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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011

VOLUME XCV • ISSUE 13



## VAGINA MONOLOGUES

85 Students performed at this Saturday's annual production of Vagina Monologues. Pictured here (from left to right): Hailey Fyfe '13, Skylar Volpe '13, Laura Newman '11, Eleanor Schmitt '12, Cecilia Brown '13, Katherine Shabb '12.



## Where's Waldo? Campus prank keeps students guessing

RACINE OXTOBY  
ARTS CO-EDITOR

Waldo is a man who looks to be somewhere in his thirties. He wears a red and white sweater, as well as a matching beanie cap. Blue jeans. Brown loafers. He sometimes walks with a cane, suggesting chronic back problems. His thick-framed glasses magnify his eyes to an unnerving size. His chin is abnormally large and he has three fingers (plus thumb) on each hand. And yet, despite his setbacks, he smiles cheerfully and always manages to find adventure in his life.

He is also somewhere between one and two feet tall, two-dimensional and laminated like an elementary school project.

I look at the Waldo in my hands, which David Vartanian '12 has just handed me. He is much smaller than I expected. When I first learned that Connecticut College was experiencing its own, real life Where's Waldo? game, I thought he would be life-size, allowing him to become hidden among students.

"The idea actually started with another friend who had a mini Waldo," explained Waldo's other guardian, Richard Worsman '12. "[He] would hide it around his

room and move it and it would just be a funny thing. Dave and I were walking back from his room... and we thought it would be a fun idea to make a Waldo for campus."

For those of you unfamiliar with the book series, *Where's Waldo?* was created by British illustrator Martin Handford (the character is known as Wally in his native England). According to Wikipedia, Waldo is "a world traveler and time travel aficionado." The books feature mosaics of chaos through which Waldo must be found, as well as loading each page with games within games. Besides having to find Waldo, readers can also scour the pages for his possessions, which he proceeds to drop one at a time with each new location, or jump to the last page for checklists of other crazy sights. In the first book, these range from "a boy who's not allowed any ice cream" on the beach to Dracula at an airport. The first American publication of *Where's Waldo?* in 1987 sparked controversy when a topless woman was spotted in the beach location, placing the book on the list of "100 Most Frequently Challenged Books."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## A New Middle East Discussion

DAVID SHANFIELD  
STAFF WRITER

"This is the biggest moment of my career," said Caroleen Sayej, professor of government, addressing a crowded audience in the Charles Chu room. Students and faculty attended this lecture on Thursday, entitled "A New Middle East," for a wide variety of reasons.

"I attended because of the current developments in the Middle East," said Jazmin Acuna Cantero '11. "I believe that anyone who is interested in politics and international relations would have been as excited as I was while watching the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt over the internet or TV."

Other students, like Abigail Stevenson '14, went to the discussion for more personal reasons. "I am particularly interested in Middle Eastern politics because my dad is Arab and lives in Morocco. Seeing these events unfold in his neighboring countries makes me curious about the future of those nations."

Sayej referred to the recent events in Egypt and Tunisia as a

"breath of fresh air."

"All we really talk about are negative developments, Middle East exceptionalism and why they are absent from discussions of democracy and civil society." Talk of protest and uprising in the Middle East has always centered on radicals and extremists, however these new protests have finally shown the presence and power of the moderates.

"I teach about an area that is labeled 'exceptional,' 'irregular' and defies all patterns of development across the world," explained Sayej. "More importantly, the area is too often 'orientalized' by scholars, foreign policy analysts and media. The region is treated as a monolith, all behavior is reduced to religious impulses, state level behavior is projected as true for society as well and there is a general disdain for 'normalizing' the people and culture of the Middle East. The changes in Egypt and Tunisia – even though they may not amount to much at the end of the day – shatter the myths about the region."

Professor Sayej handed the microphone over to Ikram Lakhdhah

'13, an international student from Tunisia, to talk about the sociopolitical revolution that took place between this December and January, and resulted in longtime President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali fleeing to Saudi Arabia.

"I wasn't in Tunisia, I was in DC, which was a big mistake," said Lakhdhah, laughing. "I didn't know this was going to happen at all."

"The roots [of the revolution] were years and decades of corruption, and unemployment, but the vehicle was definitely Facebook and Twitter," she said. "Especially for the youth."

Lakhdhah expressed her hopes for the future of the Tunisian government. "Hopefully, next year I will be here discussing the Tunisian model of a democratic state."

"What separates Egypt and Tunisian cases from others," said Sayej, taking the floor once again, "is the degree to which they were premeditated." The organizers of the uprising in Egypt had been collaborating for two years before the Egyptian people took to the streets.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## "Every Dollar Counts"

A conversation with Jim Berrien '74,  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

NICK RODRICKS  
STAFF WRITER

Few students know Jim Berrien '74. He's a tall man with steely blue eyes and a head of hair that struggles between blondes and grays. The sleeves of his gray suit are tailored perfectly, just short enough to show off his French cuffs and links. His presence carries an air of celebrity. The former publisher of *Forbes* Publishing Company and current chairman of the Connecticut College Board of Trustees sat with legs crossed last Friday in Blaustein, taking in an a cappella performance and sipping lightly on an amber drink. It's easy to see that Mr. Berrien has worked a room before, and as I sat patiently, trying my best to conduct a thorough interview, Mr. Berrien finished his drink, un-

crossed his legs and fixed his eyes three inches above my head.

For many students the arrival of the board of trustees seems an invasion from the corporate world, a swarm of suit-wearing, Blackberry-wielding alumni, sent in to remind us what our school hopes we will someday become: generous givers. The board meets on campus three times annually, ushered from Shain to Ernst to Crozier Williams to their hotel rooms, while each of the nine individual committees confer on a more regular basis. Berrien is in the second of his three-year term as chairman, and he seemed to combine a developed money sense with a fair understanding of what students want to know: that this institution is still ours.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



## A Fight for Justice

Students gather for the annual Spotlight on Human Rights

RAYMOND HAWKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Did you know that there are more slaves in the world today than ever before in history? Or that in 2009, more money was made from human trafficking than by Google, Nike and Starbucks combined? These are only a fraction of the alarming facts exposed at Spotlight on Human Rights, which took place in Oliva Hall on February 18. The annual event, presented by Human Rights Now, is designed

to promote awareness of human rights issues across the globe, and to advocate for action. A number of students spoke on a variety of topics, based on research and study abroad experience.

After a dinner catered by 2 Wives Pizza, the event kicked off with music by Liz DeLise '13. Quite a few students attended, and the songs ended in enthusiastic applause.

The first speaker was Karam Sethi '12, founder of the project *Enlightenment Through Books*.

"There is a crisis in Pakistan," Sethi explained. Only 1 in 3 children go to school, and of these a third drop out by fifth grade. Girls are especially disadvantaged in Pakistani society. The country has the third lowest enrollment rate for girls in the world, and those who try to attend school are often subject to severe verbal and physical abuse. Sethi showed a picture of a young woman whose face had been burned and disfigured by acid when she had tried to get an education.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## IN THIS ISSUE

### NEWS



Spotlight on Human Rights • page 4

### OPINIONS



Elementary, My Dear Watson • page 6

### ARTS



The Road to the Oscars • page 10

### SPORTS



Men's Basketball • page 12



## EDITORIALS /// LETTERS

FEBRUARY 21, 2011

## THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Clara Chaisson  
Julia Cristofano  
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Jerrell Mays  
Adam Miller  
Sam Norcross  
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Katherine Sartiano  
Alex Schwartzburg  
David Shanfield  
Amelia Smith  
Melanie Thibeault

**Illustrators** Jeremy Nakamura  
Alicia Toldi

**Copy Editors** Brittany Armstrong  
Christina Fogarasi  
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David Shanfield  
Melanie Thibeault

**Photographers** Ipek Bakir  
Hadley Brooks  
Cecilia Brown  
Nevena Deligineva  
Hoitt McAllister  
Hannah Plishtin  
Miguel Salcedo  
Amelia Smith  
Kira Turnbull

## Contact Us

contact@thecollegevoice.org  
(860) 439-5437  
270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320

## Editorials

A pronoun is a stand-in for something specific, something definable. A pronoun is a placeholder for something typically already identified, to which one later alludes. *Charles ate an apple. He found it on the ground.* "He" is Charles, and "it" is the apple.

Over the course of the past four years, at a point indistinguishable even in hindsight, "home" became a pronoun. It, "home," no longer refers exclusively to the town in which I grew up, nor to the driveway where I park my car every November, December, March, and May, nor to the backyard I sledged down as a child, nor to the bedroom I cried in as a teenager.

More so than it alludes to a physical place, the word suggests a sense of stasis and belonging, of balance and permanence—one that's shifted from that town, that house, that backyard, and that bedroom to something newer, and yet somehow infinitely more familiar. Little by little, Here and Now supersede the "from" in "Where are you from?" and, almost all of a sudden, the question seems starkly, startlingly irrelevant.

More relevant questions at this stage of my life include, but are not limited to: "Where do you live?" "Where do you go to school?" "What do you want to do when you graduate?" The present is a climbable staircase, while the past often seems a dusty crawlspace. By which I mean I don't think a lot about home.

Growing up, my family moved around a fair amount. I "grew up," whatever that means, between Maine, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Connecticut. Between kindergarten and fifth grade I attended five different schools, and grades six through twelve would see me at three more. Compared to friends of mine who were born and lived eighteen years in the same house, with the same two, still-married parents, my childhood seems remarkably off-kilter; compared to the childhood experiences of other friends, I might as well be writing home to Levittown, PA.

The very instability of "home"—that it means my dorm room after last call on Tuesday bar night, that it means my mother's house during finals, that it means every sidewalk from Freeman to Harris at the end of every vacation—speaks to the sheer relativity of my domestic center of gravity. "What dorm do you live in?" "What year are you?" "What's your major?"—these questions I can answer. "Where's home?" is considerably tougher.

They say no matter where you go, there you are—and how true. Here we are, and certainly we were somewhere before we were here (somewhere that led us to being here now, however circuitously), but where are we now, really? Are we home? Maybe, sometimes.

John Sherman  
Managing Editor

## Free Speech

When my son was home for Christmas break we had an ongoing dialogue about American suburbia and its inhabitants' chronic myopia about the real world. We put the obvious elephant on the table: we were having these conversations over fresh espresso in a comfortable four-bedroom house in Connecticut, with a comfortable two-acre buffer between us and the surrounding, equally comfortable neighborhoods...or some-

My position: Most decisions about moving into or out of the American suburbs are driven by children: their arrival or their departure. Suburbs offer tangible evidence and predictable incidence of the elements that make up a parent's must-have list: good schools to feed my child's mind, safe neighborhoods to encourage friendships and protect my child from harm, parks that give my child room to run and recreation programs that give my child things to do all the time. In this way, the suburban environment is appealing to parents because it provides the essential starting place... and for some, that's all they need to do their job. Even better for a parent who is inclined to introduce her child to cultural and artistic diversity, because with the basics covered, she is free to bring particular focus to what's different, and spectacular, and enticing about places, things and people they don't see every day. These are the parents who urgently whisper with their encouragement, *it's a big world out there.*

So we square off, he with his fresh summer-in-New-York perspective and me, with 11 years invested in Suburban Connecticut. I anticipate this because it gets worse every year. After a few days of being home, the chafing begins, and no number of trips to Starbucks to cup his hands around the familiar blend and close his eyes, hoping he'll open them to some Parisian side street, makes time go faster. He doesn't hate suburbanites for choices they have made; he despises them for choices they haven't.

I carefully pick through my response lest I shut him down and he retreats to his room to mark off another day until he can get back to his life. It takes no imagination to utter the truth, "I did this for you," so I don't.

Tracy McKee  
Parent '11

## World News



## THE AMERICAS

Juan Pablo Pacheco

**COLOMBIA** — FARC Guerilla releases two hostages concluding the liberation of 6 hostages in the past week.

**ARGENTINA** — Government accuses the US for trying to smuggle weapons and satellite phones through an airplane seized in the airport.

**MEXICO** — US immigration agent shot to death in Mexico border.



## AFRICA

Jyoti Arvey

Marc Ravalomanana, former leader of MADAGASCAR plans to return to his country despite threats of arrest. He was exiled for life last year for killing at least 25 people in street protests. Ravalomanana has been residing in South Africa since, but believes he must return for the sake of restoring democracy.



