All over him and all over the bed.

Q: That sounds super gross. What's your favorite synonym for poop?

S.G. "Shit." I don't know why. I swear a lot.

Q: Do you like Florida?

S.G. Uh, yeah. I like Florida. I've been to Disney World five times.

Q: Do you like Florida?

S.G. Yes. I also like Florida.

Q: Do you plan on pooping in any other strange places?

S.G. No plans for the future. I'm sticking with the toilets. I'm living in Morrison so I have a clean toilet most of the time.

Q: Why did you agree to do this interview?

S.G. Oh, because it's funny. I have to own it. Embarrassing things happen to a lot of people and I don't see the point in turning bright red every time someone brings this up. Everyone has opinions of everyone else. I no longer care. I love to gossip. Hello! Sticks and stones, what's the point? I don't care if I'm the person everyone loves. This is a funny story and everyone should hear this story.

Q: Did you consider transferring after all of this?

S.G. That's what people always say to me! They think it's embarrassing. I was like, "No!" Why would I leave because of that?

Would you?

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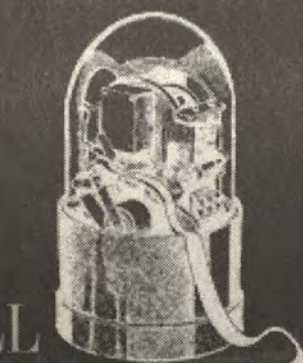
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HTTP://THEEXCHANGEBARANDGRILL.COM

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 overpopulation, radicalism and even sexism.

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 club Yalla Bina.

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 Language 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 meeting at 9:30 in Knowlton on February 23 or email Karam.Sethi@conncoll.edu or Wendy.Ogando@conncoll.edu

Poor Planning Kills Olympic Luger



The Vancouver Planning Committee faces criticism after unsafe conditions lead to the death of Georgian luger, Nodar Kumaritashvili.

SARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Olympics are supposed to be a time of joy and excitement as all countries unite with the common interest of cheering on their respective athletes through two weeks of intense competition. The commencement of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games, however, did not evoke a feeling of joy; instead, feelings of shock, sadness and anger were abundant.

On the morning of Friday, February 12th, as the Opening Ceremonies approached, Georgian luger, Nodar Kumaritashvili, was killed during his final trial run when he lost control of his sled and slammed into a trackside steel pole at almost 90 mph. This devastating incident occurred following criticism that the track was unsafe and much faster than in past Winter Games.

Following the incident, reports emerged of other athletes' concerns regarding the speed and safety of the 4,500-foot-long, record-setting track at the Whistler Sliding Center, since several others had crashed around the same area that claimed Kumaritashvili's life. David Epstein, reporter for Sports Illustrated, told CNN that this course is "15 to 20 mph faster than any course in the rest of the world."

Almost a year ago, on February 21st, 2009, a single men's luge athlete reached 95 mph on the track, setting not only a track speed record, but also a world speed record. While luge is often considered to be the fastest sport on ice, with sliders frequently reaching speeds of 90 mph, approaching an unprecedented 100 mph on the Whistler track is just asking for problems.

Since the Whistler track is the

fastest in the world, athletes and coaches understandably questioned its safety. How then did Vancouver officials not take every precaution in order to ensure that the Olympic track was as safe as possible? Only after Kumaritashvili's death did the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognize the complaints they had been receiving and took steps to alter the course.

Conn women's rowing head coach, Eva Kovach, has first-hand experience with maintaining an Olympic venue, as she was a field-of-play assistant on the rowing course at the 2004 Summer Games in Athens. Kovach says, "Although I can only imagine what kind of effect this single tragic event has on the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC), I am sure after the Games are over there will be a serious evaluation or investigation of the accident and how the site committee handled the situation."

Some have speculated that the Vancouver Games are cursed, but really what it comes down to is VANOC's motive of pushing the limits of the Olympic motto: "Faster, Higher, Stronger." Since the start of the Winter Games, there have been several mishaps at Olympic venues that have further served to discount VANOC.

The men's 500-meter race in long-track speed skating faced more than an hour delay because of technical difficulties in producing the ice. The unstable conditions caused several racers to stumble during competition and even led American Shani Davis to skip his first run for fear of injury.

The women's downhill skiing course proved to be extremely treacherous during these Winter Games after three competitors smashed into the ground due to uncontrollable high speeds. The

course is longer than most of these skiers are used to and had been described as packed ice and hard as cement. During trial runs, competitors were only able to ski about of the course, so they had no idea what to expect from the bottom during actual competition.

Although many crashes and injuries can be attributed to minor mistakes made by the athletes themselves, unsafe conditions of multiple venues cause these mistakes to become possibly life-threatening.

Kovach says, "I believe the accident on the luge track was in fact just that, a terrible accident. However, the incident with the quality of ice making at the speed skating venue and the torch malfunction at the opening ceremonies are issues VANOC should have probably considered as areas for trouble-shooting long ago in the preparation stage."

Despite the fact that these athletes knowingly put their lives in danger, VANOC should have taken extra measures to ensure their facilities were capable of hosting athletes competing at such high levels. It is unacceptable to ignore the complaints of athletes when they know every aspect of their sport better than anyone else. They know how the ice should feel, how the turns should run, and the speed at which they can go before losing control.

While they do make mistakes, these athletes train well enough to keep themselves safe while competing in the sports they love. Kumaritashvili should not have been able to set his sled on the ice before officials had taken every necessary precaution to ensure the safety of the track.

Weekly Recap

Camel Athletes Trade Ski Jackets for Sunglasses as Winter Season Ends



KELSEY COHEN/PHOTO EDITOR

SAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

As winter passes us by, the end of another sports season is slowly coming to a close and another one will start.

The men's basketball team concluded their season on February 13, squaring off against Bowdoin on the road. The team followed a crucial victory the night before against Colby with a tough loss the following day, losing to the Polar Bears in 67-47 blowout. Despite the disappointing end to the season, Shavar Bernier '10 set the school record for most career three pointers with 203. Dwayne Stallings '99 held the old record with 200. At the same time, Bernier also pushed himself into the school's top ten for career points with 1,184 points. The Camels finished the season with an overall record of 10-14 and a 2-7 conference record, which will unfortunately leave them one win short of a NESCAC playoff berth.

The women's basketball team wrapped up their season the same weekend as the men. The ladies were also unsuccessful in their season finale against Bowdoin. The Camels faced a very talented Bowdoin team that got off to a very fast start and kept the points rolling as they dominated in an 81-37 victory. Jenn Shinall '12 led the team in scoring with nine points and five rebounds and senior Amy Towne '10 contributed seven points. The women's basketball team finished with an overall 8-16 record and a 0-9 NESCAC record, which will also leave them out of postseason play.

Moving to the ice, the men's hockey team is riding a three-game winning streak with their victory over the University of New England on February 13. The Camels cruised to a 6-2 victory thanks to Joe Capuano '11 who tallied two goals for the Camels. Capuano's efforts were complemented by J.J. McGregor '12, Brett Moore '10 and Trevor Bradley '10 who also scored a goal. Ross James '11 scored his third goal in two nights and Ryan Joyce '10 added two assists. The Camels finish their season with home games on February 19-20 against Norwich University and St Michael's College, respectively. The Camels are still on the hunt for a postseason spot, and winning these final two games is vital to keeping that hope alive.

Moving to the women's team, the Camels dropped the second game of a doubleheader with Hamilton on February 13. The teams faced-off in a game with a lot less scoring and much stronger defense than what was seen the night before when the Camels edged Hamilton in a 5-4 contest. Despite their great defensive play, the Camels were on the other end of a 1-0 shutout as the visiting Continentals came away with the victory. Sara Christopher '10 had an excellent day in the net with twenty-five saves. The Camels conclude their season on February

19-20 with away games at Trinity and Wesleyan University, respectively.

The women's hockey team has qualified for the NESCAC playoffs for the third season in a row although their seeding (either seventh or eighth) is contingent on their last two games as well as the results of Hamilton's games against Trinity and Wesleyan. The Camels will likely play a road game either at #1 seed Amherst or #2 seed Middlebury in the first round of the playoffs which begin Saturday, February 27. The Camels lost to Amherst twice this season on January 8-9 by a combined score of 12-1. They also lost their only match with Middlebury 3-1 on November 21.

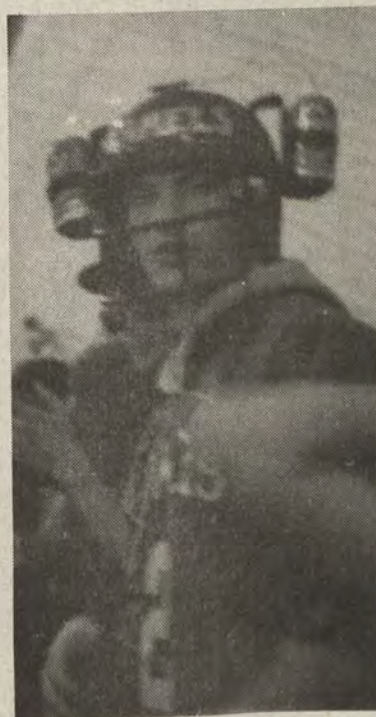
The weekend of February 19-21, the women's swim team traveled to Middlebury for the 2010 NESCAC Championships. The women are trying to improve on their finish from last year as they stumbled to a 7th place finish, while finishing 4th in 2008. Moving up should not be a problem for the Camels as they are led by returning All-American Sarah Murphy '11 who is in the hunt for multiple top eight finishes as well as a number of other talented swimmers who have the potential to join her in some of the final heats. Williams is the heavy favorite for the overall title, as they should have no problem winning in dominant fashion with one of the deepest and fastest teams in the entire country. Amherst, Middlebury, and Tufts should contend for the next three spots in the conference.

The following weekend, the men's swim team will travel to Williams for their NESCAC Championships. The team returns all five All-Americans from last season's 4th place team including Tim Walsh '12 who swept all three backstroke events last year and Pat Troy '10 who achieved All-Conference honors in all three butterfly events. These five All-Americans also include all four members of the 200 Freestyle relay that won NESCACs last year with a new conference record as well as everyone from the 200 Medley relay that placed second. Like the women's side, the Williams men's team is also expected to win the meet easily with Tufts and Amherst likely rounding out the second and third spots.

