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# THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012

VOLUME XCV • ISSUE 15



SEE BAT BOY STORY ON PAGE 8

PHOTOS BY ANDREW NATHANSON

## FICTION

# Flatonia

MICHAEL NATRIELLO  
STAFF WRITER

*This is the last installment of Flatonia. For the complete story, visit the fiction section at [thecollegevoice.org](http://thecollegevoice.org).*

When Maude Chandler arrived at the Fat Burger just outside of Flatonia there were two ambulances, four news trucks, and Fayette County's entire fleet of cop cruisers, which was five, all parked outside. "All this for a little old heart attack? I hope he ain't dead," Maude said exiting her car.

As it turned out Keith Bob wasn't dead. He was eating ice chips under the care of Candi Slauson over at the hospital in the center of town, which is right next to Gray's Ace Hardware in case you didn't know.

Anyway, back to Fat Burger, where there was one hell of a scene and two real live dead man, laid up in the back of an ambulance if you can believe it. As far as anyone could tell one was a cook at Fat Burger, Oscar Vasquez who had started just a month ago and who nobody knew much about. The other man's name was either Raul Gomez or Martin Smith. He had passports for both names. His Mexican passport read Gomez and his American passport was Smith. And if they both looked legit, that's 'cause they were. Born in America but raised in Mexico, Martin Smith had dual citizenship and had changed his name to Raul Gomez, but this was official in Mexico

only, which is a fact that will take weeks for the Fayette County Sheriff's department and the DEA to figure out.

What they discovered immediately, though, was that in the back of Raul's eighteen-wheeler, parked in the parking lot on the rear end of Fat Burger was about fifty pounds of the purest Colombian cocaine you could get your hands on, all hidden under frozen Fat Burgers patties and fries.

Apparently these narco-traffickers have gotten wise to the fact that border patrol in Texas doesn't have thick enough skin to do a proper search of a freezer truck and this is how they've been getting their stuff over the border. And in fact it's all that white that explains what happened next.

'Cause just after the ambulance took away Keith-Bob, Raul entered from the back door of the Fat Burger into the kitchen where Cindy Mcdowd was interviewing the boys who worked at the restaurant. Shocked and frightened to see a police officer at the stash house, Raul got angry and started yelling in Spanish at Oscar Vasquez, the newly hired chef.

Now Cynthia Mcdowd's sixth grade Spanish ain't good enough to have understood everything that was said but you don't have to be a linguist to know what "cocaína," means and besides she

## Cocaine: A Love Story

ALEX SCHWARTZBURG  
STAFF WRITER

A young man meets an attractive blond. He doesn't know her at all. All he knows is that she's physically attractive. He approaches. Nervous and excited, he makes as much small talk as he can, eventually asking her out. She thinks it's cute that this charming fellow is so nervous to talk to her and she's flattered to watch him overcome himself, if only to get through a five minute conversation. She gives him her number. She feels good, he feels good, and they've got a date to grab coffee at Starbucks the following Monday. An hour goes by, and the young gentleman feels, well... just perfect in every possible way. She goes about her business, mildly elated, and he goes to work his ass off, making lattes or flipping burgers, making \$10.00 an hour just so he can afford to take her on a date. Love doesn't just get us through the day, love drives us!

So does cocaine. The consensus in the neurological community is that dopamine is the driving force behind love—it's the animal part of love. If you have a ton of dopamine rushing through your brain and you meet a nice girl, odds are you'll fall in love. Why? Because you've got copious amounts of the reward chemical rushing through your system and you're associating it with the hot girl in front of you.

In other words, if you're excited

because you just met a nice girl, it's got more to do with the fact that you're excited and the additional reality of having met a nice girl. The excitement correlates with the presence of dopamine. It doesn't matter whether the dopamine causes the excitement or vice versa, because they're mutual, one won't happen without the other. Love, the sexual part of it anyway, appears to be nothing more than classical conditioning, plain and simple.

With that in mind, let's talk about cocaine.

Both cocaine and amphetamines are sources of pure dopamine. Love now comes in a pill. Few people ask why giving a kid Ritalin calms him down long enough to do his math homework. The answer is that you're giving him a pill that makes him fall in love with the processes of factoring, completing the square, taking derivatives, whatever it may be. When you have a high level of dopamine cycling through your system, you'll do whatever you're doing and you'll enjoy it. You won't get distracted because there's no temptation to get distracted. If you snort a gram of coke, you'll be content to do whatever you're doing. If you pop 40 milligrams of speed, the same thing will happen.

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# Editorials

MARCH 5, 2012

## THE COLLEGE VOICE

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## THE COLLEGE VOICE

## Editorials

As graduation looms—countdowns, bar nights and soirees galore—our dwindling time at Conn becomes more evident with each passing day. Second semester is Twilight Zone-themed: class Monday through Thursday. Senior event on Friday. Bar on Saturday. Library on Sunday. Rinse, lather, repeat—the senior year time loop. The cacophony of the monotony is deafening.

Senior privileges are slowly receding: parking is now a confusing mess of lottery systems and levels of campus instead of the privilege by class year we once knew; Housefellow positions, among the most senior roles a student can take on campus, are now open to underclassmen. The uniqueness of the senior experience has been challenged.

During the presumed most special time of our lives, that's all we want: something special. The culmination of the past four years should end in reflection, change and growth, aided both by our professors and our peers. Instead, it's been whittled down to one question: beer or wine?

SGA has started a new dialogue about social events on campus; the senior class council should do the same. The senior events, thus far, have been hypocritical—let's end a four-year conversation about the rampant drinking culture with school-sanctioned drinking!—and repetitive, plastic bracelets and drink tickets littering every senior's floor once a week.

We are not calling for a new Prohibition. We realize that events are planned in a way to attract the highest number of people, and people like alcohol. We also like alcohol, but that's not all we like.

It's easy to regress into the Cro dance norm and the simplicity of freshman year—it's safe, it's been done before, and it helps us forget that we're leaving. But there needs to be

a palpable difference between then and now, and the current program of events has largely failed to make that distinction real. We want to feel like we are moving on—away from the traditional college fun and towards life after college. What we are seeking is some recognition that we will be living completely different lives in six weeks and experience that transformation with the rest of the senior class. We are leaving this place very soon, yet our celebrations of the end of our time here has thus far been little more than a repetition of the past three and a half years. Upcoming senior events should be more imaginative in their celebration of our past here as well as of our future beyond this campus.

Think of the possibilities: plan a dance that will encourage more than grinding, like salsa or ballroom. Bring faculty and students together for a fancy dinner so that seniors can schmooze with their favorite professors one last time. Show us a movie, rent us a karaoke machine, ask us trivia, or just take us down to Buck Lodge so that we can see what's inside. Even renting out the dilapidated yet charming Galaxy Roller Rink would be a welcome (and awesome) change of pace. Our world isn't limited to the 1962 Room.

The senior events should reflect the people we've become in the past four years: intellectual, curious, witty, opinionated, motivated and involved. As much as we all adore guzzling PBR with our classmates in a white room with the same music in the background, aren't we entitled to something more stimulating? After all, we're more than three free beers.

- Ipek Bakir, Ethan Harfenist, David Liakos  
and Jazmine Hughes

## Letters/Corrections

(your opinion goes here).

As always, we welcome letters to the editor. If you're interested in writing a letter, please read below.

### Letters to the Editor:

Any and all members of the Connecticut College community (including students, faculty and staff) are encouraged to submit articles, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, photographs, cartoons, etc.

All submissions will be given equal consideration.

In particular, letters to the editor are accepted from any member of the college community on a first-come, first-come basis until noon on the Saturday prior to publication. They should run approximately 300 words in length, but may be no longer than 400 words.