## EUROPE

Norah Hannel

**ISTANBUL** — Three journalists from a Web site critical of the government were jailed and charged on Friday as part of an investigation into accusations that the military plotted to overthrow Turkey's pro-Islamic government in 2003. The moves came as Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan sharply criticized the new American ambassador here for his comments on the case. (Source: NYT)



## ASIA PACIFIC

Ian Rathkey

**NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN** military talks collapsed last week, while Thailand resists UN intervention over the still tense Preah Vihear temple border dispute as Cambodia asks for it, claiming they're at war.

**JAPAN** plans for military presence on its smaller islands in the East China Sea to protect them from Chinese & Taiwanese claims.



## SOUTH ASIA

Raymond Palmer

**THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER** — Troops exchanged gun fire in a border dispute between Cambodia and Thai. The dispute is over the 11th-century Preah Vihear temple, which both countries claim. In 2008 the Unesco World Heritage status for the temple was awarded to Cambodia. Thousands of people have fled their homes on both sides.



## MIDDLE EAST

Raymond Palmer

Anti-government protesters in **BAHRAIN** continue to occupy Pearl Square in the capital Manama after a violent clash with the riot police. **ALGERIAN** anti-government protesters are being curbed by riot police from staging a march through the capital. **EGYPTIAN** military shows impatience towards many working strikes which are causing economic damages.

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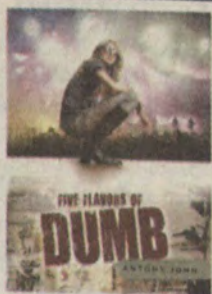
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## monday



### "Five Flavors of Dumb"

Reading, Discussion, and Q & A with Antony John  
4:00 PM Charles Chu Room, Library  
Antony John will read from his young adult novel, "Five Flavors of Dumb". Antony and Writer-in-Residence Blanche Boyd will share thoughts on young adult fiction.

## tuesday

### Documentary Film Screening: "Banished"

12:00 PM and 6:00 PM  
Provenance Center in New London, CT presents a film about towns and counties across America that practiced their own form of racial cleansing.

## friday

### FNL Rodeo Church

"Bro-fi" band out of Boston  
10 PM, Cro's Nest



STI Workshop with Dvora Walker  
7:00pm  
LBGTQAAI Center

## wednesday

### New London Winter Film Festival at the Garde: Winter's Bone

7:30 pm  
Garde Arts Center, 325 State Street

Maureen McCabe, "Swan Song"  
Gallery Talk  
4:15 PM, Cummings Arts Center

JA/Freeman Pizza-themed International Dinner  
4:30 PM - 7:00 PM

## thursday

### New London Winter Film Festival at the Garde: the social network

7:30 pm  
Garde Arts Center, 325 State Street

Underexposed Soiree  
8:00pm - 11:00pm  
A photo display by fellow Conn students, being sold for \$10-15. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

## saturday

### Dance Club Spring Performance

7:30 PM  
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday  
Myers Studio, 3rd Floor, Cro  
Choreography & dance by CC students. Tickets are \$4 for students.

## all week

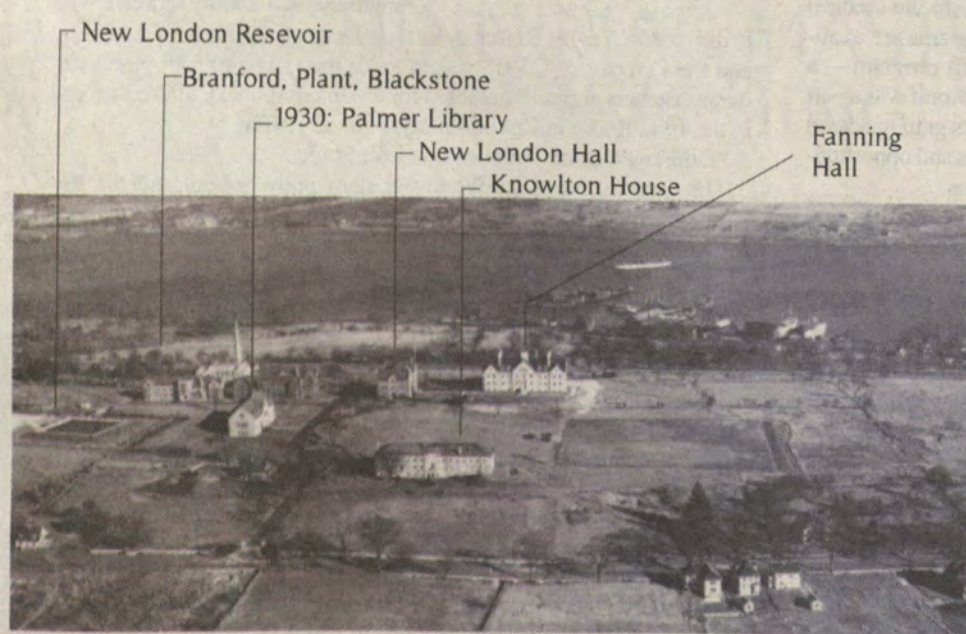
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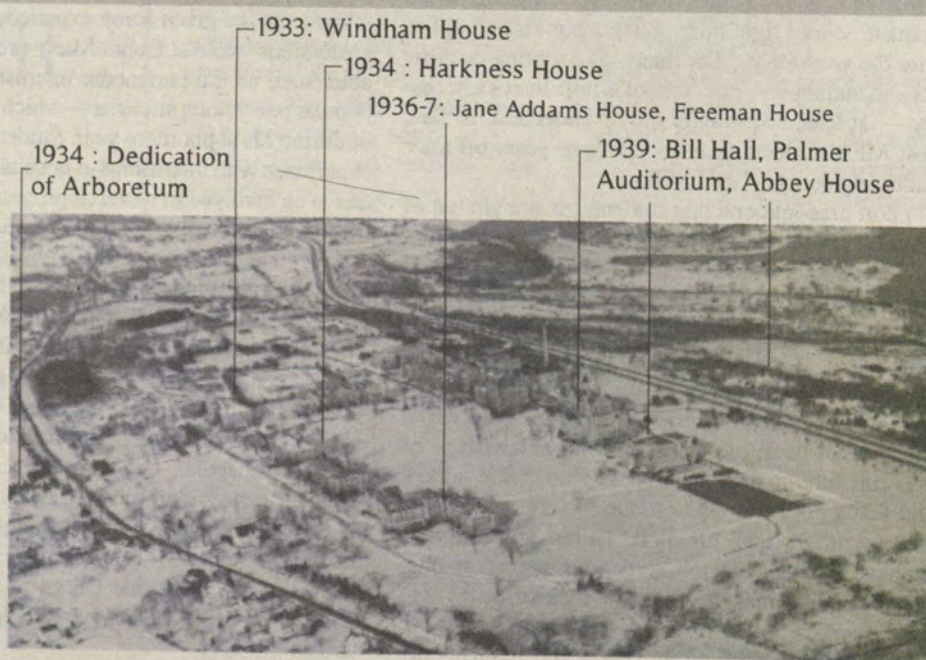
Provenance Center: 165 State Street, Harris Building, Atrium, New London, CT 06320  
An exhibit honoring Connecticut College's Centennial at Provenance Center in New London, CT.

The Linking New London and Connecticut College Communities (LINCC) has asked students to seek local images that capture the relationship between Connecticut College and the New London community. The exhibit will also feature works by Connecticut College Professor/Photographer Ted Hendrickson and historical photographs from Connecticut College's archives.

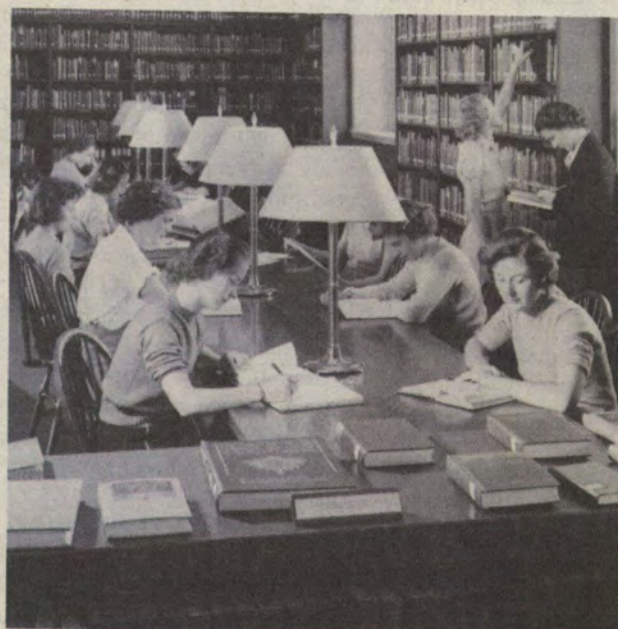
## CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, 1930-1940



Aerial photograph of Connecticut College campus, c. 1930.  
Photo by Curtiss Wright Flying Service, Inc., Aerial Survey Division, NYC.



Aerial photograph of Connecticut College campus, c. 1940.



Clockwise: Connecticut College, Mosier House, student co-op, "Working in the basement"; Palmer Library (now Blaustein Hall), West Reading Room, 1937; President Katharine Blunt, President from 1929-1943, and 1945-1946; "The hostess gives finishing touch to dinner table in Mosier House, cooperative dormitory."



## NEWS /// FEATURES

Editors: Jazmine Hughes and Meredith Boyle  
news@thecollegevoice.org

## Let's Get Down to Business

### A Guide to Grad School

MELANIE THIBEAULT  
STAFF WRITER

Let's talk more about graduate school programs. Last week's article covered the basics, but there are more specific programs offered, including medical, business and law school.

Becca Reel '11 is a history major with an English minor and museum studies certificate. She's applying to graduate programs for library science.

"Junior year I decided I wanted to go to grad school. Before that, I never wanted to go back to school," said Reel.

All of Reel's applications were due this month and no interviews were involved. "Last summer, I studied for and took the GREs. That's a pain, so do it early. You never want to do it during your senior year."

Reel applied to five grad schools—two she's fairly confident she will get into and three "reach" programs. She echoes graduate advisor Deb Dreher's advice from last week: pick schools where you can picture yourself living. "I went to see a couple of them in person to make sure I could see myself living there for two years."

One type of graduate program is a Master's of Fine Arts in creative writing, which according to English professor Blanche Boyd, makes students realize "they are no longer the best writer anymore; they're up against other players who are really good."

Getting into an MFA writing program is highly competitive because, essentially, a school is paying you money to work on writing for two or three years. They expect the result to be quality work.

"MFA is kind of like a PhD in writing since you will be qualified to teach writing at the college level upon graduation—so most of the fellowships are teaching-oriented, and many focus on teaching in underprivileged schools in the surrounding community, which is pretty neat," said Jenni Milton '11, a double major in music and English with a concentration in creative writing.

The application process requires students to submit transcripts from undergrad schools, GRE scores, around three letters of recommendation, a personal statement and a writing sample. The writing sample length, according to Milton, "varies from one university to the next, but fiction writing samples are often around thirty pages, sometimes more, sometimes less, poetry is around ten pages and screenwriting is either one full play or a portfolio of one-act plays."

In the case of MFA applications, the writing sample is more important than test scores. "MFA programs are unique in that they're looking for the best writing, not necessarily the person with the perfect GPA or GRE scores," Milton said. "At least with MFA programs, many universities realize how ridiculous the GRE is and are trying to eliminate it from the admissions criteria."

Many times humanities majors won't rush to attend graduate school right after college, but instead opt to enter the workforce. "For things like writing or other arts and humanities, grad school is not always a necessity—at least not straight out of undergrad. In fact, most MFA students take two to three years off after graduating college," said Milton.

"I don't recommend that students go straight out of college," said Boyd. "Take some time to figure out a little bit about life and learn how hard it is to get people interested in your writing."

But the prospect of an MFA program is appealing. Milton said, "One of the reasons the idea of going straight on to an MFA was so attractive to me was that the programs basically allow you to write, write, write, and some of them offer nice teaching fellowships or even full tuition plus a living stipend." She added, "But that's not really an accurate picture of what it's like to write in 'real' life, is it? Unless you're lucky, you have to have a day job, sometimes more than one, and writing becomes the thing you make time for outside of work."