Last but not least, both squash teams competed in the Vassar College Invitational on February 15 in Poughkeepsie, NY. The men's team defeated both Vassar College and Columbia University while the women were shutout in both matches they played against the schools. The men's team will compete in the CSA Team Tournament at Yale University from February 19-21 while the women will compete the following weekend at the Howe Cup, also hosted by Yale. Both teams will conclude their seasons the weekend of March 5-7 with Individual Championships at Trinity College.



J. SWARTZ/CONTRIBUTOR



Rowdy fans cheer on Conn club hockey as they dominated the Coast Guard Academy on Saturday, February 13.

Club Hockey Cans Coast Guard Academy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

illegibly over-packed score sheet was Kevin Izzo, who buried the team's sixth goal, and Dan Doherty with a pair of assists. The man responsible for the opening of the floodgates was Andrew Cannon, scoring the game's first goal a mere 37 seconds in. Also, senior Chris Hendy tried really hard, folks.

The Camels look to continue their run of dominance in the fight for Rt. 32 hockey bragging rights on February 27 with a rematch against the Coast Guard. While

maintaining the home-ice advantage, which makes playing any athletic event at Conn like going to a particularly sadistic dentist for opposing teams, is indeed important, throwing cans onto the ice accomplishes nothing. No one is saying you shouldn't be as loud as possible, but let's leave the projectiles at home. All jokes aside, these games are a lot of fun for all involved (save the Coast Guard), and if people keep up the can-tossing, the game will go the way of kegs and the trays in Harris.

J. SWARTZ/CONTRIBUTOR

PERSPECTIVE

Activism and Self-Promotion

Vinnie Angel Comes To Conn for V-Week

BEN GITKIND
STAFF WRITER

Purveyor of social and environmental justice consumer products Vinnie Angel appeared on campus last Tuesday in the Women's Center with a stack of his coveted tampon cases and a slideshow depicting his rise to fame.

Like everyone else on campus, I had seen the over-the-top fliers with statements like "Vinnie talks some mad shit," and "how to light butt fires," and wanted to know what was going on.

Unfortunately, after spending 20 minutes perusing his website and the Facebook event description, I still couldn't figure out how Vinnie Angel's product worked, why it was necessary, and how a guy selling his artwork on a product for girls was activism.

Vinnie's explicit goal with his product – the aptly titled "Vinnie's Tampon Case" – is to incite more candid dialogue between men and women concerning menstruation.

OK, so when a guy sees this crazy-looking case he might want to ask questions about it, but wouldn't a more direct route be a tampon case without an agenda and a costume?

"I added cars, revving engines and race flags to draw guys to the products," he said.

I guess this might attract some attention, but playing into such conventional gender norms to attract men seems to undermine Vinnie's goals.

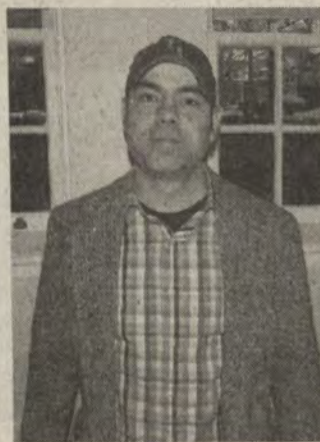
"I'd like my work to lessen the gender gap and start up discussions that wouldn't have otherwise happened," he said.

It seems as though utilizing flashy advertising to draw NA-SCAR fans into discussions about menstruation is one way to do it, but I'm not sold on that exchange about menstruation being the right one. Is any conversation about menstruation better than no conversation at all? I hope so.

His presentation was confusing as money came into the equation.

"The world was being ruined by Coke, unchecked corporate blah, blah, blah," he said.

His initial goal with his products was to attack "corporate Amer-



KARAM SETHI/PHOTO EDITOR



ica" and "greedy politicians."

I was really happy to hear this, though it was not explained at in any great length, just as I was happy to hear him say he was "bolstered by reading Howard Zinn, watching Spike Lee and listening to punk rock and politically-minded rap."

But despite his rebellious roots, Angel is still a guy selling his own product with an eerie grip on how to advertise and move his artwork. He was well aware that he would have no success if women saw him as a guy profiting off of their cause, saying "I did not want to be another guy co-opting another part of your body."

He gave away his cases to silence any backlash against him, but now that he is personally profiting from worldwide sales the integrity of his product has become muddled for me.

"When people asked to sell my product, I was nervous," he said. "As long as they promised to sell them for just \$5, I was OK with it." Vinnie's Tampon Cases can now be purchased for \$10 on his website, though he will still give you one for free in person.

Here he is now, a widely respected proponent of gender equality who has enough people listening to him and enough resources to make

some things happen. When asked why he did not use the tampon cases and the leverage gained from his popularity to promote awareness about sexual violence against women, Angel spoke of sacrifices that had to be made to push his product.

"I wanted to avoid burdening the case with a cause," he said.

Angel explained that opening up conversations about women's bodies is the first step towards lessening the gender divide and doing so in a way that does not offend or attack men is imperative.

Yet, I can't help but think that he has underestimated men.

Sexual assault is a tough thing to talk about, but it's a problem that should be addressed directly instead of postponed for a future time when the gender divide is lessened.

From this perspective, especially when coupled with the fact that Angel is profiting from the whole tampon case campaign, I can't help but think he does not want to "burden the case with a cause" because he can't turn sexual violence into something trendy.

Vinnie Angel is not a bad guy, he's just a guy that's really good at marketing, and I have to question the efficacy of social activism built on personal profit.

Transvestites in
Tansill TheaterA Preview of the Upcoming
*Rocky Horror Show*ANDERS J. NIELSEN
STAFF WRITER

The arboretum gates had long since shut as I approached them one cold Thursday night as, back on campus proper, I could practically smell the first Natural Ices of the night being cracked and the foam being sucked back. At the gates I took a right to meander down the snow bank gutter of Williams Street as SUVs plummeted by me, most veering into the other lane and doubtlessly cursing the lack of sidewalks as much as I was.

I took my first left, per the ominous instructions I'd received earlier that evening, down a road with no clear signage and, even more ominously, no streetlights: the appropriately-titled Gallows Lane.

The second building on the right, past a somewhat normal looking house, was a paneled, windowless building that could easily have been the headquarters of some diabolical Russian terrorist group were it in the heart of a major city, as opposed to across the street from the Connecticut College Arboretum.

Formerly DNA Epicenter Inc., the shadowy building was a facil-

ity that provided science education programs for school age kids, after school programs and adult education. Closed last October due to lack of funding, the building still bears its former name on the inside and has the smell and feel of an old folk's home from the late seventies. The college now owns the building, and if Physical Plant has altered it in the slightest since its last inhabitant, it most certainly doesn't show.

Indeed, the Theater Department has been shunned off into this little corner of the un-campus for there is no other rehearsal space deemed available to them (Palmer Auditorium is already booked with various dance and traveling theater productions, while the Harkness Dining Hall is set aside to quarantine H1N1 victims). It was my assignment on this chilly February evening to attend a rehearsal for Conn's upcoming production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, to be performed March 4 – March 7.

When I first arrived a small fraction of the cast was learning the last song to learn, "Once In A While," from Musical Director Bill Thomas.

I inquired about the approach to

SEE TRANSVESTITES PAGE 7

WRITE
FOR ARTS

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PERSPECTIVE

V-Week Climaxes with *The Vagina Monologues*MEGAN REBACK
STAFF WRITER

As I write, I am concluding the most mentally and emotionally exhausting week of my entire life.

This week was Connecticut College's first V-week, a week celebrating women: our struggles, our magic and our battles fought – our triumphs.

The week began with the entire cast of *The Vagina Monologues*. Sixty-four young women and I shared tears and found insurmountable motivation as we watched Eve Ensler's newest documentary on the state of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Why Congo? According to playwright Ensler, "Congo is the most dangerous place on the planet to be a woman or a girl."

Since 1996, sexual violence in the eastern DRC has been used as a method of torture and humiliation. Countless Congolese women have been raped, ostracized, abandoned and left for dead in the pursuit of natural resources.

We watched – bleary-eyed – as dozens of women testified against the men who had committed the most atrocious acts imaginable.

In this moment, the cast of *The Vagina Monologues* found our purpose, found our pursuit.

Despite the racial, demographic and socioeconomic differences that often tear us apart, we found empathy. We found incredible solidarity with these women and their struggles; we found ourselves in

their suffering and we were called to action.

The week continued with Vinnie Angel's talk on "the men in menstruation."

Angel identifies as a feminist and environmentalist, and started his work in women's advocacy doing something simple: passing out tampon cases. Angel was inspired by a close friend's story: a man raped her.

Angel then realized how little he actually knew about the mysteries surrounding women and started from the basics. He asked his female friends the difference between a tampon and a pad, and continued from there.

He went on to design tampon cases that he handed out to women in New York City for free for five years.

Although Angel never chose to identify with a particular cause, he identifies with men who are often intimidated and confused by "women's issues." Today, he attempts to "upend ignorant, sexist, racist and globally suicidal behavior by encouraging a larger and more inclusive dialog without chaffing or repelling the consumer."

In short, he aspires to approach women's issues from a male perspective in an amenable fashion.

The following evening, ten inquisitive and interested men and women joined me at a roundtable discussion on domestic violence in New London, Conn. A representative from the Women's Center of

Southeastern Connecticut and the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut discussed the local impact of domestic violence and sexual assault, and provided astounding statistics and testimonials on the sheer number of women affected by domestic violence in Connecticut.

For a state with the allegedly

My cast of 65
shared the stories
of women who
have experienced
rape and degradation;
who have hope and who
defeat the odds.

highest standard of living in the United States, our public schools and personal morals have not and do not include the lesson of healthy relationships. This lesson is one that must be espoused in this community – this community, meaning New London and our community at Connecticut College.

The testimonials on violence against women at our seemingly harmless small liberal arts college are also deplorable. This needs to change, and this article and our show are a call to create that change.