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

No unsigned letters will be published.

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

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

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## World News

COMPILED BY MEREDITH BOYLE

### THE AMERICAS

UNITED STATES--A CVS pharmacy in New Jersey came under fire recently for mistakenly filling children's' fluoride prescriptions with breast cancer medication. An estimated 50 families were given the wrong prescription, but pharmaceutical experts reported over the weekend that the medication is not harmful in small doses. The state attorney general's office is investigating the matter further.

### ASIA

JAPAN-- Controversy abounds in Tokyo, Japan where a new animal protection law will force "cat cafés" to close at 8pm. Because of strict housing regulations in many apartment buildings, the Japanese are not allowed to keep pets in their homes and often stop by these cafés to play with the cats and de-stress after work. Café owners are upset because the law, scheduled to go into effect June 1, forces them to close during their busiest hours.

### NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND-- Top shearers from around the world will compete in New Zealand this week in the 2012 World Sheep Shearing Competition for a \$2500 prize. Shearers will be judged on speed and accuracy in machine and hand-blade techniques. This is the first time the competition has been held in New Zealand since 1996 – a country in which sheep outnumber humans 10 to 1, and who most recently lobbied for sheep shearing to be recognized as an Olympic sport.

### AFRICA

CONGO-- At least 200 people were killed on Sunday in Brazzaville in an explosion caused by a fire in a nearby arms depot. Hundreds more are reported injured or trapped under wreckage. Political leaders appeared on the radio and national television to assure residents that the blasts were an accident and not indicative of a coup d'état or civil war.

### EUROPE

GREECE-- Thirty-five people were arrested in northern and central Greece on Saturday evening in connection with an antiquities ring. Not much information is yet known about the crime, but Greece has long been plagued with smuggling due to its rich archaeological history. The raids turned up thousands of antique coins and ancient artifacts.



## New Tumblr Policy Bans Self- Harm Blogs



**HEATHER HOLMES**  
STAFF WRITER

Since its launch in 2007, blogging platform Tumblr has become a personal and creative outlet for millions of people. Tumblr users, the majority of whom are high school and college-aged, use the site for anything from promotion of personal content (photography, poetry, music) to the admiration of others' work (through "liking" and "reblogging"). Tumblr users take pride in their own blogs and often meticulously design them to look and sound a certain way.

For most, though, enthusiasm for Tumblr goes beyond the aesthetic and reflects users' gratefulness for the ability to post virtually anything. It's the ultimate free speech platform. Then again, maybe it isn't.

On February 23, 2012, the Tumblr staff blog published a post entitled, "A New Policy Against Self-Harm Blogs." The open letter to all site users began, "Tum-

blr sometimes gets used for things that are just wrong. We are deeply committed to supporting and defending our users' freedom of speech, but we do draw some limits." "Self-harm" is defined as any deliberate non-suicidal injuring of one's body – Tumblr uses this umbrella term to address all blogs that promote dangerous behavior, including but not limited to anorexia, bulimia, and cutting.

These so-called "thinspiration" blogs that often provide tips for starving, purging, and other self-harm have been given a grace period by the staff in which they must edit the offensive content. After this period, a new draft of the content policy officially bans "Active Promotion of Self-Harm," and any user who searches terms relating to self-harm will be shown a PSA warning against such behavior, and may be directed to a helpline run by the National Eating Disorders Association.

Such a policy may seem noncontroversial, since eating disorders and other forms of self-harm are objectively un-

healthy and can cause countless bodily complications and even death. In fact, several hundreds of users have applauded Tumblr for the new policy. One user wrote, "Thank you, Tumblr. Thank you. Can I hug staff right now? Can I please?" Another said, "[This post] is encouraging, especially since 'thinspo' blogs are one of the worst things on the internet."

For as much support as Tumblr has received regarding its new restriction on self-harm blogs, however, critics of the new policy have voiced their opinion even louder than supporters have.

Following the February 23 announcement, one user said, "Sorry, but this is kind of ridiculous. Tumblr has helped so many people who self-harm by giving them an outlet. You want to censor them and make them feel like more of an outcast than they already are?" Another said, "It seems to me that prohibition won't prevent people from engaging in these behaviors – it will just push them further underground and limit the number of

ways other people can reach out to help them."

Arguments on either side have reverberated across the internet for the past couple of weeks, but Tumblr still plans to follow through on the censorship policy. Tumblr assesses eating disorders as "serious...problems," but unfortunately, the policy will no doubt not erase the diseases.

This new content restriction is an incredibly sensitive issue, especially since some users with eating disorders and other mental illnesses see the blogs as self-harm triggers, while others turn to them for an invaluable source of support, friendship and hope. For the most part, creators of self-harm blogs are self-critical, but extend messages of love, support, and understanding to followers looking for "thinspiration." Though this positivity is unhealthy in that it supports the continuation of a dangerous lifestyle, it apparently helps countless people with feelings of desperation and hopelessness.

Pro-anorexic ("pro-ana") blogs existed before Tumblr did, and will continue to exist regardless of the new content policy. The Tumblr staff seems to have only the best intentions, and they maintain that announcement is a necessary reminder of the prevalence and grave seriousness of all eating disorders.

The question is if the Tumblr staff has the right to be a moral arbiter. After all, it hosts blogs that glorify drug culture; a drug addiction, much like an eating disorder, has the potential to kill. The best-case scenario of the new Tumblr policy would be a widespread awakening to the danger of eating disorders; Tumblr hopes that its advertising of eating disorder hotline numbers will encourage users to seek help. The worst-case scenario occurs when users with self-harm illnesses feel lost without the network of support they found in Tumblr blogs, and inevitably relocate self-harm pages to other blogging platforms. •



# Professor Profile: Afshan Jafar

FRANCESCA VOLPE  
STAFF WRITER

Every Monday and Friday at 9 AM, Assistant Professor of Sociology Afshan Jafar strides into her sociology class ready to discuss controversial issues plaguing the world. She's alert, passionate, knowledgeable and ready to get down to business. She engages her students on relevant topics and challenges them to seriously analyze and question social norms.

Professor Jafar's thought-provoking teachings and points of view made me want to learn more about her upbringing and path towards her current career as a sociologist.

Born in Pakistan to a close-knit family, Jafar is proud of her upbringing and the values it imparted to her: "I am grateful for how much family we had around us with extended family living all over the neighborhood. We would just come over to each other's houses. We didn't have to call to let them know we were coming." She hopes to pass those values on to her own two daughters.

Jafar went to a British school where she learned English. When asked about the difference between school in Pakistan and school in America, she re-

marked on the "very strict educational system in Pakistan." Students were to dress in uniforms and show their utmost respect for the teacher. In addition, boys and girls were not allowed to converse with one another outside of the classroom. She recalls, "I wasn't allowed to have boys over even for birthday parties. There wasn't a dating life."

By the time she was ready for college, Jafar was set to head overseas. She went to an elite high school where "it was almost the norm to go abroad." After seeing her brothers leave for college, Jafar knew that she wanted to travel. Additionally, "it was a turbulent time in Karachi and college campuses were like war zones with shootings and bombs going off."

Because of this dangerous state of affairs, her parents "made a deal. If I got funded, I could go." Ohio Wesleyan University gave her a full scholarship and, in 1995, she came to the United States. "It was my first time out of the country and America was not what I had expected it to be."

Jafar was ecstatic about being a college student, although nervous about "knowing what rules to follow." She pictured having intellectual conversations with other students but what she

encountered ended up being a big culture shock. "I was surprised by how little interest people had in college."