For Milton, grad school isn't the next item on her list of things to do post-Conn. "I may apply to MFA programs somewhere down the road, but ultimately the next step for me has to involve something where I am earning money," she said.

MFAs may be useful but they aren't necessarily a requirement for someone who wants to have a writing career. Boyd suggests, "If you're serious about writing, it's a good idea."

Business and law schools each have different application processes. The law school application process can be more daunting due to a required application service, said Jack Tinker, Conn's pre-law and pre-MBA advisor. "It takes quite a while to go through the whole process."

Tinker, like the other graduate advisors at Conn, helps students set timelines so that they will apply at an optimum time. "The biggest mistake is applying at the deadline, since most law and business schools use some type of rolling admissions process. By the deadline, the applicant pool has swelled and the number of places has dropped. It's much more competitive by the deadline time, so the fall is when to apply to those programs."

Law schools have no work requirement, so if students choose to do so, they may attend law school right after graduating. Most business schools, however, require that students have two or more years of work experience before they enroll.

Since business students take time off before apply-

ing, the advisors try to meet with a lot of students who are interested in business before they leave here. "We try to give them instructions about what the whole process is about," said Tinker.

GPA and standardized test scores should set the range of schools you should apply for, since they are weighted most heavily. "It's very important to have a nice mix of activities, jobs and internships. Schools look at the overall profile. Students who do well here and receive strong test scores get into top schools," said Tinker. The law school admission test is offered four times a year, so students who are pre-law should take the test early enough to allow for a retake if necessary.

There are no specific classes or majors required by law schools. Business schools will also accept a variety of majors and generally don't require specific classes, but one should have a sound grounding in economics and solid, basic quantitative skills. "Coursework in finance through our economics department and a class in accounting at the Coast Guard Academy can be useful, since most MBA curricula require those courses," Tinker added.

Pre-health students have quite an agenda to fulfill while at Conn. The group of pre-health students includes people who are looking to attend veterinary school, medical school, dental school, nursing programs and more. According to Marylynn Fallon, the pre-health advisor at Conn, "In order to be a viable applicant, you need to begin freshman year to fulfill the requirements."

For vet, dental and med school, the application process is a yearlong procedure.

They begin the application junior year and send it in during the spring, so the fall of senior year, they have interviews with schools who have expressed interest in them.

"The application process is really long. I started the process May of last year, submitted everything by July, took the MCAT again in August, got my first interview invite in September and I've been on interviews since then. I hear back from the schools by the end of March," said Nick Woolf '11, who applied to fifteen medical schools.

"It's really annoying because applying to college wasn't a yearlong process," said Woolf. "This process is a lot more frustrating because you're constantly waiting for something to happen. But in the end it's worth it if this is something that you want to do."

For the pre-health students at Conn, 50% to 75% apply during their senior year, take a year off to work or do research and attend the following year. According to Fallon, "The average age going in is twenty-five. It's a better idea to wait a little bit. Going right from college to grad school is daunting."

There are no prerequisite majors for applying to med school, but one should start planning early, starting with signing up for the program during freshman orientation. You meet with Fallon periodically and receive a handbook that tells you what to do during the four years at Conn to be part of the program.

Students are given some experience in the medical professions while at Conn. Many programs are available, such as the paramedic internship program—a popular one among students—which Woolf was a part of during his sophomore year. Students gain hands on experience with internships at hospitals and opportunities to be involved in research programs.

"Conn did a really good job of preparing me," said Woolf. "Fallon was a great advisor. She was indispensable and had good advice, and there were a lot of events geared toward pre-health students."

As there are only about 160 to 170 med school programs in America, the process is highly competitive. According to Woolf, there are about 40,000 applicants for 18,000 spots, so less than half of the people who apply are accepted.

"Interviewing with other students was an interesting experience. On the whole, things they've done in undergrad aren't too different from what happens at Conn. I'm confident that I'll go to med school with really nice people, dedicated to being doctors," said Woolf.

Continuing education in the sciences seems to be quite appealing. The biggest difference with a PhD program in the sciences is "you are paid to go," said chemistry professor Marc Zimmer. Students can receive \$18,000 to \$25,000 a year. "The tuition is paid, so grad school is more attractive [to science students]."

According to Zimmer, about one-third of chemistry majors will attend graduate school. Doing research while studying as an undergrad is appealing to many grad programs. Because many of the hard sciences, such as physics and chemistry, are "desperately looking for American students," said Zimmer, "it's pretty easy to get in."

Science program applications look for GRE and a subject GRE, three letters of recommendation and transcripts. Essays are usually not required. More than half of science students who attend grad school go right after Conn because as Zimmer said, "It's difficult to go back [to school] once you're earning a decent salary."

No matter the graduate program you hope to attend, it is a good idea to start planning for the future early in your college career. As Tinker said, "Students should register with us and meet us early on, so we can make sure that they are on the right track, are taking the right course work and are involved in the right activities." •

## Bruce Branchini's Bug

### Biochemistry Procures Patent

SARAH KOSOFSKY  
STAFF WRITER

Branchini also teaches courses in biochemistry and organic chemistry.

Professor Branchini is very excited about what the patent means for the college. "The patent publication will be noted by businesses involved in the science enterprise, and associating the College's name will have some benefit, hopefully in the tough job market that exists today." He is currently working on several new projects, including exploring how enzymes generate visible light and developing new reagents to examine enzymes that are involved in physiological processes like blood clotting, with his lab.

Canissa Grant '12, a student who has done research with biology professor Martha Grossel, was also happy to hear about the patent. "I feel really excited about our school getting a patent. I know how

hard Professor Branchini, along with his research team, worked to produce this."

Branchini and his team are not the only people on campus that have worked to get a patent. Assistant Professor Jeff Strabone of the English Department also has a patent in the works for

a new voting system. The system would allow people to vote at any polling place within their state, rather than force them to vote only closest to where they live. Professor Strabone says that he acted after the problems voters faced in Ohio in 2004. Such a voting system could help those who commute to work and those who face long lines at their local voting places.

"If my invention makes it to the real world, it could revolutionize voting. If it does not, I am going to be out a whole lot of money. Sometimes, one has to be willing to take a risk for one's vision," Strabone said. •

When we think of Connecticut College, we generally think of liberal arts, not necessarily the science research. Some of us might not even realize that Conn has serious research programs on campus, led by our own professors.

One of the research teams based at Conn, led by chemistry professor Bruce Branchini, has just been awarded US patent 7,807,429 for its work on a firefly enzyme. The team has been issued European patent, no. 2 002 007 B1, based on the US patent.

Branchini's team, which included colleagues from the University of Bologna in Italy and Conn undergraduates, was able to isolate the gene in the Italian firefly *Luciola Italica* that produces the enzyme that allows light to be emitted. The project received funding from The National Science Foundation, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) and the Hans and Ella McCollum '21 Vahlteich Endowment.

The team was also able to create genetic variations of the enzyme and change the color of the light emitted from yellow-green to orange-red.

This enzyme is useful in drug screening, biosensors for pollutants and diseases, devices that can provide illumination without heat, spark, or flame, anti-tampering devices, and in vivo imaging.

Branchini, who is director of the College's Bioluminescence Research Group, has been a part of the Connecticut College faculty since 1986. He has mentored and overseen the research activities of more than eighty-five undergraduates here at Conn. In addition to leading research at the college, Professor



Professor Bruce Branchini.

PHOTO FROM WEB

## "Difference is Fun!"

ROCIO GARCIA  
CONTRIBUTOR

"What are you going to do the next time you hear someone say something bad about someone who

is different?" Tracee Reiser, Associate Dean of Community Learning and the Director of OVCS, asked more than seventy fifth-grade students, teachers and staff gathered for the International Children's Expo in the 1962 Room in Cro on Friday, February 18th.

"Difference is fun!" replied one fifth-grader.

The group came from Winthrop Elementary School and the Regional Multicultural Magnet School to learn about cultural tolerance and the important role they play in shaping the future in an event titled, "Through the Eyes of a Fifth Grader, Around the World."

SGA Chair of Diversity and Equity Pablo Tutillo '13 initially proposed the idea through the Holleran Center's Social Entrepreneurship Initiative Program, which gives students the opportunity to apply for a \$500 grant to fund a project they believe will benefit the College and New London communities. The group also received funding from an Andrew Mellon Grant and Office of Volunteers for Community Service (OVCS).

The program for the Expo was designed to give students the opportunity to learn about three languages: one romance language, one East Asian language and one other world language. Tutillo, with the help of Amy Dooling, the Director of the Foreign Language Fellows Program, coordinated the workshops in which thirty-five Connecticut College students volunteered to lead and coordinate nine different language workshops in Italian, Spanish, German, French, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Hebrew. Each language team put together a workshop that included facts about language, culture, history and geography of its respective language. Language team members shared personal experiences of growing up in a different country or culture. They also taught country-specific lessons, such as teaching kids how to make origami, bringing in traditional toys from Mexico and Colombia and singing songs in Arabic.

The students were also able to ask questions and share their own experiences with Conn students. During the closing remarks, one student attendee said, "I liked the games in the Spanish workshop... in the Hebrew workshop we learned that you write your name backwards in the Hebrew language." Another said, "My favorite [workshop] was the Japanese language one because we got to make rice bowls." Another said, "I learned that in Russia, when you eat a pancake, it makes you super full."

Tutillo began this project in hopes of inspiring his peers to try to make a difference both locally and globally. "Many students are passionate about human rights and making a difference in the world. We have the great intentions to remedy the tragedies and struggles of the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti or the victims of genocide and crime in Sudan. But sometimes we don't need a tragedy to do this—New London is a socio-economically diverse place and a number of children and young adults struggle to escape crime and other obstacles they face in schools. This is a micro-level project that is as important as saving the children in Sudan or Haiti." •



# Spotlight on Human Rights

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Often, children are sent to Madrasas, schools established by the Taliban that teach the children with a strong, anti-Western sentiment. Even in these establishments, only boys are allowed.

Sethi explained that promoting education for children is one of the best ways to curb terrorism. Pakistanis often turn to extremist groups as a last resort. In 2009, he founded *Enlightenment Through Books*, which aims to raise \$50,000 by March 2012 in order to build a Connecticut College sister school in Pakistan. As of now, if every student at Conn donated \$20, the project would reach its goal. Humanitarian Greg Mortensen, whose book *Three Cups of Tea* inspired Sethi's project, has said, "I've learned that terror doesn't happen because some group of people somewhere like Pakistan or Afghanistan simply decide to hate us. It happens because children aren't being offered a bright enough future that they have a reason to choose life over death."

Later in the program, other groups on campus, including Spectrum and CoAST (Coalition Against Slavery and Trafficking), gave presentations. Jessica Bombasaro-Brady '11 addressed the abuse of LGBTQ people in Uganda, which has been rampant ever since British colonial rule. With human rights violations

already severe, the Ugandan government is trying to pass a law that would make matters worse for the LGBTQ community, making same-sex relations punishable by life imprisonment. Bombasaro pointed out that the rights of LGBTQ people are not protected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, something that we must fight to change.

Aili Weeks '11 presented a number of statistics regarding human trafficking, including the staggering figure of 1.2 million people who are trafficked throughout the world every year. Of those trafficked in the United States, 80% are women, and 50% are minors, and the average age of entry into prostitution is twelve. Human trafficking is a business, made all the more lucrative because, unlike most "products," people can be "reused."