Finally, this past Friday and Saturday we climaxed with our

production of *The Vagina Monologues*. If you have not seen the show, it is something you must see if you exist in our world. Our world.

Have you ever actually thought about how inextricably tied women's issues are to our world? The environment? Fertility? Resources? The future of this planet?

My world; my cast of 65 shared the stories of women who have had both good experiences and bad experiences; who have experienced rape and degradation; who have hope and who defeat the odds. These women are strong and powerful and brave.

Not everyone can reclaim "cunt" the same way as Devon Butler.

Not everyone can talk about public hair, vibrators, floods, domestic violence, respectful men, violent men, lesbians, moaning or vaginas the same way as *The Vagina Monologues* does.

And undoubtedly, no one can say, "in Westchester, they call it a pookie," like I can.

And certainly, very few women can discuss and portray sexual slavery in the DRC the way the brave and courageous women of our cast did.

As I reflect on this experience with these women, I cannot forget one line of the spotlight monologue that so deeply resonated: "I am 17. He took me when I was 15. He raped me every day three times a day. He gave me diseases and made me pregnant. If you turn this boat back, I will throw myself

into the lake. I will drown myself. I'll be okay dead as long as I never have to see him again. I will take his baby with me. And the Captain will put one hand on your shoulder and you will see a light in his eyes that you will identify as pity and he will not turn back."

The moment the audience realizes that our heroine, Marta, will never see her soldier, her captor, the man who raped her three times a day for two years ever again, she starts to love her baby and becomes a mother. She learns of his death and believes "God did something good," and then, "at that moment milk will pour into your breasts and you will love your baby."

And the final lesson of the monologues, Rule 8: No one can take anything from you if you do not give it to them. And that rule, rule 8, is what has exhausted my mind and my heart so much this week; I refuse to falter, and I refuse to wait for my happiness.

On the contrary, I have given myself entirely to this cause and have found myself and have found over 60 young women whom I can identify with, cry with, laugh with, and be a woman with.

My heart is so tired from these emotions, my eyes are so tired from crying, but my body is ready to fight this battle until the end!

Transvestites in Tansill Theater

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6.

rehearsals when both music and stage work needed learning. Director Peter Deffet informed me that he taught music first and the run-through of scenes second without exception.

Between takes of the song, the two directors bantered about reinterpretations of songs in order to make the musical their own. The only available score had been of the movie version, different from the stage version, and didn't include harmonies written out.

So what did Bill Thomas do? He sat down and listened to a bootlegged recording of a stage production and wrote out the harmonies by ear. The man is astounding. We'd never formally met and I already wished we were best friends. We could just sit around and jam together; he'd bring up fascinating queries about musical theories and I'd nod with barely a rudimentary understanding of the concept.

Bill took the reinterpretation of songs very seriously, pointing out that when the play was first written, "they thought it was inventive to put a country song in - but why would we do that today?" Relevance is key to a musical that could so easily be written off as stupid camp. It's certainly camp, but it's self-aware camp, goddammit!

The full cast began to arrive about a half hour into my stay and by God were they a gaggle of chatty Cathys. In a fun, loud and silly musical like *The Rocky Horror Show*, this is the precise type of cast one hopes for: focused when they need to be, but not afraid to schmooze with their fellow castmates. Peter fit right in with them,

fun and engaging but equipped with a very clear mindset at what needed to be done.

I pulled cast member Mikey Harris, playing the role of Dr. Everett Scott, aside for an interview before they got fully started. He described his character as one of the "normal people" in the play, an outsider in the "craziness" of the characters that inhabit the bizarre transvestite castle at the centerpiece of the play.

"It's kind of like everyone's susceptible to the craziness," he remarked. "There's all this sexual expression that's kind of contagious."

Mikey was also in last year's production of *Hair*, but if you thought *Hair* was weird, *Rocky Horror*... takes things into a whole new dimension. The two plays are similar, Mikey said, in that there are "people rebelling and lots of free sexuality" but its far less ensemble than *Hair* and more a product of 50s sci-fi parody than 60s flower power.

I spoke next with the Stage Manager Alexandra Wolf, who, equipped with a fat binder full of scripts, music and important looking papers, seemed perched squarely on top of the ball.

The cast had attended a screening of the movie version the week before that also featured live performances and audience participation. "The movie is a crash course in the cult," she explained. "You really need to see it."

The play is certainly different from traditional theatre, particularly with the audience participation aspect the play and movie are famous for, meaning the approach to rehearsals and logistical prepa-

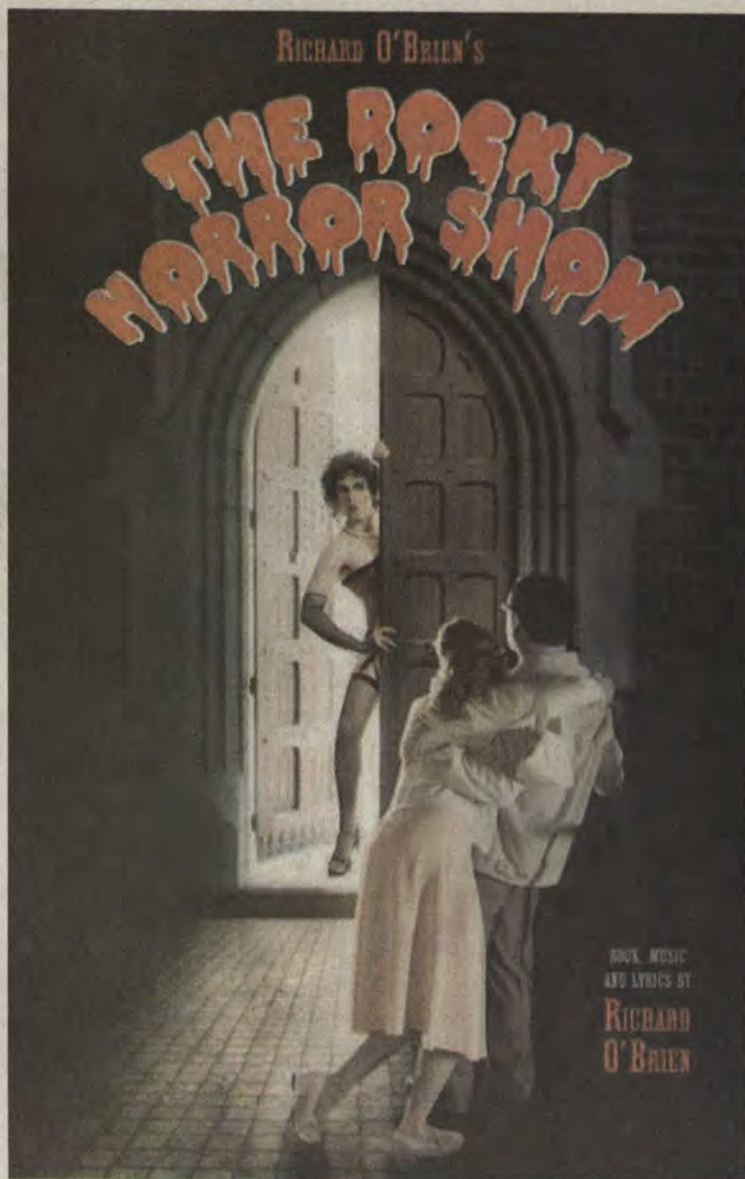


Photo from Web.

ration for the play is quite a new adventure for the Theater Department. The decision was made to not allow people to bring their own props in the interest of controlling what gets thrown around in Tansill, but instead there will be props bags for sale at the door for audience's

enjoyment.

I spoke at length with Director Peter Deffet the next day about the adventure of producing the original live version of a widely known cult film.

"Our production is definitely riding the line between the stage and

movie versions," Peter said, "It's definitely informed by 50s and 60s sci-fi, but instead of the mod approach we're going more down the goth road."

Peter said he would encourage audiences and *Rocky* fans to bring their A-Games when they attend, expecting it to be somewhat raucous, but discouraged destructive behavior that can closely follow the audiences being allowed to act out during a live performance.

When I asked him how he thought the show would reflect on the LGBTQ community at Conn, he confessed that he had little to no involvement with the group; understandable coming from an outside director. I informed him that it was indeed Genderfuck February.

"I hope that students, faculty and staff will enjoy it for what it is: gender bending, otherness," he answered, with the anticipation that it would spawn discussion.

His hope is that a drag queen from the area will host the talk-backs, in keeping with the gender-bending theme.

"First and foremost," he stated, "musicals must be entertaining," and I agreed.

The Rocky Horror Show isn't designed to be a statement on the world of equality; it is a world unto itself. It is a place apart. You have to leave the Connecticut College campus, take a few turns you've never taken before, and creep into a dimly lit building you're sure is full of sick mysteries you've never imagined.

The Rocky Horror Show - March 4, 5 and 6 at 8 PM and March 6 and 7 at 2 PM in Tansill Theater.

"Die A Good Man, Or Live As A Monster"

Shutter Island: A Review

MATTHEW GENTILE
STAFF WRITER

Martin Scorsese can't seem to get enough of Leonardo DiCaprio. While I used to be among the skeptics of this collaboration, after watching their fourth film together, I can see how beneficial it has been for them (more so for DiCaprio - which he has admitted effortlessly in interviews). This is especially the case with their latest venture, *Shutter Island* - a notable departure in both genre and story from their previous partnerships.

When the musical notes start to roll under the Paramount Pictures logo from frame one (all the music in this film is selected from other soundtracks from older films from the 50s - which comprises one of the most outrageously beautiful soundtracks ever done on screen), you are engrossed in an experience. DiCaprio plays Teddy Daniels, a shady, edgy U.S. Marshall, who with a new partner from Seattle (Ruffalo), is set to investigate the disappearance of the Island's 66th patient, Rachel Solando. But when they get to the island, things are not quite as they may seem. As Daniels picks up clues and learns information from other patients, he realizes that there is definitely more than he is being told, a grand scheme that goes beyond the walls.

Ben Kingsley is the "evil" doctor who runs this rancid facility, and he plays this role to ultimate perfection.

Had the film been released in November or December for Oscar season, Kingsley would have given Christoph Waltz a little more of a challenge in the Awards race.