"I couldn't believe people would show up to class in their pajamas with a doughnut and a coffee in hand and then create their own breakfast space on the table," she recalled.

Jafar was also surprised to learn how much of the social life revolved around drinking. She playfully recalled, "I love to dance and when I would go to parties, all people would do was drink so I would be dancing and someone would point to me and be like 'you're drunk' and I was like, 'no you are drunk.'"

Food was probably one of the biggest adjustments. Compared to meals in Pakistan, where everything is flavorful and prepared fresh, she found American food to be bland and processed.

After the initial shock wore off, Jafar immersed herself in college life. "I had always wanted to take sociology in high school, but the classes filled up fast." At college, she had the opportunity to take a wide range of classes.

In one of her earlier classes, she was thrilled to learn that her professor was Iranian and Muslim: "I couldn't believe my professor was Muslim. I just thought that was so cool."

Jafar kept picking majors and at one point was fairly certain she was going to be a humanities and classics major, but she always felt called towards sociology. "Sociology was new and I was always interested in things that were new"

When Jafar finished college, she didn't feel ready to return to Pakistan, so she enrolled in graduate school at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. "I loved being a student and I wanted to stay one a little longer. I could either go back to school or get a job where my employer would have to sponsor me."

The biggest culture shock of her life



FRANCESCA VOLPE

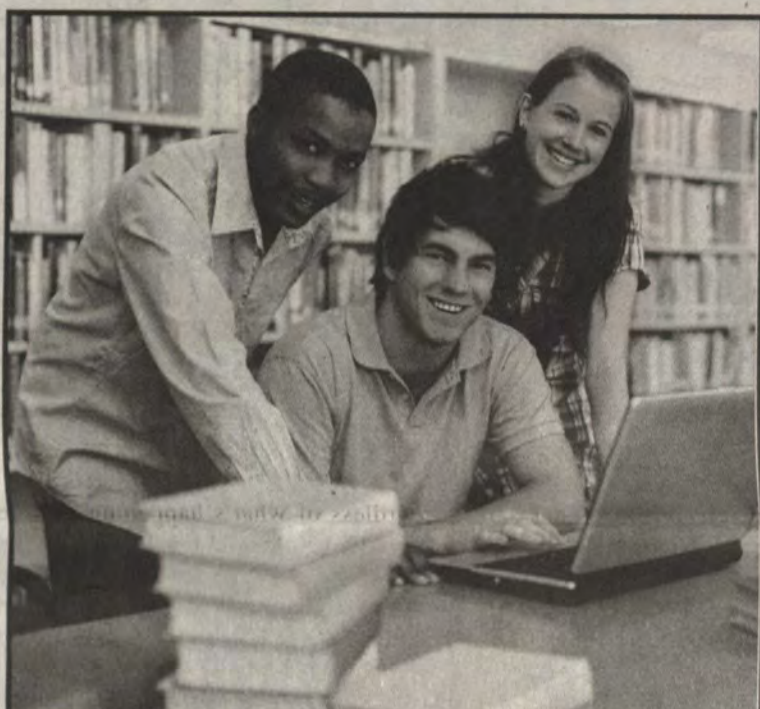
was going from a small liberal arts school to a massive state university. She disliked the impersonal feeling. As a teaching assistant she would correct an incredible amount of papers at a time. "One of the classes had 300 students in it. I was one of three TAs so I had to correct a hundred papers in a strategic and quick manner."

Jafar always had a fascination with the teaching world. As the youngest in her family, she wanted to be in an environment where she could speak openly and debate important issues.

Jafar says she loves her students and

considers them to be the "best part of her job". This certainly shows as she has taken on many additional responsibilities outside the classroom, such as her involvement in CISLA, where she gets to interact mainly with students.

A passionate advocate of the liberal arts education, Jafar believes that the "culture of a liberal arts college encourages students to push themselves". When interacting with professors such as Jafar, it becomes easy to push oneself and feel excited about acquiring knowledge and information. •



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## Cocaine: A Love Story

### Debating the merits of legalizing the drug in America

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There are some people, maybe even a lot of people, who want to legalize cocaine. I personally don't think that's a good idea, but they seem to think it is, so let's examine their arguments.

1. Advocates of legalization say that legalizing cocaine would make it cheaper, which would reduce demand for it and thereby reduce the overall crime rate. 2. They also claim that, were it to be legal, the government could generate revenue by taxing it in the same way they presently tax cigarettes. 3. Representatives from the Latin American Commission on Drugs and Democracy continue to assert that the war on drugs isn't working. One need only go and see the movie *Miss Bala* in order to see that it's being waged very ineffectively. The war on drugs encourages corruption in Latin America, and that's bad. What could better solve the problem of having to fight a war than ending it by giving in? 4. Lastly, it is believed by some that legalizing cocaine could offset the growing problem of meth addictions in the United States.

While it's typically true that nothing anyone says before the word "but" really means much, I do feel that I should say that these are all very good, consistently well made, and quite compelling points. But, they all total to a certain insignificance in light of two realities. The first is that they are all refutable arguments, and the second is the reality of human biology.

In response to their first argument: by making coke cheaper, you're not reducing the demand for it, you're merely reducing the sense of urgency, which underlies that demand. Yes the price might go down, and with that the crime rate, but you send a greater and far more detrimental message to the world, which is that "It's ok to snort cocaine." As of right now, most reasonable people would consider it to be a problem if you think snorting coke on a regular basis (let alone once) is ok. If

we legalize it, we will see a steady decrease in that consensus, which will make it harder to both steer people away from cocaine use and more difficult to treat addicts who wish to discontinue their use. It would, in effect, be like blowing up the wall that stands between the madness of the mob and the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness sans-stimulants.

In response to their second argument, the revenue we make from cigarette taxes does actually come at a price. The United States has the seventh highest cancer rate worldwide; fifty-ninth on the list is Singapore, where apparently the only incidences of cancer are in female patients, which may say something about the health impacts of a repressive and brutal regime. (That is to say, it may be the reason the only people who have cancer are female is because those statistics reflect incidences of breast cancer, which one need not be a smoker to contract.) Cocaine use causes irritability, paranoia, restlessness, anxiety, high blood pressure, increases the risk of heart attack, arrhythmia, visibly damages the nose, and causes problems for your digestive system, kidneys and sex organs. While I understand that there's a precedent set by the United States government of subsidizing of tobacco farmers and levying high taxes on tobacco products, it just doesn't make any sense to encourage the use of cocaine. Those of us who are mature enough to know better shouldn't buy into that ridiculous line of thought.

In response to their third argument, I would say the following. The question of Latin America, if you think about it, is actually irrelevant. The inability of many Latin American countries to suppress the illegal drug trade says only one thing, which is that they're being ineffective at it. To the United States, who ought to be producing citizens worthy of setting the highest example of decorum, behavior, moral standard and discipline (a task

we're failing at, by the way), the failure of Latin America to keep its house in order is a non-issue. Our bottom line is minimizing how much cocaine our population consumes.

In response to their fourth argument, it may not be a physiological stretch to claim that you could replace a meth addiction with a cocaine addiction, but it certainly is a stretch to say that it's a good idea to encourage one. It's an ineffective policy to simply discourage the use of one highly addictive drug by flooding the market with another.

Needless to say these are huge issues, and I certainly cannot be the grand arbiter of the merits of what ought to be our national attitude towards cocaine; certainly not in one week, certainly not as a college student. But I do think I can set a moral example, argue my views on the subject, remain a stoic and be rational in debates about it, and offer one last piece of advice to my opponents who favor the legalization of cocaine.