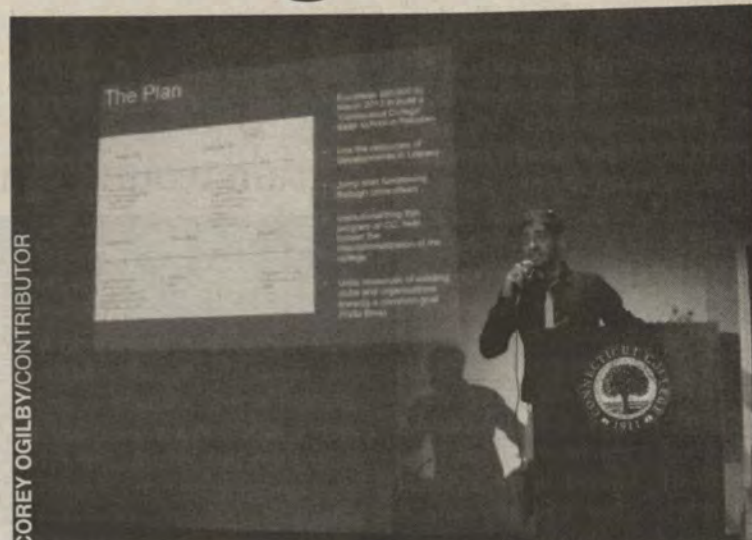
In the course of the evening, many students gave presentations based on their study abroad experiences. Rachael Hurwitz '11 talked about her CISLA internship at FIN-CA Peru, an organization that helps women obtain loans to start small businesses. Jazmin Acuna Cantero '11 described her research on race relations in South Africa, stressing the importance of knowing the truth of apartheid and current human rights issues. Corey Ogilby '12 gave a talk on Christian-Muslim relations in Egypt. Despite the eu-

phoria that has followed Mubarak's resignation, Ogilby expressed concern for the future of Egypt. If a more radical group, such as the Muslim Brotherhood takes over, the persecution of Christians will only intensify.

Annie Bigwood '11 gave a presentation entitled "Refugees in Cameroon," based on her experience with the International Medical Corps. Caught in the crossfire of civil war, 9 million people have been displaced from the Central African Republic, fleeing violence and banditry. Bigwood's presentation included a story of a refugee she had met: first, soldiers came to his house and robbed him, forcing him to slaughter a sheep and serve it to them. Later, they returned and took him hostage in their base, beating him severely and holding him for ransom. One day, he returned home to find his family murdered.

Though some students might have come away from the Spotlight on Human Rights feeling depressed, that was not the point of the event. As Cantero said, "Knowing the truth is just."

The first step towards fighting for human rights is awareness. All of the students who presented demonstrated ways that we can make a difference, through awareness, donations and activism. •



Karam Sethi '12 plans to raise money for a sister school in Pakistan.



Liz De Lise '13 performs.

## "A New Middle East"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The Tunisia and Egypt examples 'de-orientalize' the region and usher in a new era for the Middle East. It unleashes the role of the youth, who make up more than half the populations of all these countries, and serves as a new way of state-society interaction — one that is unprecedented in the region. It is about personal freedom, institutions, transparency and elections. It is not anti-West or anti-American, and its weapon is Facebook, unity and youth."

"The outside world, such as the Cold War and the United States' influence, greatly impacts the coercive capabilities of regimes in the Middle East. For most of history, the structural position of these states on the power ladder has allowed for the propping up of pow-

erful dictators and the expense of personal freedoms."

Sayej also explained that 9/11 greatly influenced the perception of the Middle East by outsiders, as well as the citizens of Middle Eastern countries. Outsiders assumed that Islamic extremists and Islamic governments had the same agendas. The citizens of these countries chose to comply with their governments rather than stand against them for fear of an invasion, like the situation in Iraq.

"Egypt is going to have a long wait in building its state, and the role of the military will be the major factor here," said Sayej, discussing the future of Egypt. "Will they entrench themselves after the media dies down and ensure that their institution stays intact? The future of Egypt is of great importance to the United States. Egypt is a "regional

trendsetter, and an arbiter among conflicting nations, the holder of an important peace deal between itself and Israel, and the source of 1.3 billion in U.S. aid annually," explained Sayej. "The stability of Egypt matters."

The United States needs to tread carefully in involving itself in new democracies — they need to be seen as supportive, but not meddling. "The latter may unleash a new phase of anti-Americanism, reminding people of the region of classic British colonialism, or more recently, U.S. occupation of Iraq in 2003."

"So far, Obama has made the right decisions in Egypt," concluded Sayej. "It is not clear if he will be able to get it right on Yemen, Bahrain or future allies facing leadership crises." •

## The Man Behind the Cyberspace Curtain

Interview with W. Lee Hisle

ADAM MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

W. Lee Hisle, the Vice President for Information Services and Librarian of the College, has a lamp-lit office in the back of Shain Library, which feels a world away from the stern rows of computers and black shelves outside his door. As I walk in, I notice a wall of nametags and a small collection of tribal masks. He tosses me a piece of chocolate and invites me to pull up a chair.

**What does the title Vice President for Information Services mean?**

It's a merged organization of library and information technology. It's a senior administrative position in the College. I'm responsible for libraries and information technology; information technology includes the telecommunications, help desk, administrative systems, web, technical support and infrastructure of the College.

**When the wireless goes down do people come to you?**

My colleagues handle that. That's in our department.

**We seem to get a lot of e-mails directly from you...**

There is a listserv for all the classes. I try to control how many messages we send out, but sometimes I need to send out a message to all faculty, students and staff when something is going on that they need to know about. For example, Friday, we had to take the network down, and had to inform everybody that we were going to do that. Sometimes I send out messages about peer-to-peer file sharing abuses.

**Have you ever been tempted to send out a prank message?**

No, I've never been tempted to send out a prank message. That would not be appropriate.

**How long have you been at Connecticut College?**

I'm in my twelfth year.

**Where were you before Connecticut College?**

I was in Austin, Texas with the Austin Community College District, a little old community college district with 27,000 students.

**Why did you choose to come to Conn?**

I always wanted to work in a small liberal arts college. I was attracted to leading a merged organization of libraries and information technology. It's a beautiful college and beautiful campus. When I interviewed, I met some great faculty and staff and felt like it would be a good fit.

**What was Texas like for you compared to Connecticut?**

Well, Texas was hot compared

to Connecticut. Everybody was always ready for the summer to end. Austin, Texas is a beautiful and vibrant city. It was strange to move into the small town life of the Connecticut coastal area.

**What do you like most about Connecticut?**

I like the people I work with here. They are bright and committed to the work we're all doing. I really like the mission of the College. I like the fact we were working in a residential liberal arts school with really bright students. And I really like the job, as I thought I would. There's never a dull moment.

**What is the craziest thing you've ever seen in the library?**

I don't know if there's anything too crazy I have ever seen in the library. I guess a few years ago there were some streakers. I didn't see them but I heard about them. All that lack of sleep, I guess. They let their inhibitions down.

**If you were an ice cream flavor which would you be and why?**

Rocky Road, I guess. Because it's a lot of variety in that particular ice cream. That's one of the things I like -- a lot of variety in life.

**Why is there a private bathroom for faculty and staff in Shain Library?**

It's a very small and awkward space that staff feel would be overrun were it to be public, but in fact, we are looking at changing that designation. Stay tuned.

**What is your favorite hobby?**

Oh, one favorite hobby?

**You can name a few.**

Tennis, golf, skiing- I'd ski everyday if I could.

**What is something we don't know about you that you'd like to share?**

Many of your readers might not know that I do a Texas radio music show on WCNI every other Monday night.

**What does a Texas radio music show entail?**

It's Americana featuring Texas singers and songwriters.

**Do you consider yourself a Texan?**

I wasn't born in Texas but I got there as fast as I could. I think of it as much as my own as I do Kentucky, the state in which I was born.

**What is your favorite local hotspot?**

I like the tavern down in New London, the Dutch Tavern. The Knickerbocker is a great bar and place to hear music over in Rhode Island, in Westerly.

**Anything you want to say to the students of CC?**

Live long and prosper. •

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## Elementary, My Dear Watson

IBM computer program trounces human all-stars on *Jeopardy!*



Ken Jennings (record holder for most wins) and Brad Rutter (all-time money winner) competed against IBM computer program Watson (center).

**ETHAN HARFENIST**  
STAFF WRITER

"I, for one, welcome our new computer overlords."

Are you serious, Ken Jennings? Final Jeopardy is no time for *Simpsons* quotes. Let's make light of possibly the biggest development in the decline of humanity since *Terminator* and Facebook. The two best *Jeopardy!* players of all time (Ken Jennings holds the record for longest winning streak with seventy-four games and Brad Rutter has won more money than any other contestant with \$3,255,102) were destroyed by a machine—an overly polite machine called Watson.

But who or what is this Watson? At first glance, it seems that he is just a dwarf in a big, psychedelic metal locker, comically pulling levers while consulting Wikipedia at lightning-fast speeds. In actuality, it is a highly sophisticated A.I. (artificial intelligence, not Allen Iverson) project concocted by IBM. Its aim is to further develop computer sensitivity to natural human language, a daunting process with which scientists have been struggling for decades. Whereas previous computer systems could answer questions asked in a straightforward fashion, Watson can untangle the nuances of questions asked in riddle form or in nonstandard language, like vernacular or colloquialism. It is a major breakthrough in the way hu-

mans and machines interact. The creators of the project thought *Jeopardy!* would be a perfect stage on which to test this new technology, since the questions on the game show are asked in an answer-question style, rather than its more traditional opposite. Watson proved to be a serious contender.

*I, for one, will never welcome our computer overlords.*

As I watched the second round of the three-episode series, my depression started to sink in. What began as a close match became a slaughter for the machine. With categories such as "Don't Worry About It" and "Hedgehog Podge," one would think that the humans would have the game locked down. The names of such categories require one to make off-kilter connections and to relate the answers back to the category names.

It was truly amazing to watch Watson, though. His tone was artificial but oddly conversational as he (or it) buzzed in. The screen would show his top three "thought processes" and to what percent he was certain of the answer. The answer that matched at the highest percentage would be the one he blurted out; he was correct almost every time. There was no smile after a right answer, just swirls of circles and line segments in neon green,

floating around where a face should be. There were notable instances where he was very wrong: once, the show's host Alex Trebek asked a question about a specific art movement and he answered "Picasso." Right after that, though, he got a tricky old-school *Saturday Night Live* question right. Overall, he navigated the board with expertise and swiftness, stacking Daily Doubles and wagering ridiculously specific amounts ("I'll wager one thousand two hundred and fifty six, Alex").

Watson, with his four terabyte hard drive and fifteen-terabytes of random access memory (not to mention full texts of encyclopedias, dictionaries, novels, plays and of course Wikipedia), ultimately won the competition and proceeded to make mankind slightly more obsolete. What are the philosophical implications of a machine that can respond so quickly and accurately to human language? Are more and more jobs at stake? Was Kurt Vonnegut right all along? Should I brush up on that Haley Joel Osment movie *A.I.*? Only time will tell how much this technology will affect our lives. All we can do for now is revel in the fact that we can build these machines and they can't build us (yet). I, for one, will never welcome our computer overlords. And I hope I don't have to continue to watch them beat my fellow *Homo sapiens* on *Jeopardy!* •

## Shut the Front Door!

**PHIL FRITZSCHE**  
CONTRIBUTOR

I've got a question for anyone in Physical Plant: if you were unable to lock or even close the front door of your house, how quickly would you expect someone to fix it? An hour? That's about how long most on-call locksmiths will take to arrive. That's probably unreasonably fast, though. Maybe eight hours or so—days can be busy and obviously you can't always send someone out immediately. How about a full twenty-four hours? Would you like having to sleep at night with your door wide open in the middle of winter? Would you feel comfortable going to work the next day knowing the doors to your home wouldn't be closed, not knowing when someone would show up to repair them?

Apparently that last question is most relevant here on campus. Yesterday, my roommate and I discovered that the two doors in our 360 apartment leading outside would not stay shut. One of them stands between our apartment and the hallway of the building, unaffected by the wind, but susceptible to being pushed open at any time, locked or not, regardless of whether you turn the door knob. The other door (the one leading directly outside) suffers the same problem, but on a windy night like it was the night before last, this door would just open on its own, no human interaction required. Our door was opened by the wind in the middle of the night and stayed in that position until I woke up that morning to a ridiculously cold apartment and shut it. Conveniently enough, not even an hour after I shut the door, the wind opened it again.