Scorsese, in collaboration with extraordinary cinematographer Robert Richardson, shoots this mental hospital as the creepiest building in film since the Bates Motel.

As expected with a team of this caliber, the production value is perfect. The set design, costumes, staging and every aspect of mise-en-scene evoke the lugubrious feel from the viewer. It allows the film to unfold like a haunted house on two legs. Part of Scorsese's genius in telling this story is his ability to make the viewer not know which side to take and who to believe, as here we have the largest case of unreliable narrator we have ever seen. Mixed in with the real-time scenes are dream sequences



Photo from Web.

which are shot so exquisitely with elaborate and lucid detail, evoking emotions of tragedy, fear, grief elevating this film beyond the typical horror flick or psychological thriller.

DiCaprio takes on the most emotionally and physically demanding performance of his career. His character is reminiscent of many film noir archetypes, such as Robert Mitchum in *Out of the Past*. DiCaprio finds the darkness and insanities to his character, and is so convincing because he completely immerses himself into the role, conveying the uneasiness and monstrous qualities of Teddy Daniels - he is no longer the pretty boy we saw in *Titanic* or even to some extent, his later films. Here, he is completely gone, insane, whacked and different. The rest of the cast that DiCaprio encounters (Emily Mortimer, Michelle Williams, Jackie Earle Haley, Max Von Sydow) is also universally excellent.

Shutter Island is a masterpiece with a few flaws. Occasionally, the film reaches beyond its grasp, but it does so with gleefully unapologetic scares and thrills. It is not a perfect film like some of Scorsese's earlier works like *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, or *Goodfellas*, but it is an interesting/intriguing entry in this legend's comprehensive body of work.

Some critics have complained that the film does not build up enough suspense. What these people don't realize is that the movie has no intention of doing this because that purpose does not exist here. Yes, it draws upon Hitchcock as one of its many resourceful influences, but no, it is not necessarily suspenseful as it is dramatic. It is a mystery that at times is redolent of *The Twilight*

Zone.

The film builds itself up to this climax of incredible dramatic power, and as you have probably heard by now or at least already expected, there is a twist ending. And the conclusion is so dark, deep, dramatic and profound, yet understated and nuanced to ultimate cinematic perfection.

Unfortunately, I do not see the film getting the success it deserves. Probably, it will churn a profit, but as far as critical acclaim and awards go - I have doubts. Paramount Pictures did not believe enough in the movie to spend the necessary amount of money to market it correctly. Paramount Exec Brad Grey blamed the economic downturn for the film's constantly delayed release. And this movie, as a blend between a film noir, psychological thriller, and a horror to a small extent, has been stupidly marketed as an empty horror film, which in essence it isn't.

Many other critics have compared *Shutter Island* to one of Scorsese's other ventures, *Cape Fear* back in 1992 - but this film's story and character development is far more complex and innovative. It is not a horror thriller, it is a psychological experiment. The protagonist is a rat in a maze, a bull in a china shop, an uncontrollable monster wreaking havoc all over the place like Frankenstein, except this character welcomes the audience to come along on this creepy journey with him.

On a Connecticut College Camel Rating Scale, out of a possible four, I'm going to give *Shutter Island* 3.5 Camels.



Walking in a Winter Movie Wasteland

STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ
STAFF WRITER

A barren cinematic desert lies tucked between December's prestigious dramas and spring break's blockbusters. Smartly masked by the gleam of last year's best and travel-preventing blizzards, this wasteland tends to pass unnoticed, until, suddenly, it's a Friday night in February and there is nothing in theaters that is worth seeing.

Welcome to midwinter, the hallowed dumping grounds of Hollywood's dregs.

Peruse this year's offerings for a moment: only in the early winter months would yet another "Jackie Chan as a spy" movie, a Harrison Ford weepy, and multiple subpar romantic comedies (difficult in a genre already subpar by nature) be the highlights of the season.

I wanted to cry every time I saw a commercial for *Tooth Fairy*, a movie that has both Dwayne Johnson wearing wings and Dame Julie Andrews (best tagline of the season: "You Can't Handle the Tooth").

Even my combined love for Amy Adams and Matthew Goode (great, I assure you) could barely get me through just the trailer for *Leap Year*. Why spend ten dollars on the film itself when one can just see the whole uninspired plot in a free three-minute package?

I saw *A Single Man* instead.

For years, studios have released their lesser products throughout the early months of the year. Such strategy allows them to prioritize their attentions, focusing instead on their precious awards bait.

Most Oscar hopefuls expand into wide release in January, providing moviegoers with some decent options; here in southeastern Connecticut, *Crazy Heart* has

finally graced us with its presence. Such peace offerings tide over the average cinephile for a few weeks, but the dry spell arrives eventually, leaving audiences reaching in its wake.

While, yes, *Avatar* was indeed a cultural phenomenon (well... that's a whole different argument), maybe its rule at the box office, which continued throughout January, simply occurred because there was nothing else to see. Only *Dear John* (which might as well be titled *The Notebook 2*) toppled the mighty, once again proving the power of the tween set in American culture.

Some decent movies make it through the rubble. Last January saw the month's best turnout, with *Taken* becoming a surprise hit. Seriously, who did not want to see Liam Neeson be a badass?

As for this year, audiences saw the typical, forgettable yet decently reviewed fare; *Daybreakers* and *Youth in Revolt* were both released in January, were well-received, and performed respectably.

Last week saw the release of *Shutter Island*, the latest Martin Scorsese/Leonardo DiCaprio vehicle, whose random shift to a late February opening left anticipating fans still excited, but wary; what is such a prestigious film doing in midwinter of all places?

Is it completely possible that the film, despite its megawatts of star power, is indeed worthy of its early release date? I mean, look at *Nine*.

However, I prefer to take a more positive attitude; maybe studios are actually trying to shuffle their fixed calendars for once. Maybe one can imagine future years with more *Shutter Islands* in the early months and, please, less *Leap Years*.

Well, I can dream, right?



Photo from Web.

Junior Brigid O'Gorman: A True Humanitarian



O Gorman works with kids at an orphanage in Uganda last spring break. On right, she shares her love of hockey by she creates sticks using tree branches.

SARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Brigid O'Gorman '11 is one of only 18 individuals to be nominated for the annual Hockey Humanitarian Award. Presented by BNY Mellon Wealth Management, the Humanitarian Award recognizes college hockey players—Division I, II, or III—male or female, who give back to their community in true humanitarian spirit.

Since she stepped onto the ice as a freshman, O'Gorman has made her presence known within the NESCAC. Head coach Kristin Steele says, "When Brigid joined this team in her first season she was a marquee player. She was tough, could stickhandle where she wanted to, and she had a shot that made jaws drop. While all of that was impressive, it was her sense of team that really sold her to her teammates."

During her sophomore season, the Camels advanced to the NESCAC quarterfinals, where O'Gorman scored one of two goals in the win against Trinity, marking Connecticut College's first conference tournament victory in program history.

As a junior, O'Gorman's dedication to the game was recognized

with her election as captain for the 2009-2010 season. In the words of one of her teammates, Brigid "is probably one of, if not the most committed person to our team. She plays with enthusiasm every time she is on the ice. She is a great representation of our team off the ice as well, as someone who is a great role model for the team."

While O'Gorman has been a standout on the ice since her freshman season with the Camels, it is her work off the ice that is most noteworthy. A cellular and molecular biology/pre-med major, her interest in medicine stems from her concern for others. She has been able to apply this interest in a variety of ways, including volunteer work at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center in Old Lyme, CT, as a registered EMT in New York State, and as a member of both the CC EMS Club and Pre-Health Club.

For Brigid, her humanitarian interests are nothing out of the ordinary. When asked what she has done to receive this nomination, she modestly stated, "Honestly, I have just been doing things that I love to do." Her goal is to spread happiness to others through all aspects of her life, including hockey, academics and volunteering. Even

during the toughest games, Coach Steele reports that Brigid always has a smile plastered to her face.

"I believe that we were put here on this earth to help each other through a life that has its ups and downs," says O'Gorman. "The simplest smile can make a person's day. Now think of what giving malaria medication to a mother for her one year old daughter can do."

Perhaps Brigid's most life-changing experience occurred last spring when she traveled with the Asayo Wish Foundation on a humanitarian mission to Kaberamaido, Uganda.

As many of you know, her trip to Uganda was almost made impossible due to a devastating traffic collision en route to the airport. A drunk driver on I-395 struck the van carrying O'Gorman and a group of Conn students, killing the organizer of the trip, Elizabeth Durante '10. The news of the accident was heartbreaking for all members of the Conn College community.

"That day and a half in between the crash and my departure were the hardest days of my life," says O'Gorman. While it was a tough decision, she continued on to Uganda after receiving an overwhelming amount of support from her parents, friends, hockey coach

and the Asayo Wish Foundation.

"It was Liz's passion, love for medicine, and helping others that pushed me through; I could not have done it without her inspiration. She is deeply missed," O'Gorman said.

Upon arriving in Kaberamaido with 600 pounds of medical supplies, Brigid immediately knew she had made the right decision. She reports, "We literally filled their supply cabinets from empty to full. We brought antibiotics, malaria medications, surgical instruments, and regular pain medications like Tylenol."

Brigid's contributions greatly impacted the people of Kaberamaido. She says, "The old and young would come up and hug me and start speaking in Kuman (the native language). Dr. Ochan said they were thanking me for coming and bringing all of these things." In addition to providing medical care, Brigid taught kids at the orphanage how to play the game she loves—hockey.

Her travels to Uganda, while beginning with tragedy, helped solidify Brigid's drive to help others. Liz Durante had encouraged her to become a certified EMT, as even basic knowledge of emergency medicine can help so many people

in places like Uganda. Brigid plans to return to Kaberamaido with Asayo's Wish Foundation this summer using her CELS internship grant for a medical project.

As for this spring break, Brigid has dedicated herself to her hockey team, but plans to resume volunteering at the High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center on Saturday afternoons once the season has ended. In addition, she will be volunteering with the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital Paramedics through the Connecticut College Paramedic Internship Program.