For me the question of prohibiting or legalizing drugs is a complex issue. Like all issues of policy debate, however, the position one takes is relatively simple. "It's a good idea," or "It's a bad idea"; "I approve," or "I don't approve." That's it.

What makes any question about drug policy complicated is that one's position on the legality of drugs is often married to one's position on the use of drugs. The first occurs on the macro-level, and the second occurs on the micro-level.

For Legalizing: **Macro:** What we're doing isn't working so let's just give the addicts what they want. **Micro:** Coke, eh... to each his own. For prohibiting: **Macro:** I don't want to live in a world where snorting cocaine and then behaving like a maniac is considered to be acceptable behavior. **Micro:** Cocaine, NOT IN MY HOUSE!!!

The micro-level sentiment for prohibiting cocaine is the predominant emotional reaction human beings have in response to behavioral

problems like drug use. The reaction of intolerance, on the microlevel, is a necessary step for coping with an addict. An addict cannot return to normal by himself, and if there is nobody around him who actually views drug use as problematic, he'll never be able to quit, because no one will be there to show him the way. And this is the crucial point. Those in favor of legalization because they buy the macro-level reason in favor of legalizing ought not to dispense with the micro-level reason for prohibiting. The war on drugs may be ineffective because we bring a micro-level approach to a macro-level problem, but that does not mean that the necessary prohibition and stigmatization against it ought to be dispensed with merely because it doesn't work universally. The best we can do is prohibit it at home, and compel others to do the same. We ought not throw out the micro-level baby with the macro-level bathwater.

In the end there is one very good reason to steer ourselves and our kids away from cocaine, and that is that if cocaine boosts dopamine regardless of what's happening outside the body, and a heightened level of dopamine is necessary for people to feel compulsively attracted to one another, then it would seem plausible that being addicted to cocaine means that one couldn't love anymore, because he'd be in love with himself. That is to say, one cannot reliably love if he's got synthetic pleasure running through his system everyday.

Obviously, that last claim is a big stretch. I'm not a coke addict and cannot attest to it being true first hand, but if we create a culture of addiction, we might just create an entire generation of people who literally cannot feel real love for one another. As Helen Fisher, the woman who taught me about dopamine and love once said, "A world without love, is a deadly place." I think that it's something worth preventing. Don't you? •

## Stay True to Yourself, But What Self?

SAM NORCROSS  
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a girl named Jamie. Jamie grew up a tomboy; she loved sports and was rarely found wearing anything but workout clothes. In college her friends and family urged her to be more feminine, to wear nicer clothes and to slim down rather than bulk up. She followed their advice and became the quintessential sorority girl. While her social life flourished, there was always a feeling of conflict within her—shame and self-loathing. This is a classic case of what's known as double consciousness: a self-imposed fragmentation of the "self" because of internalized social norms. And yet however sad and terrible Jamie's struggle may seem, Professor Simon Feldman thinks double consciousness is a good thing.

Philosophy professor Simon Feldman was the 2010 convocation speaker. He talked quickly. Through the crippling awkwardness of freshman orientation, that's mostly what I remember of that moment. I remember it being funny. It might have even been inspiring, but the only snippets of the speech I can recall were about not being true to oneself. It was like hearing an anti-speech—a speech that shattered the

convictions of every valedictorian and commencement speaker ever. It was made even stranger by the fact that his audience was on the verge of plummeting into the formative college experience where, by all accounts, we were meant to "find ourselves." He was telling us, essentially, that there was no "self" to find.

In Feldman's Faculty@Work lecture last Wednesday he continued to make this seemingly counter-intuitive statement and built upon it by critiquing the notion that the concept of double consciousness is bad. Faculty@Work is a series of lunch-hour lectures open to faculty, staff and students during which professors from every discipline present their current work. In Feldman's case it was his current thesis, which, I quote: "There are cases of double consciousness that exhibit... the 'bad-making' features of double consciousness but that are not, intuitively, bad for the agents in question and may in fact be best, all things considered."

This is to say that Feldman does indeed consider the situation of Jamie, The Gender-Nonconforming Sorority Sister to be "bad," but in that particular situation it's not the double consciousness that is bad,

it's the pressures which cause Jamie to fragment her "self" that are bad. To prove his point he put forth the example of Cassie and Her Conscience. In this case, Cassie's favorite band is in town and she desperately wants to hear them live, but she has a philosophy paper to write. Her roommate suggests that she just download an essay from philosophy-papers-that-dont-suck.com. On the most basic level Cassie wants to go

*Therefore, double consciousness is a necessary phenomenon that can have both good and bad effects depending on the societal pressure influencing it.*

to the concert, but the societal pressures of honesty and morals repress her desires and she stays in to finish her work.

This too is an example of double consciousness. However, in this

case, Cassie's "self" is split for the better, causing her to make a moral choice. Therefore, double consciousness is a necessary phenomenon that can have both good and bad effects depending on the societal pressure influencing it.

I generally find myself confused, if not outright frustrated, by philosophy. But Feldman made his point clear and easily acceptable, and I agree that without double consciousness people would be able to ignore most norms that we as a society accept. This might be considered a good thing in a case such as Jamie's, but it would also lead to general chaos, as everyone would act on every impulse and desire without a smidgen of consideration for the outside world.

Hearing Feldman deftly explain his argument was fascinating, but my favorite part of the lecture was the Q&A session afterwards during which professors, with areas of focus ranging from classics to biology to English to history, poked and prodded at his argument. The most interesting question was in reference to the Jamie example: "What does it mean to be true to yourself?" This brought the conversation back to that bizarre assertion I heard during my freshman orientation. "I

don't think we can make any distinction about what the true self is," said Feldman.

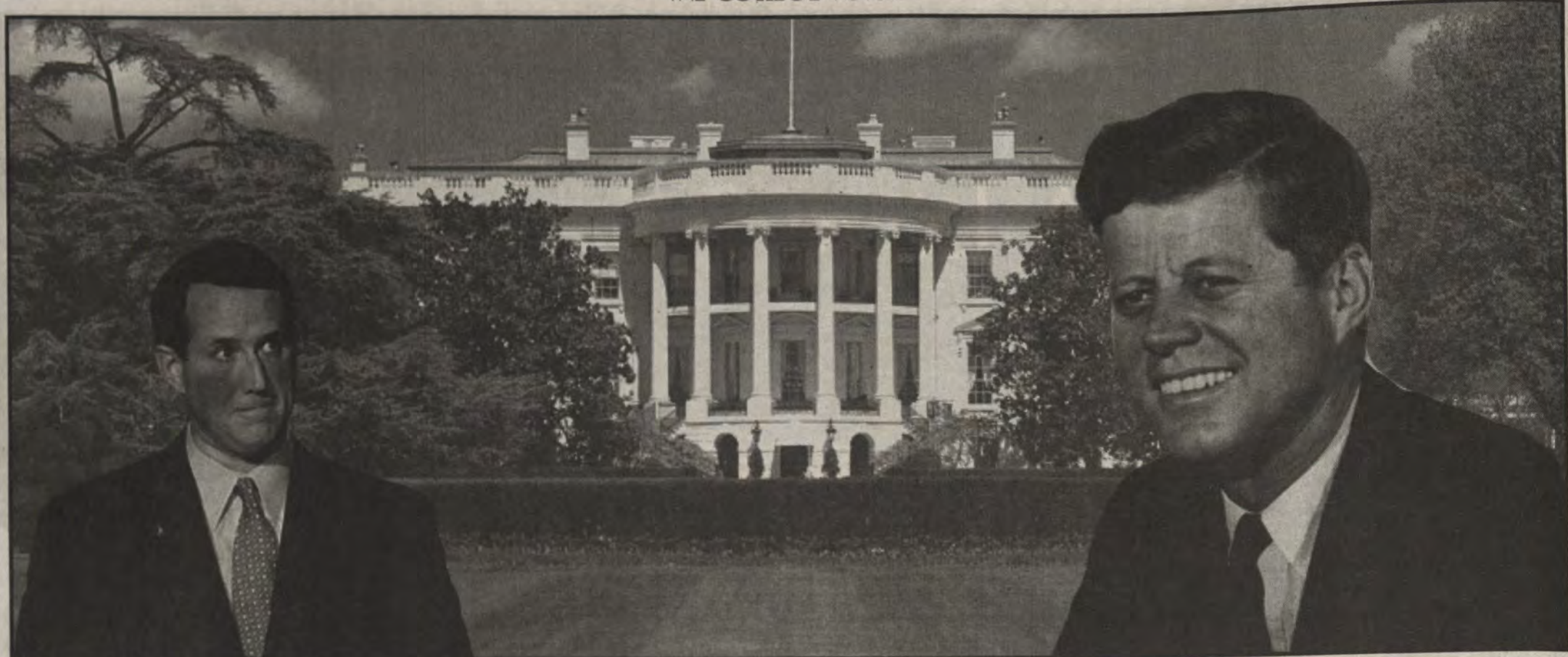
In the case of Jamie, the girl who conformed to gender norms against her desires, Feldman stated that there was nothing about Jamie's change that represented her being untrue to herself. "I disagree with the idea that deviating from your morals is the not being true to yourself," said Feldman. There is no set personality within us, no "real" self, or set of morals defined forever and set in stone. "Life is just about this process of constantly becoming," explained Feldman.