*Would you like having to sleep at night with your door wide open in the middle of winter?*

At this point I was getting a bit frustrated, so I called Physical Plant at around 11 AM. I figured they would get around to it and fix it sooner rather than later. Something that so obviously has a negative impact on the security of a student should undoubtedly be put towards the top of the priority list. Apparently I was wrong. I went to class, I went to work and I came back around

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## From Chef Boyarduh to Chef Boyardamn

Devin Cohen gives advice on taking your Harris experience to the next level

**DEVIN COHEN**  
STAFF WRITER

As we all know, walking into Harris can sometimes be an intimidating experience. Right off the bat, you might recognize some of the same food that has been on rotation in the hot line since the beginning of the school year, salad and pasta bars that are close to fixed and a fresh-to-order sandwich bar where the daily special is the only alteration on the unfluctuating menu. The school's largest refectory will occasionally hit the jackpot with a dish, but generally prepares food bankrupt of flavor and devoid of any culinary aesthetic.

Although Harris offers few things I want and many I don't, nearly every meal I create at the dining hall turns out to be surprisingly flavorful and satisfying. While the atmosphere for creativity in our cafeteria is equivalent to that of a middle school gym class, it is nevertheless possible to craft a meal with the limited array of space and instruments you have at your disposal. For me, food-related monotony has never been an option. Settling for the undesirable leads to a mood of defeat that lingers in my conscience.

As I do believe we are what we eat, eating well is an essential to feeling well and maintaining positivity. For anyone who has ever abandoned the idea of a dynamic meal in Harris or has fallen victim to lethargy induced by mundane sustenance, you can and will overcome this outlook,

but to do so involves shifting your mindset about the dining hall experience almost completely. Here are some methods I have used to approach dining at Harris that have proven invaluable in enabling me to turn the dining hall into my own personal kitchen—methods that have actually made me energetic and optimistic while walking through those daunting double doors.

On a very basic level, it is important to view each meal at the dining hall as an opportunity. Not every meal has to be merely what you happen to put in front of you, and we must recognize that we are not captive to Harris food, but rather it is captive to us. Cooking is a form of expression, and if the meal is conceptualized as an opportunity to devise something that is your own, your plate becomes a canvas. Creativity is an essential part of this process, but as liberal arts students it shouldn't be that difficult for us—all we need to do is make the effort. Good food is not something we are entitled to, it is something that must be earned (which is probably why so many Americans have no idea what good cuisine is). If you take the time, you will see the results.

This is why it is necessary to explore what your options are each time you set foot in the dining hall. Even though my friends believe me to be socializing aimlessly, what I do the majority of the time before my meal is reconnaissance. When working in a restaurant, good chefs know everything that is at their disposal.

This situation is no different, and you should always know what is available. This may result in taking as much time to make a meal as to eat it, but this is a key part of putting in the labor to produce something delectable.

As you navigate the dining hall, remember that Harris has a considerable amount of tools. If the pizza is looking a little bland, throw some banana peppers or

*We must recognize that we are not captive to Harris food, but rather it is captive to us.*

onions or olives onto it, coat it with cheese and then heat it on the press.

The spices offered can also make a world of difference. Throw some garlic powder on top of a fresh feta, spinach and olive oil salad and you're a few ingredients short of spanikopita. Or, if the typically bland meat served on the hotline is getting on your nerves, season it to your liking. Frank's Red Hot has been the savior of my meal several times in the face of indistinct flavoring, and I would encourage its use as a failsafe. Even though the spices and hot sauces are limited, they do give you some control over the taste of your food. Stop complaining and spice it up.

This brings me to another point: never be afraid to experiment. The worst thing that could possibly happen is you don't like

what you made. I'm not trying to encourage anyone to start assembling banana, pepperoni, hummus and hot dog wraps, or fried fish and pastrami paninis. Work within the realm of reason to undertake your new culinary endeavors, and only be audacious when the product you have in mind has a distinct possibility for success and is reasonable to pursue. For example, it was taco night last time I visited Harris, and I was not inclined to fill my taco shell up with clumps of processed beef. Instead I took some fried calamari from the hot line and substituted it for the meat: voilà, calamari tacos. Food from variant regions of Harris can and should be combined and experimented with as often as possible in order to derive maximum enjoyment from your meal.

Speaking of reasonable, it is totally acceptable to make requests of the dining staff in Harris. The food in front of you is something purchased. Since you are the customer, it is your right to be satisfied. If you approach a member of the dining staff and request something of them in a cordial manner, a majority of the time they will acquiesce. Yesterday I asked a woman if she could procure me some lime juice. Five minutes later I was grilling some onions, peppers and garlic on the panini press and had the ingredient I needed to create some semblance of fajita flavor. It was that easy. It also shocks me that we request the chefs to make eggs to order nearly all the time, but nothing

else. If you season your own veggies or meat and kindly request them to sauté or fry whatever it is you'd like, they're usually more than happy to do so. Give it a try next time you visit Harris, I have haven't been declined a sauté or a fry yet.

There will always be days in the dining hall on which making a compelling meal is an impossibility (i.e. the day they serve Cod Fra Diablo). This is why you must find your contingency dishes: items you create for yourself no matter the day or time. If there is truly nothing that strikes me, my first fallback is an antipasto salad, consisting of spinach, onion, banana peppers, olive oil, garlic powder, oregano, sliced provolone, pepperoni and salami. Another more simplistic fallback when I'm in a rush is any type of bagel with cream cheese and hot sauce. Sounds ambitious, but it's a sure thing. Also pita, hummus, provolone, garlic and onion sandwiches on the panini press have yet to disappoint me. Find your plan Bs and Cs and no meal will ever be underwhelming or deficient.

In a nutshell, view your meal as an opportunity to be creative with your food and expand your capacity to create. The tools are there, the ingredients are present, the only ingredient needed to complete the equation is your determination. Don't succumb to culinary complacency, because it only takes a little effort to transform yourself from Chef Boyarduh to Chef Boyardamn. •



# "Every Dollar Counts": A Chat with Jim Berrien

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Mr. Berrien was in the first wave of men to graduate from Connecticut College. Although a successful businessman, Mr. Berrien told the Connecticut College Magazine in 2004 that he was "a very average student," scoring more C's than A's. His time at Connecticut College combined with a commanding personality earned him many years as president and publisher at *Forbes* Magazine, a position he stepped down from three years ago. Since his time at *Forbes*, Berrien has helped to create the green news website "Mother Nature Network" and took on the position of Chief Revenue Officer of Aircell in-flight broadband this past December.

Berrien understands the importance of a dollar, and for a man who few students can identify, he greatly influences where our dollars go. As a school that recently ranked seventh on CNBC's list of most expensive American colleges, it is irrefutable that Berrien is in the right place; there is plenty of budgeting to be done.

"I want to keep the money going," said Berrien when discussing one of his key goals for his three-year term: reaching two hundred million dollars in the Capital Campaign.

Yet for most students the Capital Campaign is an afterthought; tuition and room-and-board weigh most heavily on our minds. I pressed Berrien on our tuition price, and what such rankings mean for our college.



Jim Berrien '74 is in the second year of a three-year term as chairman of the Connecticut College Board of Trustees.

He took a moment, excused himself and sought the help of Director of College Relations, Patricia Carey.

"We are a residential school and the way we allocate costs makes us stand out," said Carey slowly, to which Berrien added, "there is an undeserved negative connotation."

They cited the high tuition as a result of how the list is compiled: using the simple tuition fee, as opposed to our comprehensive fee, which combines tuition with room and board. As a residential school, Connecticut College spends more money on academics (e.g. professors' salaries and instructional resources), which falls under "tuition," than on room and board. So although our comprehensive fee is comparable with other

small private college, our high tuition rate puts us at the top of the list.

"We are in the middle of the pack of our competitors in terms of comprehensive fee. Even so, it doesn't cover the full cost of education. Every student at Connecticut College is being subsidized by income from the endowment and our fundraising. As a student here you get world-class faculty, small classes, a low student-faculty ratio and an incredible level of personal attention."

This allocation of costs has come under review by the board.

"Yes, it's expensive to provide this type of education," said Berrien, "but it's worth every penny."

Berrien is indeed a moneyman, and Connecticut College, just like so many other liberal arts schools, is a money institution. He answered nearly all of my questions that night in capital terms: when asked why he stays on as chairman, Berrien replied, "I've felt that Conn doesn't get the props it deserves. The assets weren't equal to the stock price."

We chatted about athletics at school, an issue he feels quite strongly about. "Athletics need to be at the level of our academics," he said, "Athletes tend to be really good donors."

Berrien was clear in his feeling that Conn seldom gets the credit it deserves. "The assets haven't been equal to the stock price," he said,

and proceeding to explain how the image of Connecticut College is often one of exorbitant prices with less of the prestige often associated with our NESCAC counterparts. "Within NESCAC, our endowment is relatively small and that can be a competitive disadvantage," said Berrien, "but we offset that disadvantage with very careful planning and spending. We make sure every dollar counts."

A student in white gloves passed and offered him a small baked item off of a silver tray. "I find it rewarding to be with the products of the institution," Berrien said, just moments before one of those products offered him an hors d'œuvre.

Berrien was very clear and deliberate in his belief that Conn is a world-class institution and that the "product is getting better." He cited more selective admissions standards, increased P.R., more successful athletics, better diversity and greater scholarship opportunities as a few key examples of the College's improvement. "I'm especially proud that while some other schools have been cutting back, we've been able to continue investing in the educational experience."

Whether you believe Berrien on these things is up to you. So is your opinion for or against the value of education at Conn compared to the price tag. But the tangible improvements – the new athletic center, the outdoor classroom on Tempel Green and the eventual Science center, to name a few – are irrefutable. "Next year, we will be investing in more campus improvements: a new science center and the new café in

Harkness," said Berrien, "These achievements are your tuition dollars at work, plus successful fundraising through the Campaign for Connecticut College. Every student benefits from these investments."

The board's most recent trip to campus focused predominantly on the Honor Code and social violations. They are carefully assessing the Honor Code and working closely with J-Board to put "more focus on what the Honor Code is all about," playing with the idea "of de-linking the Honor Code from social violations." When asked about underage drinking, Berrien gave a careful response: "our goal is to ensure the health of the institution."

The board of trustees influences many decisions carried out on campus, and all of them go through Berrien. He was the only representative from the board allowed to speak of last week's otherwise confidential meetings to the *Voice*. Yes, it's odd to watch wealthy alumni wined and dined by a college with a tiny endowment. Yes, many students complain of inadequate representation when changes on campus are made. But Berrien is the voice of the board and to the board, a powerful factor in what decisions are made. Few of us know Berrien, but perhaps more of us should.

I finally got around to asking Berrien how one of his newest projects, a website titled Mother Nature Network, was going. He smiled, winked and replied "It's still making money." •

## PHIL FRITZSCHE CONTRIBUTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

4:15 to a door that was ajar, despite having been closed quite solidly. No one had even come to look at the door. It was unfortunate, but not a big deal. I figured that I could just call again and get this all fixed up. I was told, upon calling at 4:30, that everyone had already gone home, but the lady on the phone assured me someone would tend to it first thing in the morning.

The next day I woke up around 9:00. By the time I left for my 10:30 class, still no one had come. When I returned around noon, I called Physical Plant and spoke to someone who seemed a bit aloof, but she told me she would look into it and see if someone could come out. Fortunately, an hour later, two men (John and Timmy) arrived and fixed my doors. They were extremely polite and helpful and did a great job, fixing most of the problems within minutes. Sweet! In all seriousness, they did an awesome job.

My gripe is not with the two workers who came to fix my door, though, and it's not with the ladies who answer the phone at Physical Plant to place work orders, either. In fact, I don't think it is any one person's fault. My guess is that their work force simply isn't large enough. My issue is not a particularly uncommon one. Other students have voiced similar complaints—doors taking days to fix and washing machines that flood and seem to take just a bit longer to fix than they really should. My roommate and I had to wait an entire semester for one problem to be solved.

I don't really know what is causing this. What I do know, though, is that what happened with my front door is a problem, plain and simple. It is a glaring security issue, and an environmental one as well. It should have been, at the very least, looked at by the end of the day. Physical Plant has a tendency to put things off or forget things. Whatever the cause, it's not right. Maybe they need to communicate more effectively; maybe they need a larger staff. Either way, I hope that whoever takes care of issues like this will try to improve things so that students don't have to wait around for ages for what are often simple problems to fix, especially ones that have a direct effect on students' well-being. •

## Thinking About a Career in Libraries?

### Apply Now for the Library Scholarship Award!

The Friends of the Library sponsors the Library Scholarship Award, which grants \$500 toward tuition to any Connecticut College senior or graduate pursuing an advanced degree in library science, book conservation, or archival management. Full and part-time students are eligible.