Brigid has faced difficult situations but has found strength through her unfaltering dedication to others. "When I look back at the smiles on the faces of the orphans in Uganda or the children at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding center, or even the smiles of my hockey teammates as we beat Trinity to move to the semi-finals, I feel an overwhelming amount of happiness," she says. "That feeling makes it all worthwhile and irresistible to continue."

While being one of very few nominees for the Hockey Humanitarian Award is a tremendous honor, her efforts warrant such a consideration.

Secret Sporting Lives of Conn Staff

Claire Gadrow, Amy Wilson and Laurie and John Schaeffer Run

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 1

While serving as a counselor and coach at a New Hampshire running camp for Rhode Island high school teams, Gadrow passed on her knowledge of the sport to many athletes. In 2007, she met one student in particular who would later join Connecticut College's Class of 2012. Lindsay Paiva attended the camp with her Coventry High School team during that particular summer, and Gadrow encouraged her to check out the College when she returned to school as a senior. A few months later, Lindsay was in the midst of applying to Conn, and Claire was there to support her efforts. "She stayed in contact with me throughout the college application process and was always there to answer my questions," said Paiva. This sophomore enthusiastically described Claire as "an incredibly witty, energetic person, and an intense and dedicated runner."

Equally dedicated are John and Laurie Schaeffer and Amy Wilson, all of whom have countless hours of running experience. Wilson is the Associate Director of An-



Claire Gadrow, Assistant Vice President of College Advancement.

nual Giving at the college, while John and Laurie serve as network administrators. These three tend to focus on shorter races, which include 5k and 10k road races, among other local competitions. Laurie, who has been at the college for eleven years, said that her experience here is certainly a unique one, and this is partly because,

according to her, "You don't often have a job where you get to run during breaks. It's great."

Claire Gadrow is currently preparing for what amounts to the Super Bowl of running events: the Boston Marathon. She is currently able to run a marathon in under three hours, which is certainly impressive, but she is always looking to improve through additional training.

Gadrow is a big supporter of Conn's new fitness center, and she believes that it is great not only because of its new equipment, but also because it gives students a clear view of the track while exercising. This view, according to Claire, "provides students who are working out an opportunity to see us running out on the track."

I think that when they see our routines, they better understand the amount of work that we put into this sport." It is abundantly clear that, like student- and professor-athletes, the staff-runners at the college want others to see and appreciate their passion for their sport.

PERSPECTIVE

Club Hockey Cans Coast Guard Academy

ALEX MARTLAND
CONTRIBUTOR

Two Saturdays ago, Dayton Arena played host to the latest installment of what is quickly becoming one of the most heated rivalries on campus as the Connecticut College Club Hockey team squared off against the skating seamen of the Coast Guard Academy. Undaunted by such an imposing opponent, the Camels managed to hold strong and squeak out a 10-1 victory, highlighted by number 14, Will Powell '11, who managed to amass nearly a full period's worth of penalty minutes, miss a penalty shot and woo the crowd before being ejected toward the end of the second period.

Powell wasn't the only Camel to have an impressive night. Brian Dell'Erario '12 tallied a hat trick, including the game-winning goal, notching his second of three goals on the night a mere 86 seconds in. On a completely unrelated note, Dell'Erario sported a truly heinous blond wig during the game, which, needless to say, was enormously confusing.

Senior Mike Kelly also managed to slip a couple of shots past the Coast Guard goaltender. Kelly's first goal came on a shot just inside the face-off dot on the left side, and was shot so hard that tears could be seen streaming down the terrified goaltender's face. Learning his mistake from their first encounter, the goaltender completely evacuated the crease to hide in the corner for Kelly's 2nd goal though, admittedly, Kelly did seem to bend the laws of physics as the shot came from behind the goal line.

Though official statistics remain unavailable, my own shot tally (kept on my cell phone, which periodically throws temper tantrums and refuses to work) put the balance in favor of the Camels at 87-4.

The deficit was so great that Chris Muscatello, the man between

the pipes for Conn, attempted to engineer an equipment problem with his mask during the first period so as to avoid having to wear it for the remainder of the game. This backfired, however, when coaches and teammates pointed out that the move would be grossly unsportsmanlike, and Muscatello, resignedly, donned a different helmet in the interim.

It was not all bad news for the Coast Guard, however. Down by a paltry nine goals with time running out in the third period, an (intentionally) errant pass from a Camel defenseman sent a Coast Guard forward in on a breakaway.

Time seemed to freeze as a hush came over the intensely focused crowd: with each step of his skate the tension mounted as all in attendance watched, breath held. The shot rolled majestically along the surface of the ice, and as Muscatello waited for its arrival, a knowing smile crossed his face. Making his movements look as sincere as possible, the Camel goalie lunged frantically with his legs, before lifting them ever-so-slightly to allow the Coast Guard onto the score sheet.

An appreciative round of applause in the form of unnamed cans rained onto the ice, the victorious forward was congratulated, and the coach brought everyone out for ice cream after the game.

But the battle was mercifully halted by referees with 8:47 left in the third due to another, more virulent, aluminum rain shower, and also due to fears that the scoreboard wasn't capable of registering numbers any higher.

The game ended with solid performances by the senior class, notably the offensive attack of defenseman Alex Ellison, an added goal by defenseman and co-captain Seth Williams, and the frenzied forecheck of co-captain Ere Nimphius. Adding to an already

SEE CLUB HOCKEY, PAGE 5

Write for Sports

sports@thecollegevoice.org

OPINIONS

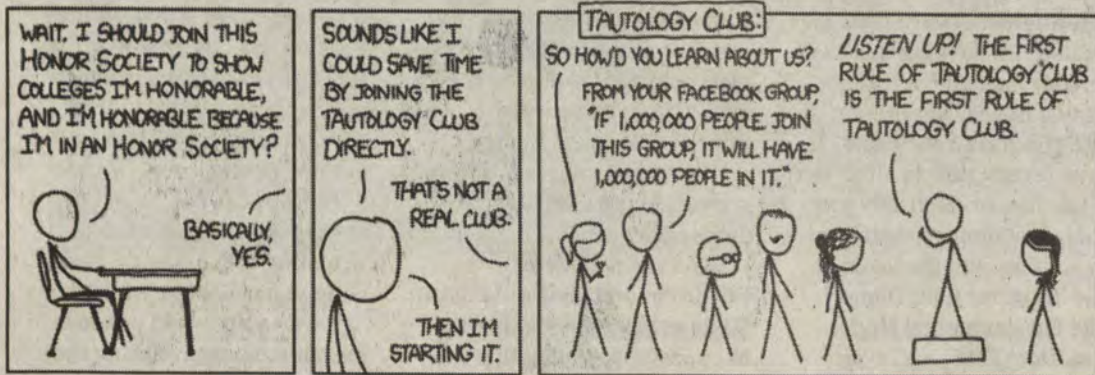
February 23, 2010

Editor: John Dodig

opinions@thecollegevoice.org

Give Me a Break

Senior reflects on problems with Senior Giving

NICK EDWARDS
CONTRIBUTOR

I just received an email exhorting me to make a contribution to the Senior Giving Program, which I have no intention of doing. One might reasonably assume that a personal grudge or an unfavorable opinion of the college drive my reluctance. Rather, I believe that the nominal goals and actual implications of the Senior Giving Program are problematic from any perspective.

The Senior Giving Program website officially states that the purpose of the campaign – the only reason listed on the “Why is participation important?” page – is to “boost the college’s alumni participation percentage.”

As the site explains, this statistic is one of the metrics used to measure Conn’s success. When this percentage is high, the public perception of the college is enhanced and the college is financially legitimized in the eyes of grant-awarding foundations.

Unfortunately, the alumni participation percentage is a contrived and mendacious statistic.

Even if our Senior Giving campaign raised no more than a dollar from every senior, it would set a new participation record and be labeled an enormous success, without even paying for its own kick-off event

and “secret party” finale, much less making a serious contribution to the endowment.

Giving to the campaign to fill an arbitrary cell in a spreadsheet is buying into a bogus evaluation; to do so is to ignore the things that truly make our school what it is.

Furthermore, when giving is incentivized with party invitations, the legitimacy of its being called “giving” is called into question.

Supporters of the program make the case, however, that even if donated money does not meaningfully contribute to future classes of Conn students,

I call upon seniors to express their good intentions simply by living up to the school’s virtuous ideals in meaningful and honest ways.

and even if the assessment it represents is false, it has important utility for all of our degrees.

To a limited extent, this is probably true.

But to be a Conn student is to forever explain the difference between Camels and Huskies, and our school pride should not be in numerical prowess or societal prominence but in genuine achievement.

Rather than contributing money to the Senior Giving campaign and furthering disingenuous markers of loyalty, I call upon seniors to express their good intentions simply by living up to the school’s virtuous ideals in meaningful and honest ways.

To everyone who has had the “amazing academic/overall experience” that the Giving Program website describes, I propose that you personally and sincerely thank those professors, coaches, advisors, and staff who have made it what it was.

And to those who want to express themselves in quantifiable ways, I encourage you to direct your generosity to another worthy recipient: the elementary and high schools that opened the intellectual door to Conn for you.

If you attended public school, as I did, you have probably witnessed teachers working just as hard as our college professors, but lacking many of the resources we have available here.

Yes, it is probably true that a low Senior Giving participation rate will inconsequentially tarnish one measurement of Conn’s standing, but a favorable perception of our school and the real value of our degrees depends on our ability to be responsible and successful citizens, not our ability to scrounge up a dollar.

that clear the freshly fallen snow off the 20 or so inches of ice covering the lake so that they can skate for miles and take in the beauty of a white Swedish winter.

Every year, the local long-distance skating team organizes a 80 km (50 mile) race aptly named the Vikingarannet (“The Viking Route”) from the university town I am studying in, Uppsala, to Stockholm city. When I heard about this event, I thought it sounded like a great way for me to embrace the winter weather and get more in touch with my Swedish roots. I guess I didn’t quite understand how far 80 km is.