It took a year and a half, and a second lecture for it to finally sink in, but I think I finally understand what Feldman was explaining to that room of awkward freshman in September of 2010. We are always ourselves. We are always changing and becoming something new and different. There is no end goal; there is no inner core. The self is a malleable continuum that is undefined and constantly in flux. The search is over. I am myself, and you are yourself and next year, next month, next week that self will be something different. •



# Opinions

THE COLLEGE VOICE



## John F. Kennedy Makes Rick Santorum Vomit

MARK FERREIRA  
STAFF WRITER

Rick Santorum has recently surged in popularity in the polls and, as of now, seems like he might be the new front-runner for the Republican nomination for president. However, like many of the previous front-runners before him, his rise might last only for a short while before it quickly fizzles.

Even if his rise in the polls proves to be brief, it is nerve-racking that a candidate who makes false statements about foreign practices and is so staunchly religious in his rhetoric is taken seriously. Last week in an interview with ABC, Santorum claimed that John F. Kennedy's statement about the separation of church and state was "throw up." Two months before the 1960 presidential election Kennedy said "I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute." Santorum later elaborated on his disgust for Kennedy's comment, claiming, "the

First Amendment says the free exercise of religion; that means bringing everybody, people of faith and no faith, into the public square. Kennedy for the first time articulated the vision saying, 'No, faith is not allowed in the public square. I will keep it separate.'"

Santorum drastically misquoted and misinterpreted the ideas Kennedy articulated. Kennedy did not want to keep religious citizens out of government roles; he merely suggested that the ideology of faith should not influence educational programs or a candidate's chances at becoming president. Santorum used Kennedy's proclamation to advance his own political identity as a religious conservative. Santorum attempts to take the words of Kennedy so literally and bluntly that he spreads his flawed and tainted interpretation of Kennedy's message to his audience. Santorum's nausea might be successfully cured with a dose of knowledge. Furthermore, it appears that Mr. Santorum failed to

understand the most basic concepts regarding the First Amendment and the goal of the founding fathers to keep the church as a separate entity from the government. What does it mean when a candidate for President of the United States fails to understand both the importance of Kennedy's notion and the revolutionary ideas put forth by our founding fathers?

*Santorum's blatant ignorance and overemphasis on religion makes him seem like a fool.*

Earlier this month, Santorum attempted to use examples of involuntary euthanasia in the Netherlands to predict the future of Obama's health care program. First he claimed that "half the people who are euthanized every year... are euthanized involun-

tarily." While voluntary euthanasia is legal in the Netherlands, any violation of the strict controls and regulations result in the doctor being charged with murder. In order for euthanasia to be carried out, the patient must sign a consent form and get a second opinion that proves that the patient is suffering unbearably. Santorum continued, "[euthanasia is] ten percent of all deaths for the Netherlands." The actual percentage of people euthanized in the Netherlands accounted for two percent of all deaths in 2010.

Not only did Santorum lie, he also used this propaganda to predict that "Obamacare would lead us down that road." The fact Santorum uses such misinformation and purposefully distorted facts to advance his own political agenda demonstrates how he remains a truly deplorable candidate. In the same interview, Santorum claimed that the slow acceptance of abortion is causing a slow ethical rot in our society. What about the slow acceptance of Super PAC advertise-

ments or candidates that manipulate their audience through fear? The real problem comes from people like Santorum who claim that their word is fact without any consequence.

Santorum's blatant ignorance and overemphasis on religion makes him seem like a fool. The real surprise is that Santorum has continued to remain popular enough to win both Colorado and Minnesota. It seems that voters simply do not care about integrity or truthful information. For Santorum, both his overly religious and social conservative image appeal to far right wing voters more than integrity or honesty. Santorum masterfully creates and fuels this image through his horrid comments about Kennedy and his propaganda about Obama's health care program. There are many intellectual and honest ways to criticize Obama. Santorum should not need to rely on blatant and extravagant lies to appeal to his socially conservative base. •

## #Trending: Tracking Annoying Internet Phenomena

AYLA ZURAW-FRIEDLAND  
STAFF WRITER

During the past decade or so, the landscape of social networking has been completely revolutionized in its function and impact on society and everyday life. In general, the Internet has provided a way in which the entire world can maintain instant communication with little to no effort. This generation lives in a constant state of connectivity as our words, ideas and experiences are broadcasted across cyberspace for anyone to see.

For almost everyone, sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and others are the central axis for interactions with others both online and in the real world. Conversation revolves around images, tweets or posts people have seen and are the basis of discussion. These online forums provide space for people to stay in touch with friends that are far away, a place for self expression, humor and a way to spread ideas. Really, these websites are incredibly innovative.

Sometimes.

However, more often than not, Facebook and Twitter serve as sites of absolute chaos. Anyone that has had to scroll through pages of the inanities that make up their newsfeed, doubting the existence of intelligent life, understands this. Because it has been developed and is inhabited by our annoying human selves, we continue to outdo ourselves in terms of our ability to create frustrating trends. The magic of social networking is that we can reach anyone that has the misfortune to be Facebook friends with us.

In real life we are only capable of driving those within ear and eyesight absolutely insane. The Internet has provided endless opportunities and tools to spread annoyances. From web-comics and memes to the sudden

and inexplicable invasion of Twitter hashtags on Facebook pages, we have exceeded all possible expectations of what human boredom can generate.

Here are some of the recent Internet trends that get complained about the most.

### Memes

In psychology, the word "meme" is referred to as a tool used to transmit cultural knowledge or understanding. If anthropologists from the future unearth our memes from the annals of cyberspace, they will essentially understand the entirety of our culture and our incessant need to caption things. Granted, many memes are actually hilarious because they acknowledge relatable parts of every day life, usually combined with a cultural icon, such as Dumbledore. However, it seems strange that these are what will be left behind for future generations. We look back on paintings by Monet and Picasso while they will look back on pictures of cats asking "can i haz cheezburger?"