Candidates should submit a short (350-word) personal statement describing their plans for graduate study and their interest in the field. All submissions must be received by March 10. Announcements of awards will be made in early April. Submissions can be sent to the following address:

Connecticut College Friends of the Library  
Charles E. Shain Library  
270 Mohegan Ave  
New London CT 06320

For more information please contact Benjamin Panciera by email  
([benjamin.panciera@conncoll.edu](mailto:benjamin.panciera@conncoll.edu)) or by phone (x2654).



## CONNECTICUT COLLEGE







# Here's Waldo.

## Students find inspiration in children's book for campus fun

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He is often joined by a number of companions, including girlfriend Wenda and nemesis Odlaw. When asked about these secondary characters, Worsman quipped, "We might expand in the future."

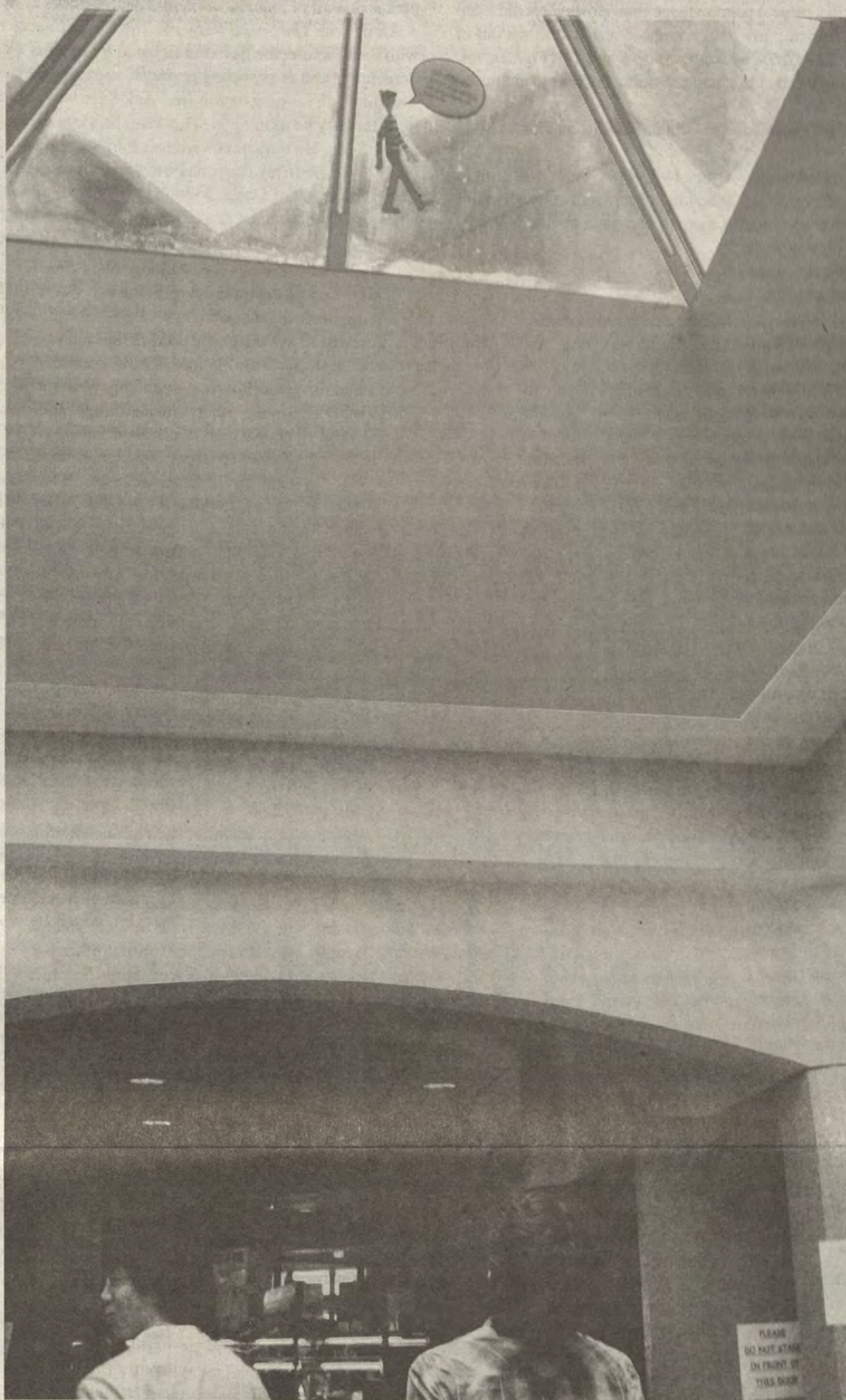
When the game started on February 7, Waldo was quickly spotted hiding in the greenhouse by Samantha Sgourakes '12. "Heading to South Lot, my friend and I were walking behind New London Hall when I spotted a striped figure attached to the greenhouse," explained Sgourakes. "I'm not going to lie, I got really excited. I immediately pulled a Michael Johnson and sprinted towards it hoping it was Waldo. And, indeed it was."

When Waldo is discovered, he comes equipped with a code word and a phone number. The code word is to ensure that players don't lie about actually finding Waldo, while the number belongs to Vartanian's cell phone. Although the two haven't been bombarded with people asking for clues, "One time after I gave the clue [that Waldo was hiding] in the tunnel, I got three texts within ten minutes about it," Vartanian said. "There is a little nice anticipation."

The two rely mostly on "faith in the Connecticut College community," as Vartanian calls it, for Waldo not to disappear prematurely. However, the game very nearly ended early after a misunderstanding with the custodial staff. After his greenhouse excursion, Waldo was moved to his next location on the second floor of the library. Although he was found within eight hours, Vartanian returned to the hiding spot the next day on his way to class only to find that Waldo "wasn't up on the bookshelf where I had put him. I was on my way to class so I didn't have any time to really do anything about it."

After class let out, Vartanian scouted down a custodian and learned that that area of the library was being refurbished for the Board of Trustees visit. "She asked again what exactly it was and I said that it was a little cut-out of Waldo from *Where's Waldo?* and she said, 'Oh, I saw that in the trash in the other room.' I asked if there was any chance it would still be there and she said, 'No, they took that out at four o'clock this morning.'"

Vartanian quickly set out to find his beloved Waldo through elev-



Waldo was spotted in Harris Friday morning as he hid above the ice cream. Photo provided by Racine Oxtoby.

en bags of trash sitting at the library loading dock. After digging through roughly nine of the bags, he was soon joined by Worsman. "Richard shows up and I explain the situation to him... And all of a sudden, Richard opens up one bag

and says, 'Oh, here he is.' We had to give him a bath."

Participation for Waldo has been exciting as well as diverse. "I think at first we just thought it would be people we knew on Facebook and a couple of other

people," said Worsman. "It's really nice that by the second or third [round], anyways, the person that found it I didn't know, which was kind of cool."

By the time I was introduced to Waldo, he had already been hid-

den in the greenhouse, the second floor of the library, the KB-Larrabee tunnel and the Lambdin Game Room. The last two were found after a clue had to be sent out, following to a day's worth of inactivity. However, according to Vartanian, "The two times we've given clues, he's been found within hours after."

None of these locations seems like they would be passed by during an average school day. "I think that's one of the things that is nice," said Vartanian. "Until we give out the clue, you kind of have to be passive about it. I kind of like that."

"One of our friends sent us this thing on Facebook that said, 'So I was in the game room the other day and I was playing ping pong, and it was great, I just looked over and there's Waldo!'" said Worsman. "It was this great little surprise."

The two have promised that the hiding places will get progressively more difficult. "Our ambition, if we can, is to put Waldo somewhere in plain enough sight so that you can see him but you can't tell what to text in order to get credit for finding him," said Worsman, clearly excited about this possibility. "We want to put it somewhere really high up or really difficult to get to or impossible to get to on foot so you have to utilize the telescope in the Olin observatory."

Adds Vartanian, "There's at least one place I think we would want to do soon but we would need permission from a certain someone in order to do that."

Towards the end of the interview, Vartanian and Worsman were given the opportunity to add anything else. "Tell people not to take him down," Worsman said. If anything is certain, it's that the game can only continue if people remain honest when encountering Waldo.

*Where's Waldo?*: Connecticut College Edition is an enjoyable experience for the school, as it not only provides scores of exciting hiding places, but also provides an outlet for students to act out a much beloved book from their childhoods. "I heard that one of my friends, when he was taking Waldo down from one of the locations for me, encountered a campus safety officer there," Vartanian said. "Apparently he said, 'It's good, clean, wholesome fun.'"

## Five Flavors of Dumb

Antony John's book is a welcome reminder of the joys of young adult fiction

SHANNON KEATING  
STAFF WRITER

I have no time for reading. That's what I tell myself, anyway. If I pick up a book to read purely for pleasure, the annoyingly studious part of me nags that I should grab *Great Expectations* or *L'Inferno* for my classes instead. (Where is that voice when I'm watching *Law and Order: SVU* at 2:00 in the morning?) I'm all for the wonders of Dickens and Dante, but their brilliance can be mentally taxing in excess.

The opportunity to read and review Antony John's *Five Flavors of Dumb* in preparation for his Literatures in English Department-sponsored visit Monday (2/21) was therefore too fabulous to pass up – I could indulge in young adult fiction and trick my inner scholar that it was for journalism's sake.

*Five Flavors of Dumb* follows a motley teenage garage band turned small-time Seattle sensation under the guidance of an unlikely manager, severely deaf chess whizz Piper Vaughn. It was initially jarring to settle back into the rather ridiculous world of high school when I so happily vacated it just last spring; this version of it is familiarly strewn with egotistical guitarists, "supermodel wannabes" and a bothersome little brother, but it is spiced with the perspective of sarcastic, college-bound Piper, who half-hears the world through (uncool) Barbie-pink hearing aids.

Piper offers Dumb, the aptly-named rock band who blow up their amps on the high school steps, some much-needed managerial guidance when they solicit her to get them paying gigs. Front man Josh is a typical blue-eyed beauty who's in love with himself; Kallie is an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Bright Eyes Getting Brighter

CAROLINE MILLS  
STAFF WRITER

Conor Oberst – better known as his musical personae Bright Eyes – has never seemed like an overly pious man. The material on this new album doesn't say anything different. Religious imagery is abundant on the record, but the references are more about why people need gods than any statement of faith (or, in the case of the introductory monologue, why Scientologists need lizard people from space). With haunting and danceable turns, *The People's Key* may be Bright Eyes' most mature and polished-sounding album to date. This is only subtly so. Oberst has made progress in his sound and delivery, but the occasional, excessively blunt lyrics are still apparent.

The album begins strong, with "Firewall," "Shell Games" and "Jejune Stars" – songs that all feature strong melody lines and competent lyricism. "Shell Games" is particularly striking, with insistent percussiveness in both the drumming as well as the lyrics and their delivery. This rhythmic intensity continues with one of the record's highlights, "Jejune Stars." Its introductory riffs recall Oberst's earlier work with Desaparecidos. Yet as soon as he opens his mouth to let loose more developed lyrics with a significantly stronger voice, ten years of progress is evident.

*The People's Key* hits its first snag on the fourth track, "Approximated Sunlight," which drags for an extraneous 4:24 as its boring drumbeat ticks on endlessly. "Haile Selassie" picks things up a bit, and while the track is repetitive there is something almost mesmerizing about the steady 6/8 time.

Along with "Jejune Stars," this seems to be one of the more radio-ready tracks. On the other hand, there's "Triple Spiral," whose title is a reference to the holy trinity. While a little rougher than some of the other tracks, its lyrics provide a solid summary of the album's themes and perhaps an explanation for the various bits of spoken word – "That's the problem / An empty sky / I fill it up with everything / That's missing from my life."