I prepared for my epic skate as any self-respecting Swedish student would – by attending a tradi-

SEE VIKING ON PAGE 11

Being There

LL Bean meets Bean and Leaf

JOHN SHERMAN
COLUMNIST

Halfway to the Starbucks in Groton, my friend and I decided to go to Bean & Leaf instead. Though not hugely concerned with the growth of multinational corporations myself, I occasionally enjoy a less cut-and-paste coffee experience. I just had forty minutes to kill before a *College Voice* meeting.

Believing Bean & Leaf would be an in-and-out affair was my first mistake.

Our conversation petered as we walked through the door, interrupted by the heavily-flyered wall straight ahead. *Gallery Opening 31st Annual Show Ocean Avenue Bank Street New Location One Night Only!* – the blur of New London culture. I stomped the slush off my boots, and, continuing inside, I heard a low voice and a drumbeat from the far end of the room. A look to my left confirmed my suspicion – it was an open-mic poetry reading.

“It’ll be over soon,” a girl said apologetically from behind the counter.

My face must have said it: *Oh, God. Poetry.*

“No, no worries,” I said, waving it away.

“Can I get you something to go?”

“Uhm, no, for here.” My second mistake. In that instant, I thought *not* taking my coffee far, far away from this poetry reading would make me seem less...something – less judgmental, less stuck-up, less ConnColl.

“Could I just have a small Americano?”

I walked to the other end of the coffee bar, in the direction of the stage. The poetry reading had, perhaps accidentally, filled every table in the room. The audience was a mix of New Londoners, half of them looking either genuinely homeless or affectedly so, and the other half on their laptops, taking up as much surface area as possible on tables and countertops with notebooks, power adapters, and dirty plates from sandwiches bought to legitimate such gluttonous consumption of space. Worse than stumbling into a poetry reading is stumbling in with nowhere to sit.

From the stage, “I’d like to read part of my favorite book.” The man reading looked inexplicably like a cartoon of a sailor, or of a gondolier – one who’d long since retired, perhaps, but couldn’t bear to part with his striped shirt. He read a passage about a statue from a Russian novel. I’ve forgotten its title.

Our coffees arrived at the end of the bar, where we were busy trying to lean casually. I still had twenty minutes before my meeting, and I felt responsible for our now ten- to fifteen-minute commitment to stay while we drank our coffees. It was now clear: the potential callousness of leaving, drink in hand, paled in comparison to the callousness of staring expressionlessly at poet after poet.

The act changed, and the couple in front of the stage picked up their jackets and left. A scruffy man in a red plaid shirt walked up to the microphone.

This is an experience, I told myself. I looked at my friend and we walked quietly to the open seats in the front row.

The man in plaid carried two large, black, bound notebooks in which he’d been hurriedly scribbling for the duration of the previous reading.

“This is a poem about writing a love song when you don’t love nobody,” he began. What followed was a string of roughly twelve couplets ending in *-ain* and *-ove*. He delivered each line as though he were reading it for the first time – deliberately, with careful, syllabic enunciation. They came out like the words of a song, the tune to which he’d deemed superfluous.

From my new seat, I looked at the rest of the audience. A middle-aged couple in big glasses sat on one of the couches, nodding along; a boy rocked in his seat and waved his hand in the air as though conducting a piece of music, embodying all its mute crescendos. In one of the deep, U-shaped booths behind me sat five or six girls – messy buns in their hair, big scarves around their necks, headphones in their ears. Conn girls, I knew at a glance. “I Am a Tree” was next from the man in plaid.

“I am a tree / and I have wood.” An extended sexual metaphor. “And I have wood.” The smile on his face was perversely endearing, like that of the boy in the front row who can see up the teacher’s skirt.

One of the girls took off her headphones and leaned over to say something to another girl, who paused her iPod and looked up from her reading. We were all there, in New London, in Bean & Leaf, drinking organic coffee, but none of us were doing the same thing.

Local artists were reading to anyone listening; Conn girls were doing their homework and feeling like world-savers and organic types for braving the streets of NewLo, State and Bank. I found myself pleasantly surprised by the work of people I’d assumed were crazy, or homeless, or both. My third mistake, apparently.

From the stage, “Both alone / and both afraid / but either way / they both get laid.”

We have a sense that when we leave campus we’re doing something noble, that “experiencing” downtown is our *noblesse oblige*. In Bean & Leaf, with six friends and headphones, you might as well be in the basement of the library – or, for that matter, at Starbucks.

In New London, it seems we’re rarely quite where we are – being seen and not being. “We went to Bean & Leaf to study.” What did you see? What did you hear?

“I am a tree / and I have wood.” The man in plaid took a self-conscious bow. My friend and I lifted our coats off the backs of our chairs, returned our mugs, and walked out the door. I’m glad we stayed.

When in Sweden,
Do as Vikings Do

Editor’s Note: This is a post from the College Voice blog “Wanderlust Travelogues”. See thecollegevoice.org/abroadblog for more writing from students currently abroad.

CHARLIE LONAEUS
BLOGGER

Back home in D.C. and Connecticut, when it gets really cold or snows, it’s a big deal. Snow plows line the roads ready to push salt and sand away from anything that might be a little slippery.

I recently received an email from the Office of College Relations to “exercise caution” and “call Physical Plant to report any areas of concern” after a snowfall in New London. Here in Sweden, the only snow plows people care about are the ones



Photo courtesy Charlie Lonaesus.

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A Different Kind of Conn Bubble: A Look at Grade Inflation

RIORDAN FROST
COLUMNIST

Grade inflation is a serious issue if it really exists. It could jeopardize the value of GPAs and transcripts, and any changes seeking to rectify the error face more than a few obstacles. From my experience, this inflation does exist to a certain extent.

In some courses, if a student shows up to class and does the work, even if he does a subpar job, chances are that he will receive a B, when he may deserve a C or below. This is especially the case with introductory courses, though I have seen a few upper-level courses with the same standards. I have been in a few classes in which I have received an A for work on which I could have done much better.

The clear problem with grade inflation is that unlike currency, grades have an upper limit. There are usually no A+ grades, especially not in college, so once I have hit the upper limit of an A, it becomes difficult to motivate myself to do the best I can.

Of course, if I am intrinsically motivated by the course material, which is often the case, I need not worry about any upper limit on grades, because my focus changes to the course material rather than the scores I receive. Yet when it comes to courses in which I am not wholly interested, grades are my primary motivation.

Personally, I am very conflicted on the subject. GPA is yet another part of that singular document of achievement known as a résumé, which can be the key to a career or a way to close doors before you have the chance to enter them, leaving you hopelessly searching for windows and smaller doors.

Granted, GPA does not have an enormous effect on everything, but many opportunities, especially fellowships and graduate schools, still pay attention to the GPA, with the

mindset that the better it is, the better the person behind it is. There are several fellowships that look fascinating to me, but are entirely unavailable due to a GPA threshold that I have not reached.

Herein lies the conflict: in an ideal world, if Professor Z gives me a C because I did work that was good but clearly not top-notch, I would take the challenge and put much more effort into the course. If that same professor still gives me a C for the course, I would be even more motivated to step up my academic effort in future

courses. This is not an ideal world, however; this leaves me unwilling to receive low grades due to my fear of the negative effect it may have on my chances in the world.

In an ideal world, I would be intrinsically motivated for all of my courses, and any potential employers or graduate schools would simply know how well I had done, and how much I had benefited from it.

Grades may not even exist in such a world.

In this world of grades and very small sheets of paper representing entire lives, however, this student will continue working with both extrinsic and intrinsic motivation, trying to benefit from courses while also trying to achieve the highest grades possible.

So the current situation isn't ideal.

What is the solution? I am not sure, though I shall definitely continue to consider the subject. If you have any idea, dear reader, I would be very appreciative if you would write a response and submit it to *The College Voice* in order to further the discussion.

As for now, however, I find myself agreeing with my friend's high school teacher, who once said, "A's are like crack. Once you get them, you want to keep getting them, even if they aren't doing anything for you."



Local Restaurant Goes Pun

Steve Bloom brings us a literal interpretation of Jasmine Thai

from "The Academic Costume" Blog

for more, visit www.thecollegevoice.org/costume

Campus Politics:

A Look at SGA's Current Projects

Editor's Note: Daniel Hartsoe will be writing a regular column concerning the goings-on at Student Government Association Assembly meetings

DANIEL HARTSOE
COLUMNIST

The Student Government Association's meeting this past Thursday included debates over two issues: whether or not to purchase 'renewable energy certificates' to offset the college's use of electricity generated from non-renewable energy sources, and the logistics of the 'Hope for Haiti Dinner'.

The Environmental Model Committee (EMC) has, over the past few months, crafted a proposal to use this year's student comprehensive fee fund of \$40,000 (the fund is created from the \$25 surcharge tacked on to each student's tuition, which is designated for "Renewable Energy") to purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs), to offset two years of the college's non-renewably generated electricity, which amounts to almost 30,000 mega-watt hours.

What these certificates in effect do, according to EMC member and SGA Senator from Blackstone Crystal Garcia '12, is pay the difference between the price for electricity generated from non-renewable sources, such as natural gas, coal and oil, and electricity generated from renewable sources, such as the sun, the wind and heat below the earth's surface. The electricity generated from all sources flows through the same national grid, so the college cannot easily purchase only electricity generated from renewable sources.

What the RECs do is pay a

provider of electricity generated from a renewable source for the difference in cost between renewably and non-renewably generated electricity, thus increasing demand for renewably generated electricity. The EMC proposed to buy enough credits to cover the college's entire electricity use over the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years from the provider 3Degrees Energy.

While many representatives supported the EMC's proposal, some did not.

SGA President Peter Friedrichs and Senator Leland Stillman were among those in opposition, stating that the trend among colleges is moving away from purchasing RECs and towards other ways to reduce the 'carbon footprints' of their campuses.

Friedrichs urged the Assembly to send the EMC back to the drawing board to investigate other ways to more efficiently spend the fund.

However, as some supporters of the proposal replied, the purchase would cover the college for two years, leaving the fund with another \$40,000 to spend in some other way next year. Although the Assembly did pass the proposal for RECs by two votes, it was not a majority vote, and thus it did not pass.