### Our inexplicable fascination with cats

This leads to the second odd trend that has started showing up more and more: cats. They're everywhere, from memes to statuses. Today is the heyday of cat lady reverence and people announcing things like, "Forever alone...at least I have my cats!" These cruel, independent, adorable little furballs have attained a prominent role in the cyber world. However, this newfound love of cats isn't completely unfounded, or historically original. The ancient Egyptians carved their images into the walls of tombs, and now we broadcast them across our own monument to greatness: the Internet. And all along, our cats sit quietly and watch as we fall directly into the trap they have set for the demise of all mankind.

### OMG-I-love-my-bf/gf-forever status updates

"Isn't new love great? The flowers, the shared gazes, the handholding, the slow half-smile when they check their phone for a message from that special someone? Yeah, it's awesome to see those things in person as one wanders the world in complete and utter singlehood. So hey, why not have constant reminders of it every time you log onto Facebook?" said no one. There is absolutely no escape from the constant barrage of PDA. Even more, as great as it is that someone is happy with the relationship they are in, the impulse to broadcast that new sunshine-y kind of joy is unnecessary and paradoxically lessens the credibility of the relationship through heart emoticon overload.

### Facebook Lectures

This one falls much along the same lines as the previous pet peeve in that people use Facebook or Twitter as an opportunity to advertise their religion, political opinions or apparently superior knowledge and understanding of human nature. They are similar because they are forcing this at us in a manner that is often abrasive and completely uncalled for. To an extent, that is what social networking is used for: getting your thoughts and ideas out there and possibly using it as a plug for an important cause here and there. However, there are some that use these sites as a sort of ground to attempt to convert others to their way of thinking. Unfortunately for them, it is quite difficult to convey any sort of meaningful message because they are being undermined by pictures of cats.

### "Society Thinks..." Meme

These are probably the most recent annoying internet trend. Approximately two weeks ago there was a sudden onslaught of a very specific type of meme that depicted a certain activity

or group of people from various points of view. We've all seen them: a black background with usually six pictures, showing what mother thinks, what friends think, what teachers think, what the cat thinks, etc. At first they were interesting and clever. It's true, each group is seen in many different ways and it was an entertaining way of depicting that. However, suddenly everyone decided that they needed to make them, like, immediately. Then newsfeeds were just covered in different activities. Where did these come from? Unfortunately there is no real answer. Already, this craze is starting to fade, as most of them do. It was definitely a very strange follow up to the "S#!% People Say" craze that preceded it.

### Hashtag-ing in places that aren't Twitter

The hashtag invasion has probably been the most widely agreed-upon winner for "most annoying Facebook trend." At first, it was subtle. Twitter had slowly begun to leak into Facebook's domain, but within weeks it was a full on flood of hashtag glory.

The hashtag comes from a humble past. Created in August of 2007 by Chris Messina, it was intended to be used as a simple way of grouping tweets together in online searches. According to an interview with Messina done by Gigoam.com, it was not well received in its initial presentation. It was seen as being "too nerdy" and "crowded." The designers of the site wanted to develop a computer program to group the similar postings together. Despite this, Messina persisted in using it, and slowly it began to catch on.

At first, many Twitter users didn't like the way the hashtags looked. As we can see, that has changed in the past few years. According to a study done

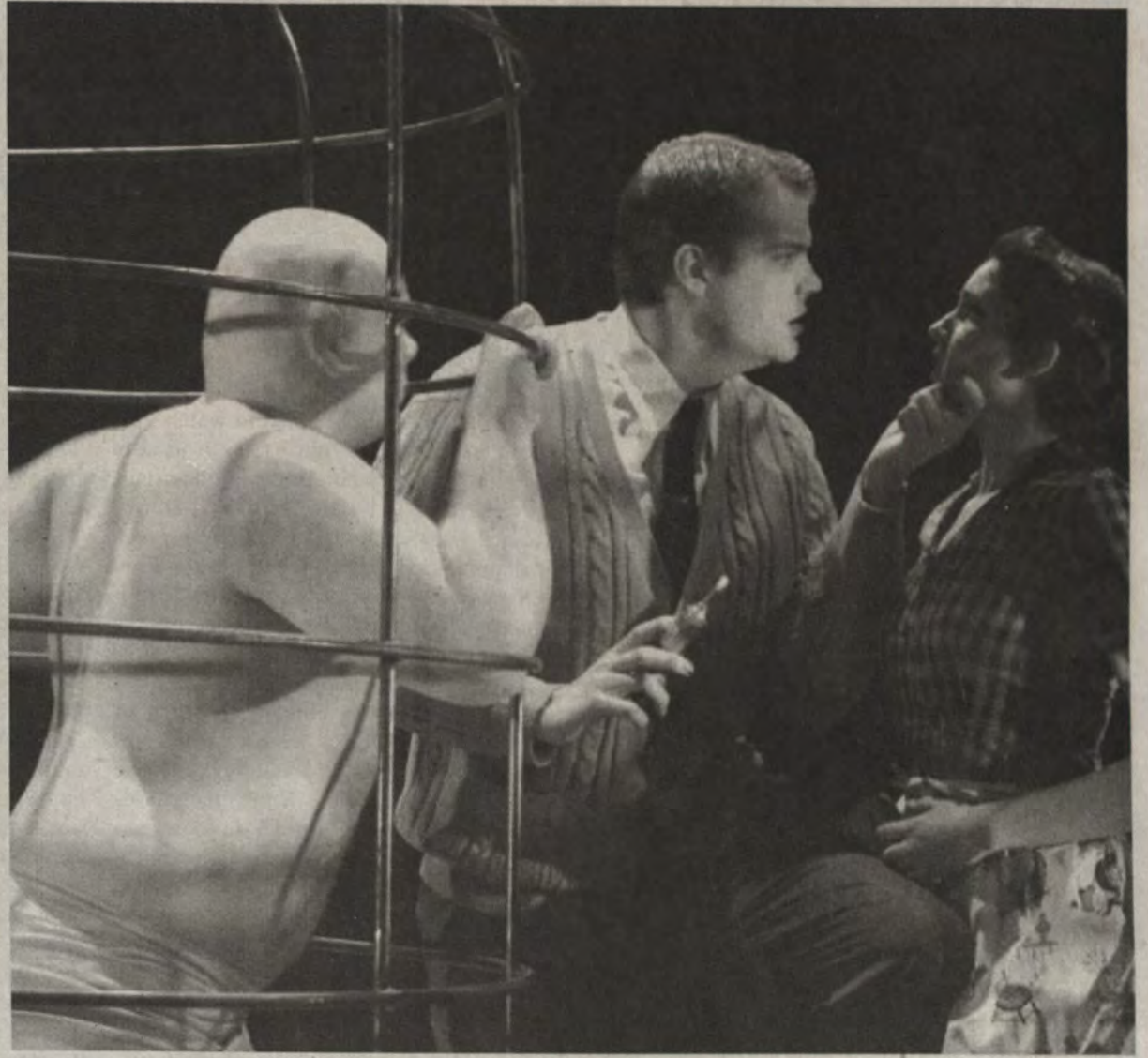
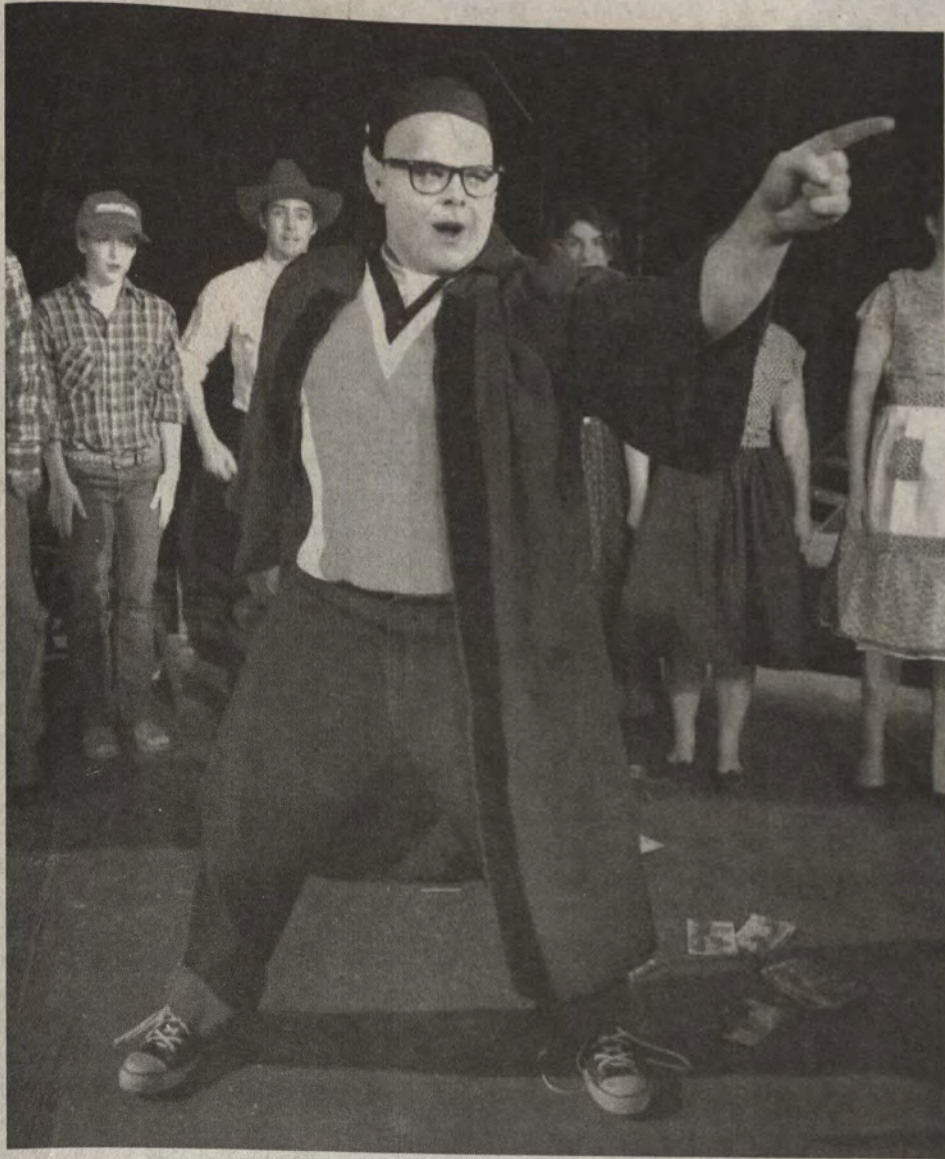
by Twitter CEOs, approximately 11% of Twitter posts contain some kind of hashtag. The most notable hashtag use was when Republican Congressmen used the tag #dntgo while trying to get Congress to stay in session to vote on an energy bill. This was the first official break from the general nerd culture that hashtags typically drew. This was developed for Twitter as a organizational scheme. Therefore, it really makes absolutely no sense that suddenly people have started using them on Facebook too. As much as we would like to think that someone will spend actual time searching for a specific comment we made on a certain picture, they won't, despite our use of hashtag.