"Beginner's Mind" cuts back for a moment to acoustic guitar. Even when it inevitably builds back up, things seem more decipherable; here, less is more. "Ladder Song" follows this formula to wonderful effect, with simple piano and voice. The album's closing track, "One For You, One For Me," is backed by a casual groove and equally laid-back lyrics, until it gives way to one final snippet of sermon on mercy, love and understanding. A little blunt, perhaps, but to be expected.

When stripped down (as on 2005's *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning*), Bright Eyes pushes lyricism to the forefront, both in the words and in the music. However, the "bigger" songs have much to offer musically, with a great deal of interesting elaboration. *The People's Key* brings together these two worlds, and is therefore capable of pleasing fans from both camps. If you're a longtime fan of Bright Eyes, you'll be pleased. If you're looking for a decent new release, this is also a good pick. It certainly isn't perfect, but *The People's Key* is a step forward rather than a retreat.





# The Road to the Oscars, Part III

**JERELL MAYS**  
STAFF WRITER

After two and a half weeks of tracking down Best Picture nominees, my road to the Oscars is coming to close. While I wish this trilogy had a third installment as triumphant and complete as *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*, it's looking like it's going to be about as satisfying as *The Matrix Revolutions*. What this means is I was not able to view all ten films, not even *True Grit*. Now I know what you're thinking: this is what I get for not liking *Inception*. I acknowledge that. However, I did manage to see two more movies this week, bringing my total nominees watched to six out of ten. While I missed out on *Black Swan*, *True Grit*, *The King's Speech* and *The Fighter*, rest assured that Racine Oxtoby will be picking up my slack and providing her own opinions on which of those movies is any good.

Now, let's talk about the movies that I did manage to see: *Winter's Bone* and *The Kids Are Alright*.

*Winter's Bone*, an independent film directed and co-written by Debra Granik, was a bit of a surprise nomination this year. Generally speaking, it's the kind of movie that usually slips under the Academy's radar and gives movie aficionados more to complain about. Not only does this movie deserve its nominations, it's actually unlike anything else I've seen this year. *Winter's Bone* is set in a heavily impoverished area of the Ozark Mountains.

The movie follows the story of Ree, a teenage girl who is raising her two younger siblings. When her meth-cooking father jumps bail and puts their house up for bond, she has to find him or she and her family will lose their home. It's been nominated for Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actor. Will *Winter's Bone* win Best Picture? Let me put it this way: if it does, then the Awards have changed. I don't think it will for a number of reasons, mainly Academy politics and the fact that it lacks star power. This is a grim, honest film; there is no melodrama here. If it won the Oscar, the producers would just give it back, as if to say, "*Winter's Bone* don't need your fancy award."

Jennifer Lawrence and John Hawkes both received nominations for their performances, and rightfully so. Truth be told, I really want Lawrence to win Best Actress. Ree is unflinching and unwavering in her quest (if you can call it that; she probably doesn't go a mile from her home) to find her father. She's the only tough female lead I've seen that I completely believed from start to finish. The scenery is devastating; everything seems to be grey, dried up, cheap and abandoned. The moods of the characters are as cold, gnarled and withered as the dead forests around them.

Oddly enough, I think this movie is much more enjoyable in retrospect than to watch. During my viewing, I barely moved in my seat, and it wasn't until I reflected on it that I realized I'd enjoyed it. *Winter's Bone* is hardly a popcorn movie as the plot progression might not please everyone, but see it for Jennifer Lawrence's performance.

Speaking of performances, Mark Ruffalo's performance in *The Kids Are Alright* was awesome. While I doubt he'll grab Best Supporting Actor, the nomination is well-placed. In fact, everyone was awesome in *The Kids Are Alright* except for Laser, who got annoying quick, mainly because he clashed with Mark Ruffalo's character every chance he got. Also, his name is LASER, for the love of God.

*The Kids Are Alright*, a film about a lesbian couple and their two children who meet their respective sperm donor and father, was nominated for four awards. These included Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor, Best Actress and Best Original Screenplay.

Once again, I have to say "no" to Best Picture on this one, even though I liked this movie. I really did. Best Original Screenplay is a possibility though. The script is quite good and there are some very funny moments. Humor is exemplified by scenes including when Julianne Moore's character fires one of her employees because of his smile, and when her daughter Joni (played by Mia Wasikowska) comes home drunk one night and plainly insists that she isn't. I'd call it a feel-good movie, just about the polar opposite tone of *Winter's Bone*. I recommend it, but keep in mind there's tons of nudity. Seriously, do not watch this with your parents, or in public for that matter.

After three weeks and six movies, the Oscars are only a week away. On February 27 the eighty-third Academy Awards ceremony will air, and (shameless plug incoming) I will be tweeting all throughout the show. While I encourage everyone to watch, don't feel obligated to sit through the whole thing. The Awards have always been a little too long, and they seem to get a little bit longer each year. Last year it ran three and half hours, but it was totally worth seeing that crazy lady rush the stage and steal the winner of Best Documentary's speech time. I don't know if anyone's ever been beaten to death with an Oscar, but Roger Ross Williams looked like he was pretty close to trying. Don't remember that? That's why I suffer through the boring parts of the awards (and believe me, there are boring parts) every single time. So remember to tune in on Sunday. Oh, and skip the pre-show, it's nothing but a bunch of hens with microphones squawking about how crazy Helena Bonham-Carter's dress is this year. •

**RACINE OXTOBY**  
ARTS CO-EDITOR

Way to go, Jerell. It's Oscar season, and you couldn't even get through all the Best Picture nominees. It's not your fault – the category in

question is the only one with ten nominees, and they're a tough batch to get through. I've been left with those films still lingering in theaters or pre-DVD limbo: *The Fighter*, *Black Swan*, *True Grit* and *The King's Speech*. Each is also nominated for Best Director, which means that all of them have pretty equal chances at winning Best Picture.

Along with *The Social Network*, *The King's Speech* is the frontrunner of the night. Along with Best Picture, the film is nominated for another eleven awards, including Best Original Screenplay and every acting nomination except Best Actress.

Colin Firth is going to win Best Actor. He was nominated last year for *A Single Man* and it's a travesty he didn't win. This year, he's against last year's winner Jeff Bridges, but this time it's his. He turns awkwardness into heartbreak as a stuttering king reluctantly forced into WWII. Geoffrey Rush, as Firth's speech therapist, is delightful, while Helena Bonham Carter, playing the Queen Mum, is underused, although it's nice to see her as something other than Bellatrix LeStrange or a Tim Burton standby. Director Tom Hooper chooses unusual, almost distracting camera positions, and the two girls playing the princesses are creepily identical, like the twins from *The Shining*.

I'll be satisfied if *The King's Speech* wins the top honor this Sunday; however, this is the kind of movie which often wins at the Oscars. It would be nice to see something youthful and equally as well-made, like *The Social Network*, win, although if it doesn't, I won't be upset.

I'm no sports movie fan, but *The Fighter* hit a chord with me. This mostly had to do with the movie's Massachusetts setting and the fact that I felt like I knew these characters. Mark Wahlberg, unfortunately missing an acting nom, has the hardest job playing real-life boxer Mickey Ward; he has to play the straight man opposite absolute lunatics. Melissa Leo is horrifyingly real as Ward's manager-mom, her blond hair teased out and her skin orange and leathery. She's the best bet for winning Best Supporting Actress. If I had my way, the award would go to Jacki Weaver's similarly scary role in the crime drama *Animal Kingdom*, but Leo has more recognition so far. Christian Bale is super-skinny (a feat not unfamiliar to the actor, who memorably lost sixty-two pounds for 2004's *The Machinist*) and wacked out as Ward's brother Dicky, a former boxing star and current crack addict. Like Leo, he's a sure thing for Best Supporting Actor. As far as Best Picture, the film is great but so is the competition. In another year, *The Fighter* would have swept the awards. Director David O. Russell's ingenious use of 1990s-era HBO sports cameras to film the fight scenes is pitch perfect, and Wahlberg's dedication to the film, which he worked to get made for years, cannot be ignored.

*Black Swan* is perhaps the weakest movie on the list, but that doesn't make it the least enjoyable. In fact, I'm always entertained by movies where the main character (in this case, Natalie Portman's ballerina Nina) is going insane, because it gives the director so much room to play around. In *Black Swan*, Nina sees feathers growing out of her back, her mother's paintings moving, and a hangnail turning into something much more grotesque; it's constantly up to the audience to decide what's real and what's Nina's slowly deteriorating imagination. Portman is excellent, although I do think it's her character, as well as Mila Kunis's rival character Lily, who causes most of the film's problems. Nina is fragile, Lily is adventurous; Nina is virginal, Lily exudes sex; Nina orders a salad, Lily orders a hamburger. Their dichotomy is so obvious that one has to wonder if director Darren Aronofsky is treating his audience like children. Annette Bening probably deserves the Best Actress award a little more – not because she's been nominated four times, but because her work in *The Kids Are Alright* is far more subtle and impressive. However, the Academy loves actors who sacrifice for their art; Portman, like Bale, emaciated herself to play Nina, as well as training like a real ballerina for months, and apparently she nearly drove herself insane with the subject matter.

Now, some people are going to be mad at me here: *True Grit* was my least favorite Best Picture nominee. There, I've said it. That doesn't mean it's a bad movie. It's my personal opinion, and I do recommend it to anyone who loves Westerns, the Coen brothers and Jeff Bridges. To be honest, I probably had the most difficulty with Bridges. I couldn't watch the movie without thinking, "Oh, that's Jeff Bridges on that horse being a crazy drunk badass." It's because of this reason that I think Matt Damon should have gotten more recognition; he completely disappeared into his role, making me forget that he was even in the movie (in a good way), and he's not even nominated. Hailee Steinfeld is good, although I didn't find her character or her dialogue all that believable. She's not going to win for her debut, but she will probably be in a lot more movies after this. As for the picture itself, the ending is anticlimactic and the pace is slow. I don't see it winning anything except perhaps Best Cinematography for Coen brothers staple Roger Deakins, who has been nominated for such films as *The Shawshank Redemption* and *No Country For Old Men* but has never won.

That's my two cents. Keep your eyes peeled for Jerell's live reactions to the awards on Twitter this Sunday night. •



## Five Flavors of Dumb

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

unattainable glamour girl with whom Josh is smitten, for which reason she is somehow wriggled into the group despite having next to no guitar-playing skills; the brooding black-haired bassist is Josh's brother, Will; Tash is an untouchable goth girl on lead guitar with too much attitude; and Piper's good friend, Ed, a talented percussionist whom she frequently whoops at chess, accidentally ends up the drummer.

Extrapolating the inner-workings of this painfully mismatched group is a good outlet for Piper, whose parents have just siphoned her college fund money into cochlear implants for her otherwise profoundly deaf baby sister. Piper's family is the endearingly dysfunctional, i.e. relatable, kind:

a mother who works too hard and a father who resents that he can't work at all are baby-crazy parents, leaving little time for Piper and her brother, Finn, a suave, troublemaking freshman.

Embarking on *Dumb's* zany quest for music-made cash all over Seattle is enjoyable in a very effortless way. The book is a quick read, especially compared to college material, and it is, of course, written for a younger audience. To give fair warning, a brain that's been hardwired to dissect language and pull references from every page would initially be perplexed by the simple similes and the sentences that actually say what they mean. It took me quite a few chapters to sidle back into a younger teen's mindset.

With its simplicity, when one is engrossed enough to appreciate it,

the *Five Flavors of Dumb* – the fond way Piper refers to each of the distinct personalities in the band – offers a refreshing splash of realism often lacking in similar works.

Piper's disability could have been a bland, uncomfortable basis for plot in a suffocating adherence to political correctness, but throughout the book Piper's deafness is oftentimes apparent only when she is cleverly using it to her advantage, or lamenting that her parents "perfected" her baby sister without considering that deafness needn't be something to correct. Piper's disagreements with her parents, and her need for them to see her as an individual instead of slightly damaged goods, are the markings of many a childhood; this inimitable family in a relatable context is

arguably the novel's biggest triumph, alongside portraying severe hearing loss as a culture to be celebrated instead of an error to be fixed.