The 'Hope for Haiti Dinner', which will take place in April, was the second main topic of discussion. For this event, students will have the opportunity to forfeit one meal for the benefit of the on-going relief effort in Haiti. Dining Services has promised to donate the cost of each meal forfeited to a charity for use in Haiti, while SGA's role will be to sign as many students on as possible

by tabling outside Harris Dining Hall for one week.

The main point of debate for SGA was to make the event an 'opt-in' event or an 'opt-out' event. If students are able to 'opt-in', they will have to sign up to forfeit their meal. If they have to 'opt-out', however, they will be assumed to be participating unless they sign their name, in which case they will not forfeit their meal.

The 'opt-in' plan would ensure that students participating in the event actually want to participate, while the 'opt-out' plan would increase participation by reducing the chance that a student who wants to participate doesn't because he never finds out about the event.

While the 'opt-out' plan would appear to be the better option for the purpose of raising as much money as possible for Haiti, it would not have as beneficial an effect on the spirit of philanthropy in the student body. While the main purpose of the 'Hope for Haiti Dinner' is to raise money for aiding Haiti, fulfilling that purpose would be a hollow gain if it were fulfilled with money 'donated' by students who didn't know if they had donated it and for what purpose.

The fundraising effort would appear less legitimate to most students, and appear to be more of a top-down rather than bottom-up project, if they offered the opportunity of not donating a meal rather than being asked to donate a meal. Students are more likely to organize and involve themselves in other charitable activities if the activities focus on active student participation.

Manic-Recycling

Why recycling competitions undermine the power of recycling

JAMES SCALES
STAFF WRITER

Beginning earlier this month, and lasting until the end of March, Connecticut College (with the help of the American Forest & Paper Association and The Coca-Cola Company — who ensure that bins will be available next to their vending machines) will be competing in RecycleMania, the stated goal of which is "to reduce campus waste disposal and increase campus recycling."

To recycle is, simply, to make the used reusable. But it is more than this too. Recycling is the assertion that we care about the environment and an assurance that our negative global impact can be absolved, allowing our lives to continue in their current fashion.

The claim of RecycleMania is worth investigation. The competitive increase in consumption (to win we must recycle more, to recycle more we must buy more, etc.) opposes the ideal goal of recycling, which is that we consume less.

In this logic, to measure the health of our environment by the raw quantity of recycled material is something like measuring the health of our bodies

by the quantity of medicine consumed.

RecycleMania does not teach us to reduce our impact, but simply to redeem and pacify it. If two months out of the year we — in the spirit of competition and improving our reputation — consciously recycle, we might justify other actions as pre-cancelled: "I threw a bottle

the word about the importance of recycling even earlier this year to make sure we remain a top contender in the competition."

RecycleMania has nothing to do with environmentalism. The only motivation for spreading the word earlier this year (why not always spread the word?) is to maintain our reputation and

outshine the other schools.

Perhaps in the future, young students arriving in September will be instructed to stuff their closets with newspapers and empty cans until the Mania begins.

I am not against recycling. It is a task that requires little work on our part, no more

than a trip to the bathroom. Aluminum cans take 96 percent less energy to create from recycled material than to create from virgin material (recycled glass, the opposite end of the spectrum, saves about 21 percent).

My issue is the simple fact that competitive recycling distorts and even injures the underlying cause of recycling itself.

As an alternative, we must reduce the amount of things consumed and increase the proportion of things recycled, so that — in an ideal state — we take in little and give it all back.



File Photo

in the trash, but last week put thirty cans in the bin..."

Take Connecticut College's bottled water brand: we must consider how much of our recycling consists of the plastic from these bottles, and compare this to the decreased impact if students used water fountains or filled their mugs from the faucet.

The competitive nature of the program is also troubling. "Connecticut College has a recycling culture that is enhanced during RecycleMania," said Amy Cabaniss, Environmental Coordinator, on the college's website. "We started spreading

Write for Opinions.

[opinions@thecollegevoice.org]

Clean Your Plate, Schlub!



JAKE SCHNAIDT
COLUMNIST

This Clean Plate Club (CPC) stuff is admirable, or at the very least well-publicized, but we aren't looking at the underlying consequences of what it means to our "belly brains." The belly brain, by the way, is like the head brain in many ways but its location is in your belly instead of your head. We all have major psycho-intestinal issues thanks to the great abundance of food surrounding us, and CPC seems

to be a poor solution to those issues.

I'll start by addressing my Freudian problem with the CPC. To me, joining this club as a child was not "fun" or "a means to be like Arnold Schwarzenegger." I recall images of my father pressuring me to eat disgusting, overcooked broccoli. Don't even tell me if I don't clean my plate at Harris I won't get any ice cream because I'll just make my plates extra filthy for everyone.

When we had trays, which was a surprisingly short time ago despite the fact that we've been brainwashed to believe a 12" diameter saucer can hold all the food our bodies can take, our belly brains were free. Freeing the belly brain is a crucial step towards bellyvana, which is like nirvana, only with your belly.

And then there's this contract that people are signing. Do you know what you're signing? Because I think if you read the

implied fine print you'll realize there is a lot more to it than just an agreement to *try* to finish everything on your plate. The agreement isn't only to eat all the crap you put on your plate, but also to make sure that all future meals eaten on that plate are thoroughly cleaned – that's called sustainability, dawg. That basically means you have to sign the plate. And if you knew how serious a commitment that was, you might think twice about

joining the CPC.

I used to run cross country, and whenever there was a false start and the runners were told to walk back to the starting line and start over, my legs cramped up, and I couldn't will myself to finish. This never actually happened, but the point is, eating is a race against your own body and mind, just like running a foot race. The clean plate rule says, "Dinner is over when the plate is clean." My rule says, "Dinner is over when your body can't take anymore." If I choose to run too hard, my body either punishes or rewards me. If I eat too hard, digested Harris food just says, "Hey, I'm soaked with laxatives and I'm getting out of here one way or another."

My point is, in the form of a question, are we really so dumb that we don't know how much food we can eat by now? Are our belly brains so unsophisticated that after 18-22 years of cycling foodstuffs, they cannot gauge appropriate amounts of food for specific feelings of hunger? Is a signature all we need to monitor and mend this? Do I need a lobotomy/lobotomy?

Teaching the Camel's Native Tongue

Hindi will play a huge role in the future of world politics; Conn should remain ahead of curve

DOUG BERNSTEIN
CONTRIBUTOR

Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish: these are the 11 foreign languages currently being taught at Connecticut College according to the Spring 2010 course schedule.

Additionally, Croatian and Czech are offered for independent-study. The college deserves praise for offering such a linguistic smörgåsbord from which students can choose (ironically enough smörgåsbord is Swedish, something we don't teach).

However, I can't help but notice that something is missing: Hindustani, also known as Hindu-Urdu or simply Hindi. It is the second most spoken language on Earth, being the primary tongue of some 600 million people ranging from Fiji, Nepal, Afghanistan, Guyana, Suriname, Myanmar, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uganda and Kenya. When secondary speakers are taken into account, the number of people who understand and can communicate in Hindi surpasses one billion.

Hindu-Urdu is the official language of both India and Pakistan, two countries with a potentially huge impact on the future of humanity. India, home to nearly 1.2 billion people and counting, is the largest democracy on Earth. According to the US Census Bureau's International Database, India is predicted to overtake China as the world's

most populous country by 2025.

India is on the front lines of the battle against climate change, the "War on Terrorism" and the expansion of predatory multinational corporations. A linguistic grounding is no less indispensable to our understanding and future relations with Pakistan.

While some may not grasp the importance of Pakistan to US foreign policy, or even be able to find it on a map for that matter, I'm hoping the average Conn student can at least do the latter. The success (I use that word as loosely as possible) or failure of our little experiment with Afghanistan hinges almost entirely on Pakistan's internal struggle with the Taliban and what our modern, politically correct lexicon has coined 'extremists.' Where drone attacks have failed, perhaps a linguistic and cultural understanding can succeed. It is no surprise that the State Department and other government agencies are scrambling to find individuals fluent in Hindu-Urdu and other languages like Pashto and Dari, languages essential if we wish to truly bring peace to Afghanistan.

It might not be in Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, but I think it is a pretty safe bet not to fight a war while lost in translation. It doesn't matter whether those who drop a bomb and those who are killed by it speak the same language, but it certainly helps when signing peace treaties or building schools.

I feel that I have sufficiently dramatized the importance of Hindi so let me return to the primary purpose/pipedream of this article: persuading the powers that be to start a Hindi language program at Conn. As it stands, the college offers links to a number of study abroad programs in India and Nepal. There is already a Hindi Club on

Government agencies are scrambling to find individuals fluent in Hindu-Urdu and other languages, languages essential if we wish to truly bring peace to Afghanistan.

campus comprised of ten students who, rather than wait for the college to get its act together, decided to learn Hindi on their own. Compare that to the five students currently in elementary Russian or the two students who comprise the entire Hebrew language program.

But Conn's connection to Hindu-Urdu runs far deeper than the Hindi Club. As was pointed out by Jazmine Hughes in *The College Voice* article "I Am Camel, Hear Me Roar," "...the camel mascot was established in 1969, the same year the college went co-ed. Mike Shinault...named the CC team after a Pakistani team he'd seen during his time in the Navy."

If my arguments appealing to logic have floundered, then maybe a more sentimental approach can succeed. The camel, the pillar upon which so much of Conn's unique identity rests, stems directly from an intimate bond to Pakistan! How's that for a cross-cultural connection?

Therefore, I declare that it is damning to our school spirit not to offer courses in Hindi. However, as I again refer to the Spring 2010 course listings in the hopes that Hindi might spontaneously manifest itself, I find that we have not just one but five sections of elementary Italian.

Now then, I realize Italy and the Italian language have given contemporary mankind numerous treasures such as Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, and more recently Andrea Bocelli, Olive Garden and Guidos, but I feel as though having five sections of elementary Italian but not one section of Hindi is an affront to the principles of higher education upon which this institution was founded.

Though I risk offending the pugnacious Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, I fail to see Italy as having the same impact on the future of the United States and the world at large which India and Pakistan have right now.