"They can be kind of funny when used ironically," said Dakota Peschel '15. "But they really are obnoxious when they are overused simply for that purpose."

As hilarious and witty as someone may feel for using a hashtag to associate themselves with a certain group on Twitter, it really doesn't make sense in the context of Facebook. Had we wanted to see strings of random words and tags following every comment, we would follow you on Twitter.

By no means are these the only Twitter and Facebook pet-peeves out there. From experience, we can all say there are possibly hundreds more just by looking at our own pages. However, we do have some power. While it is not socially acceptable to go around yelling "DEFRIEND" or "UNFOLLOW" to random people that annoy you in life, there is the opportunity of a simple press of the button while on social networking sites. The internet is serving as a way to record how our culture is developing, and it will be interesting to see what we create that may be saved for future generations. •





## Hold Me, *Bat Boy* Conn theater brings creepy to a whole new level

BAILEY BENNETT  
STAFF WRITER

Gushing blood, sexual violence and mysterious creatures filled the world of *Bat Boy*, this year's main stage musical. The show, performed this past weekend in Tansil Theater, tells the strange and twisted tale of a creature born half-human and half-bat, forced to live in solitude in a cave in rural West Virginia until he is found by the inhabitants of Hope Falls. Through a series of comedic and tragic events, we watch as he tries to assimilate into normal human society, being constantly rejected by those around him and making the audience question who the true "beasts" are in the story.

For a show with a plot as bizarre and foreign as this one, the performance itself was incredibly full of human emotion, relatable characters and heartbreaking tragedy. Although watching a group of woodland creatures engage in sexual promiscuity or a bat boy sucking the blood from a dead cow head was extremely disturbing, the production pulled the audience so deeply into this world that we were able to accept the unconventional plot for what it was. The large musical numbers, often involving the entirety of this twelve-person cast, were by far some of the strongest moments of the show. The power of those twelve voices singing at once was truly overwhelming and the songs themselves were poignant and memorable. In particular, "Comfort and Joy" was the final song of Act I and was intricately staged and sounded utterly brilliant, leaving the audience thirsting for more. The accompaniment of the talented orchestra heightened the drama with frequent use of electric guitar to bring

this rock musical to life.

This being said, the show itself is at times poorly written, repetitive and in need of some critical editing. Many scenes of dialogue or flashback sequences felt long and had a strange tone, often taking topics as serious as rape extremely lightheartedly. Great credit is therefore due to the cast of *Bat Boy* for making the audience thoroughly believe in the story, despite the obstacles. Ethan Underhill '15 was captivating in his powerful yet gentle portrayal of Bat Boy, transitioning seamlessly from the adorable, ignorant, feral creature to an intelligent, troubled young man. His portrayal evoked frequent tears from audience members as he played the challenging role with touching honesty and respect, along with an absolutely stellar singing voice.

Grant Jacoby '13 and Talia Curtin '13 and Leila Teitelman '15 beautifully made up the Parkers, a family with a dark secret who graciously accepts Bat Boy into their home. Jacoby impressively portrayed the show's greatest villain with a warped cruelty that was consistently chilling, flashing a perverted smile in the face of death, rape and destruction. Scenes in which whipped out his infamous syringe were disturbing and thrilling at the same time. Opposite him in the role of his wife, Curtin was tender, loveable and kind, but with moments of fear and fury so powerful that the viewers were left breathless. Her sincere performance of a mother torn apart by heartbreak, abuse and shame was incredibly stirring to watch. Finally, Teitelman filled out the family with an air of comedy and youth, transitioning from a naïve girl to a complex woman

and touching many hearts as she closed out the show's final, tragic scene, sitting among the dead bodies of her loved ones.

The whole cast must also be commended for their commitment to multiple, diverse characters in this production. In a move that was both practical and comical, many cast members played two to three characters, constantly rushing off stage with only seconds to change from one outfit to the other. Although changing clothes so quickly is difficult enough in itself, the cast was also able to make great alterations in terms of their characters' personalities and mannerisms. Ryan Cameron '12 must be specifically praised not only for his portrayal of Rick Taylor, but for his hilarious transformation into Lorraine, a role made all the more funny by the sight of Cameron in a dress and wig.