Piper's unorthodox music education inspired by strange messages on the internet is another highlight, taking her and various members of the band on rock-legend goose chases around Seattle. Through squabbles, missteps and some all-out catastrophes, *Dumb's* fragile ties manage to hold, its participants and manager motivated by either money or glory. Momentary immersions in musical history, however, enlighten the disorganized crew about music's power to be felt as well as heard. Just like the don't-judge-a-book-by-its-cover realizations – the goth girl has a heart, the glam girl has a soul –

these scenes can border on trite, but more often than not they're the feel-good sweet you'd want from a book like this.

You can hear an excerpt read by the author at 4:00 PM on Monday in the Chu room, followed by a Q&A and discussion with writer-in-residence Blanche Boyd.

Recommendation: turn off the computer and pick up a pleasure read. Spoil yourself with young adult fiction. It seems drastic, I know, but books just for books' sake are good for a mid-term-crazed psyche. *Five Flavors of Dumb*, while written in a much younger and simpler voice than most of the books on my desk, is as funny as it is a poignant and revitalizing read. •



# Four Questions at the All-Star Break

## Mike Flint's biggest NBA questions at the season's halfway point

MIKE FLINT  
SPORTS EDITOR

With a little over half of the NBA season over, there are four ideas that I can't get out of my head. In question form, here they are.

### How do I really feel about the Oklahoma City Thunder?

I absolutely love them. Durant, Westbrook, Harden and his beard, Morris Peterson (MO PETE!), Ibaka. How could you not love them? They are young, talented, exciting, competitive— even interesting (Serge Ibaka is a 21 year-old from the Republic of Congo who started playing organized basketball five years ago—are you kidding me?). They are everything you could want out of an up-and-coming team. They even seem to understand their role as the new contender in the West, going up against Kobe and the Lakers with legitimate passion. You have to love them; they're just so awesome.

But that's just the problem. I can't love them. That's exactly what the NBA wants me to do. And after what David Stern did to Seattle, falling into the trap and liking the Thunder just seems wrong. Imagine if instead of wearing OKC Thunder jerseys every night, Durant and Westbrook were repping those old Sonics uniforms. It would be the return of Seattle. Payton and Kemp 2.0. And with Rose and the Bulls surging in the East, it would be the return of the Chicago-Seattle rivalry from the early Jordan era. But with OKC we have none of that. We just have a cool new team from Oklahoma, and that frustrates me to no end.

### Could I care less about Carmelo Anthony and the "MeloDrama?"

No. At least with the LeBron Sweepstakes there was an interesting subplot with the whole Cleveland thing. With 'Melo there's no subplot (who cares about Denver?), there's no Decision, there's not even a First Team All-NBAer at stake. Unless he goes to Los Angeles (which he won't), I don't even see him making that much of an impact. He's a good player,

but he's not taking the Knicks past the Heat, Magic, Bulls or Celtics in the playoffs, so who cares? And what's annoying is that the whole situation is driven by the fact that the NBA is probably headed in the same direction as the NFL with a lockout next season, but nobody is talking about that. Everyone seems more concerned about where 'Melo is going to end up than about not having pro football or basketball next year. And, to me, that's a much bigger deal.

### Moving from something I hate to something I like, how much do I love the Celtics?

At this point it's become a cliché—to be a Boston sports fan in the new millennium is to have an excess of riches. Every team (and I mean every team—Patriots, Red Sox, Celtics, Bruins and even the Revolution) is consistently good and every team has likeable players. It's like being a parent with five amazingly awesome children. It honestly doesn't get any better than this.

But unlike most parents, who dodge the "Which one is your favorite?" question pretty cleanly with an "I love them all the same!" and an endearing smile, I'm not going to beat around the bush. My favorite kid right now is the Celtics. Hands down. And for a few reasons: the Pats choked, last year's Red Sox were boring and this year's season hasn't started yet, the Bruins never win in the playoffs and the Revolution are the Revolution.

But most of all it's because the Celtics are so entertaining. Not only are they good, they are super competitive (Kevin Garnett is the scariest person on the face of the planet) and filled with characters. Shaq, Big Baby, Nate Robinson, The Big Three, Kendrick Perkins (who I guess is a really funny guy?), even Semi Erden. Not to mention Rondo, who might be the most oxymoronic athlete in Boston history. I mean really, Rajon? You can completely take over a game, drop twenty assists like it's nothing and guard LeBron James like it's no big deal, but you can only shoot 55% from the free throw line? Does that make sense to anyone?

Nonetheless, the Celtics continue to entertain. Pierce and Allen breaking records, Shrek and Donkey doing "The Dou-

gie" on Youtube. We even get Mike and Tommy on Comcast Sports Net at Conn now, which makes everything that much better. It's only the All-Star break, but I can't wait for the playoffs.

### And, finally, how good is Blake Griffin?

Really good. Like so good I don't even know if I can do him justice. Because here's the thing: even with the massive Blake Griffin bandwagon that's popped up in the past few months, I don't think people actually realize how good this guy really is. He's 21 years old, turning 22 in March, missed all of last year with a serious knee injury that required season-ending surgery and plays for a historically cursed franchise. But despite all that, he continually posterizes the best athletes in the world (isn't there supposed to be a lag time on knee injuries?) and is about to lead the lowly Clippers out of the NBA basement for the first time in literally forever.

And what truly amazes me is that he seems entirely different from all of the other young superstars in the league (except maybe Kevin Durant). He's flashy and owns highlight reels, but he does it in about the most aggressive way possible. He doesn't dunk and then smile for the camera like Dwight Howard, he dunks and then stares down his opponent like he's about to eat them. He's like a mix between LeBron James and Kevin Garnett—freakishly athletic and freakishly competitive. And in that sense, he may be everything we wish Lebron was but isn't. In a matter of years he will take over Los Angeles, and if he gets a good enough team built around him (Eric Gordon is a good start), I can legitimately see him winning multiple titles, which is weird to imagine with the Clippers. All I'm saying is, if you're not on the bandwagon already, jump on it. Dude is ridiculously good. •



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## Men's Basketball Falls Short

### Loses to Middlebury in NESCAC quarterfinals

JOHN KELLY  
STAFF WRITER

The men's basketball team played a tough quarterfinal game this past Saturday, losing 61-41 to Middlebury. The Camels coming this far, however, is a testament to the extent the young team has improved since the beginning of the season.

"We've played our best basketball the last month or so but have been improving on a daily basis since November 1," said Head Coach Thomas Satran before the game.

The improvement in their play is reflected especially by their recent wins within NESCAC, with victories over Tufts, Wesleyan and Bowdoin, in addition to a close loss to Colby.

The team was cautiously optimistic in the period leading up to the Middlebury game, a blend of confidence in their performance as a team and a sober acknowledgement of what they were up against.

"Playing at Middlebury is an enormous challenge," said Satran. "They are a top five team in the nation and statistically the nation's best defense."

He cited the Panthers' shot blocking, rebounding and ability to convert in transition as the three biggest challenges they would have to face. Members of the Camels seemed to agree.

"Wasn't pretty," said Mason Lopez '14 of their loss to Middlebury in January.

However, the circumstances of their 80-52 loss in their previous encounter were unfavorable;



(Left) Guard Matt Vadas '14 shoots a mid-range jumper against Colby.  
(Right) Taylor Hanson '14 goes for a rebound in the same game.



achieved. "We had some problems in the beginning. November was really tough," said Boris Jeremic '13.

Lopez agreed. "I think the beginning of the season was hard, but we're young so we were expecting that," he said.

Challenges aside, the team managed to pull together and effectively integrate many freshmen players. "Their attitude and commitment to the team concept has been outstanding and really helped us grow as a unit," said Satran. Two freshmen were usually started per game and the impact they had on the team was noticeable.

Moreover, the great strides the team has made this season in terms of unity and performance will only set the ground for success in the future. "This year's group has strong chemistry, character and work ethic and that is why they have a chance to be really good in the seasons to come," said Satran. "As long as that continues we will continue to be tough to beat."

With such a strong freshman base, there seems to be no other way to go except up. "I feel people have a better idea of what their role on the team is," said Jeremic of the team's performance towards the close of the season.

"Next year, big things," said Lopez with a grin.

the team had to come back from a tough loss to Williams only the day before.

"We're in a better place now because we've had more time to prepare for them," Lopez added. "We're feeling as good as we've ever felt as far as team spirit and team chemistry goes."

After the game, Satran expressed the team's disappointment with the outcome, but also his pride in what the Camels had accomplished.

"We made the NESCAC Tournament with a young team. That's

a good accomplishment and a true reflection of our players' character and attitude," he commented.

*"This year's group has strong chemistry, character and work ethic, and that's why they have a chance to be really good in the seasons to come," said Satran.*

Jethro Anilus '14 cited the team's defense as the strongest

point of their game on Saturday, holding Middlebury down to a considerably lower number of points than in their last encounter. The Camels' offense, however, was a weaker aspect of the game.

"We didn't play as well as we know we can play and have a lot to improve on, but next year we're going to come out even better," he said. "We did a good job overall and I think we had a very successful season."

The current level of performance and cohesion that brought Conn this far was not easily

## Women's Hockey Finishes Fifth

### Will travel to Bowdoin for NESCAC quarterfinals next weekend

EMILY WEBB  
STAFF WRITER

Heading into the NESCAC tournament, the women's ice hockey team is sitting right in the center of the pack in fifth place out of nine teams.

This past weekend, the Camels needed to win both of their final two games in order to clinch a home playoff game. Unfortunately, the team lost 4-2 to Trinity College on Saturday after defeating Wesleyan 5-2 on Friday.

To secure a first round playoff game, the team was also depending on the outcome of games between Bowdoin and Middlebury and Bowdoin and Williams. Although the playoff seeds are becoming increasingly complicated due to the level of competitiveness during the final weekend, it is clear that the Camels needed to control what happened in their home rink. Sadly, they fell short in this endeavor.

Overall, Coach Kristin Steele said, "The team is very happy to have put ourselves in a spot for the games to really matter this weekend. Coming off two great road wins at Hamilton, we feel



(Left) Brigid O'Gorman '11 with the puck and (right) with local children in Kaberamaido, Uganda.



that we are a better team than we were two weeks ago. Many people have stepped up their games and the team is playing some of its best hockey."

The start of the playoffs is not the women's hockey program's only source of excitement this week. Brigid O'Gorman '11 was named a finalist for the Hockey Humanitarian Award for the second consecutive year for her work at the Elizabeth Durante Medical Clinic in Kaberamaido, Uganda and for her volunteer work at High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Center and the Special Olympics Speed Skating Center of Southeastern Connecticut.

Steele and O'Gorman's teammates are very proud of her efforts. "The work that she has put into these projects is potentially hard to grasp [due to its magnitude]. I love the fact that she has had [an] equal impact locally [as she has had internationally]...She's definitely taken advantage of opportunities in front of her and created opportunities that had not existed," said Steele.

The award recipient will be announced at the 2011 NCAA Men's Frozen Four Tournament on Friday, April 8, 2011.

*Additional reporting by Nick Woolf '11, Sports Editor.*

**Congratulations to the women's swim team for placing fourth at the NESCAC Championships**  
**Also, congratulations to Sarah Murphy '11 for placing first in the 200-meter butterfly**

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

**Men's Basketball (12-13):**  
2/19 Conn 41 - 61 Middlebury

**Women's Squash (10-13):**  
2/20 Conn 3 - 6 Georgetown  
2/19 Conn 7 - 2 Wellesley  
2/18 Conn 9 - 0 Northeastern

**Men's Ice Hockey (7-14-3):**  
2/19 Conn 1 - 4 St. Michael's  
2/18 Conn 2 - 4 Norwich

**Women's Ice Hockey (12-10-2):**  
2/19 Conn 2 - 4 Trinity  
2/18 Conn 5 - 2 Wesleyan

### SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

**Women's Ice Hockey:**  
NESCAC Quarterfinals at BOWDOIN:  
Saturday, Feb. 26

**Men's Squash:**  
CSA Nationals at Harvard: Friday-Sunday, Feb. 25-27

**Men's and Women's Track and Field:**  
NEICAA Championship at Boston U:  
Friday-Saturday, Feb. 25-26

**Men's Swimming:**  
NESCAC Championship at Bowdoin:  
Friday-Sunday, Feb. 25-27

**Women's Swimming:**  
Last Chance Meet at Hamilton College:  
Saturday, Feb. 26

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