Though it may be an uncomfortable realization for some, the glory days of Western civilization are waning. The pages are turning; we are about to begin a new chapter. The 21st century

will belong to the Orient, not the Occident. Already, the economic centers of the West are being eclipsed by the far off cities of New Delhi, Hong Kong, Mumbai and Taipei to name but a few. The world is turning, and it is time we turn our gaze with it. Just as Conn fostered a fantastic Chinese language program, it must do the same with Hindi. Lest this institution wish to pass up such a tremendous opportunity to bolster admissions, publicity and the college's overall academic standing.

A quick search on Conn's website reveals said mission statement to be the following, "Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society." The college faces financial difficulty, but is nevertheless barreling ahead with the arbitrary decision to redesign our Pakistani-born mascot, I can only come to one conclusion: the new camel will inexplicably transcend cultural and linguistic barriers and cause an enlightening of the human spirit in any who gaze upon it. If this is not the case, then, in order to keep the college from making erroneous claims or perpetuating falsehoods which might disenchant or anger students, I propose the following alteration to our mission statement: "Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society*."

*Bull

What Vikings Do When It Gets Cold

CONTINUED FROM VIKING, PAGE 9

tional Swedish "gasque" dinner party (fancy clothes, good food, and of course, lots of vodka and singing). The next morning, while listening to ABBA blaring over the loudspeakers at Vikingarannet's start line five hours later, I noticed that many local competitors were giving me strange looks as I laced up my hockey skates.

Apparently Swedes have specialty long-distance skates similar to the ones Apolo Anton Ohno has been using in Vancouver the past week. They also don't think it's cool to wear hockey jerseys (feeling some regret for missing out on the 2010 CCCP vs Coast Guard hockey games, I had decided to proudly don my Camels shirt).

When I reached the first rest stop after some 15 miles where you could briefly get blueberry soup and chocolate bars, I un-

derstood why my skates weren't ideal.

Their short blade clearly wasn't designed to smoothly glide over all the cracks and bumps that 4,000 skaters competing against one another creates. Nevertheless, I kept going, and with legs burning, I triumphantly crossed the Stockholm finish line in 6 hours, 44 minutes and 47 seconds. I had gained a new appreciation for skaters who think the only "sticks" that should be held while on skates are modified ski poles ending in sharp spikes used to dig into the ice and push a skater forward.

I also learned how the modern inhabitants of Viking Land approach extremely cold weather: it doesn't have to be an inconvenience. I mean hey, I got to Stockholm without having to pay for a train ticket.



Photo courtesy Charlie Lonaeus.

EDITORIALS/LETTERS

FEBRUARY 23, 2010

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

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All members of the Connecticut College community are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, articles, photographs, cartoons, etc. All submissions will be given equal consideration.

Letters to the editor are accepted from any member of the college community on a first-come, first-come basis until noon on the Saturday preceeding publication. They should run approximately 300 words in length, but may be no longer than 500 words.

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and include contact information.

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The editor-in-chief must contact all authors prior to publication to verify that he/she was indeed the author of the letter.

The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, grammar or libel. No letters deemed to be libelous towards an individual or group will be published.

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Editorials

I completely concur with Andy Irwin's Letter to the Editor since I too was disappointed with our lack of coverage of the Sustainability Teach-In.

The event was eye-opening to me in terms of considering "what's next" for the college.

This is an exciting time for Conn. It seems the Sustainability

Audit results have produced a renewed vigor to bring the college to the forefront of environmentalism, and SGA's votes in the proposal from EMC hopefully will make this and other environmentally focused groups consider what we can do right here on campus.

I hope more students show their support for sustainability and re-

newable energy by writing for *The College Voice* or another prominent outlet. This ensures administrators, trustees, faculty and alumni alike are aware of our collective investment in the college's sustainable future.

- Claire

Letters to the Editor

In Response to "ExtraOrdinary":

While calls home reveal snippets of campus life, *The College Voice*, offers a remarkably clear and uncensored view of what's happening and what's stirring debate. I was struck (occupational hazard as a branding consultant) by the connection among several pieces in recent issues from reconciling the college's identity with marketing initiatives, the editorial decrying the lack of support for Conn's sports teams, and the Camel logo update.

One's identity is a rare and

individual gift.

It defines: 1) who you are 2) what makes you different and 3) why anyone should care. Answering these fundamental questions (particularly for a nearly 100 year old institution) requires deep soul-searching. It challenges the entire college community -- students, administrators, faculty, trustees, alumni and parents to uncover together your unique qualities. This organic process will help illuminate how Connecticut College is distinctive from other peer institu-

tions, help shape key messages for the web site, campus tours, sports cheers and also influence the college's visual expression.

Identity informs marketing, not the other way around. Crystallizing Connecticut College's identity would indeed be a potent centennial present.

Sincerely,
Patricia Deneroff
Parent '12

In Response to "Let's Talk About Sex...":

First of all, I want to thank Andrew Crimer for writing an article about Conn's new Coordinator of Sexual Violence Education and Advocacy. As I said in the article, it is really exciting to have another way to continue a constructive dialogue about sexual assault on campus. Darcie Folsom has taken on her new role with enthusiasm, and is already creating a presence among the student body.

That said, I would like to clarify one of my statements in the article. I was quoted as saying "Although we'd like to work very closely

we can't really do that. We have to keep them separate according to the grant." I'm concerned that I made it seem like there would be no collaboration between the Women's Center and Darcie. On the contrary, she will be working with us and other groups on campus, acting, as her title implies, to educate and advocate about issues surrounding sexual violence. For example, one event that we are looking forward to this semester is our annual Take Back the Night. Rather, what I had meant by my statement is that this new posi-

tion was not intended to fulfill the role of director for the Women's Center. We at the Women's Center would like once again to welcome Darcie to campus and applaud her efforts to create what she describes as "a campus with active bystanders who will stand up to sexual violence and not just watch."

Sincerely,
Dani Murphy
Student Co-ordinator
Women's Center

General Letter:

I am writing to make public a time capsule of prejudice from the past that plays out daily everywhere. But I never thought I would see it so close to home, right here in New London.

One of my supervisors at work, an olive-skinned man of Hawaiian descent, likes to shop at Home Goods in the New London Mall. He visits the store, briefly, on his workdays, as he passes the store on his way to employment at a nearby school that honors diversity. He is, by nature, the consummate shopper and manages a method of shopping that entails observation and patience before making his purchases.

On February 17, he was shopping at this store when he was approached by a New London Police Officer with two "backups." One officer asked him for identification, he and complied, asking what he had done wrong. The officer said he would "tell him later," and told him he would have to go outside with him.

He was bewildered and frightened as three officers "escorted" him out to the parking lot to continue their interrogation. They asked him if he came there almost

every day, to which he replied he did, that in fact the Home Goods store was his favorite place to shop, that in fact 50 percent of his household purchases had come from that very store. When he continued to inquire about what his crime was, while surrounded by three police officers and a bevy of curiosity seekers, the manager of the store came to confront this poor embarrassed and humiliated individual. She went on to say that because he came in almost daily, that he had made some of her employees "uncomfortable," and that she never wanted to see him in the store again.

The police responded by saying that on their part they would be forced to arrest him should he enter the doors of his favorite store again.

I find it ironic in today's economy a store would try to prevent some one from shopping daily, as people do in many places and many cultures. I assure you that is all this gentle man was doing. No, this is a clear-cut case of dark skinned prejudice and social profiling and small-minded people scaring themselves into thinking that they were threatened somehow

by this man's presence. Did anyone ever say "Good morning, how are you today" to him? Would they have reacted the same way to an attractive, rich looking white shopper? I think not. No, this man was publicly and privately humiliated, not for the great crime of shopping daily at the same place, but rather for the great crime of social prejudice on the loose carried out by our own police force, motivated by the small minded behavior of Home Goods Store Management. I can forgive the police officers, but I cannot forgive the Home Goods Store that used my hard earned tax dollars to help carry out a mission of prejudicial behavior, initiated by them.

For my part and many of my fellow employees at this man's workplace, we will not, nor will anyone in our families shop at the Home Goods Store in New London Mall, until they publish a public statement renouncing their behavior and publicly apologize to this man for their shameful behavior.

Sincerely,
Michael A. Hann

Newspaper Response:

I was disappointed when I found little more than a photo caption written on last Thursday's Sustainability Teach-In. An event graciously put on by the administration to present the findings of the Environmental Sustainability Baseline Audit (ESBA), it required great effort and resources, while also showing to students President Higdon and others' commitment to sustainability at Conn. The Teach-in was a great kick off to a more coordinated effort to move towards sustainability at Conn while increasing our competitiveness, fostering greater sense of community and putting tuition dollars to more efficient use.

If one had not attended the events that Thursday, they could assume that this was merely a small meet-and-greet not unlike the ones President Higdon normally puts on. This was however, the start of something much greater, and as student journalists *The Voice* must be held to its responsibility to communicate important campus issues to students. During

the second working group a few of my peers and I heard President Higdon walk into Ernst and whisper "wow" as he stood to observe three groups of students, faculty and staff brainstorm ideas about the future of this institution. If any *College Voice* writer had bothered to give interviews with the president, physical plant staff and the scores of students, they would have heard about the many opportunities to move towards sustainability in the short and long term. The Teach-in was also not just some typical meeting of green people preaching to the choir. Rather, the focus was on how to get a "broad buy-in" from those not particularly interested in environmental sustainability, those that are still passionate about other issues with which environmental sustainability intersects. How can we reduce automobile emissions while also creating a stronger sense of community? How do we integrate sustainability across the curriculum? How do we become stronger stakeholders for

sustainability in New London and Southeast CT? How do we connect to the growing number of local and sustainable farmers to bring tastier and healthier food to the dining halls? How can we leverage our achievements towards sustainability to increase our reputation among liberal arts colleges? These and other questions were posed at the Teach-in and have and will continue to be thought about in the coming months as we collectively create a sustainability plan for the college. *The College Voice* is the perfect forum to dissect these issues. A crucial opportunity was missed in the February 16 issue. I encourage all students, faculty and staff to continue to engage in discussions on our sustainable future and put the *College Voice* on notice for failing to perform the most essential of duties, engaging the public in talking about critical issues.

Sincerely,
Andrew Irwin '10