The stark contrast of these hysterical moments with the extreme darkness and perversion of prejudice, rape and death made this show as memorable and moving as it was. The production struck a perfect balance between the two emotions, evoking a truly visceral reaction from the audience throughout the show. Parts of *Bat Boy* made the audience break into bouts of laughter or quiet tears, or simply forced them to cover their eyes for a moment, finding it difficult to accept what they saw. Because moments of comedy were so quickly followed by inexplicable sadness, the sick irony was made even clearer. Although viewers may have been skeptical of the abnormal premise of this show, the audience certainly left feeling that they had been unexpectedly moved by the tale of a troubled, lovable Bat Boy.



PHOTOS BY ANDREW NATHANSON

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## Arts &amp; Entertainment

THE COLLEGE VOICE

A Little Taste of History:  
Why *Downton Abbey* is such  
a popular showEMMALINE DEIHL  
STAFF WRITER

Sunday night used to be the night when I mourned the end of the weekend, trying to mentally prepare for my Monday morning class while finishing up last-minute homework. That was until I discovered *Downton Abbey*. Or rather, until I finally got around to watching this show that so many of my friends had been raving about. Once I started watching, the history nerd in me came out full force and I could not wait to watch the trials and tribulations of the Crawley family with other *Downton* fans on Sundays. I was hooked.

In the past year, this British miniseries, which airs on PBS's Masterpiece Classic, has amassed a huge audience, garnered international fame and attention and has won six Emmys and the Golden Globe for Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television. The finale of season two aired last week, and there is already buzz about the upcoming season, which does not air until next year. It seems the British Invasion is back.

At its heart, *Downton Abbey* is a well-written, visually stunning, high-minded soap opera. It centers on the aristocratic Crawley family, headed by Robert Crawley, the Earl of Grantham, and his American wife, Cora. They have three daughters — Mary, Edith and Sybil — and live in Downton Abbey, an enormous English manor house and estate. The show is in the style of *Upstairs/Downstairs*, focusing both on the aristocratic family and their servants, headed by Mr. Carson, the butler, and Mrs. Hughes, the housekeeper. The first season opens with the sinking of the Titanic and the death of the heir to the estate. As English law held that estates could not pass to daughters, Downton Abbey had to go to the next closest male in the family. Enter Matthew, a distant cousin who knows nothing about running an estate or the social norms of the nobility. The saga begins, with plenty of romance, drama, humor and action to keep viewers entertained.

Before I began watching *Downton Abbey*,

I thought to myself, why  
is this

show so popular? I am inclined to watch PBS and can attest that Masterpiece Classic usually shows high quality, entertaining productions. However, it quickly became clear that *Downton Abbey* was reaching an audience much wider than regular Masterpiece viewers. I am sure this is partly due to marketing and exposure on awards shows and in the press, but the fact is that the show is also highly entertaining, very interesting and incredibly addictive.

One of the most fascinating aspects of *Downton Abbey* is that it is set in a world completely foreign to modern Americans. None of the family members has a job; their lives center on running their estate. Matthew is a lawyer, and to them the notion of having a workingman inherit their estate is absurd. The daughters always get dressed to the nines to go to dinner with their parents, who are also sporting their finery.

The main purpose of the daughters' lives is to get married to respectable and wealthy men. Perhaps the most shocking part is the family's complete dependence on their servants, who do everything for them. In one episode, we learn that the daughter Sybil wants to become a nurse, and a family member remarks that this is a ridiculous idea, as she has never even dressed herself in her life.

Not that the Crawleys are lazy. The daughters, in particular, have plenty of spunk and ambition, and are aware of their lifestyle and how it is being affected by the changing world. On the other hand, the servants basically devote their lives to this one family. Their purpose is to make sure that everything runs smoothly

and the family does not have to lift a finger. The onset of World War I does change some of their attitudes, which makes for an interesting tension.

This historical aspect of *Downton Abbey* is equally engaging. The first two seasons span from 1912 to 1919, during which Europe changed drastically. World War I affects Downton very much, as family members and servants go to fight, and the house is then turned into a convalescent home. This completely alters the family's lifestyle. Suddenly their lives have a purpose besides keeping up appearances. The war also effectively breaks down many social barriers. Those in the "lower class" start to question their position and subservience to the aristocracy. This shakes things up considerably, as the family must come to grips with the fact that their old way of life and their position in the world is slipping.

While the historical background is interesting, the allure of the show also rests mainly on its characters. Among the family and their servants, who get an equal amount of attention on the show, there are plenty of compelling characters. The interactions between the characters drive the show, as we watch them strive to have fulfilling lives while operating within the social norms of the time. As it is a drama with melodramatic tendencies, there is plenty of intrigue.

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tured

love, betrayal, sibling rivalry and tension.

But there is also humor. Maggie Smith as Violet Crawley, the Dowager Countess of Grantham (Robert's mother), is arguably the best character on the show. She is the quintessential snotty aristocrat, but surprisingly insightful, caring and hilarious. In a dry manner she constantly delivers meaningful yet biting one-liners that are both incredibly funny and thought-provoking. She is reason enough to watch the show.

Of course, *Downton Abbey* is not without imperfections. Reminiscent of a soap opera, a couple of episodes in the second season were a bit unbelievable, as one character made a miraculous medical recovery which was convenient to the plot, while another was very conveniently killed off by the Spanish flu. The pacing of the show is also strange. It feels as if each episode should take place within a few weeks of one another, but in reality they are months apart. The show has spanned about eight years so far, and not one character has aged. Sybil, supposedly twenty-one at the end of season two, looks exactly the same as she did in the beginning, when she should have been about fourteen (although she looked twenty-one then). Likewise, all the other characters are physically exactly the same, which can be a bit confusing, besides being entirely unrealistic.

However, perfect reality is not the main aim of the show, and honestly, I'm glad that no one has aged. The fact is, while I may not be able to relate to the Crawley's lifestyles or agree with the social system in which they live, *Downton Abbey* is a world of visual beauty which I absolutely love. The Crawley family lives in a protected bubble of grandeur. I love seeing the gorgeous gowns the women wear to dinner, wishing that I had the occasion to wear them, and how their hair is done perfectly as they stroll around their immaculately manicured grounds. It may be ridiculous, but it is complete eye-candy for us history nerds, which is exactly what I want on a Sunday night. •

A Proper Adult Novel  
Norcross speculates on the quality of a new  
J.K. Rowling bookSAM NORCROSS  
STAFF WRITER

J.K. Rowling is writing a new book — a "proper adult novel," as a quote from her website goes. Maybe you've heard, maybe you're already planning for midnight showings of the movie version or maybe you've just had vaguely concerning thoughts about Potter-porn, but no matter who you are, you have no idea what that phrase actually means. It's extremely vague, and deliberately so. If you feel like having your intelligence insulted, you can attempt to find out more by visiting Jkrowling.com, which features a cheery picture of a fat yellow tome titled "THE NEW BOOK."

Besides this titillating image lies what I'm absolutely sure is a genuinely real, handwritten note by the delicate fingers of J.K. herself, which says (in convincingly sloppy cursive), "Although I've enjoyed writing it just as much, my next novel will be very different from the *Harry Potter* series." To me this seems like somewhat of a shameless publicity stunt. It's a teaser trailer with extra tease. I think we all would have already as-

sumed that J.K. Rowling is writing something. Now we just know that it will be "different" from *Harry Potter*. I guess this is news; news enough for the entire Internet to begin its wild speculations.

Previous interviews have been dissected in search for what direction "THE NEW BOOK" may take. A mystery novel seems to be a popular guess. Some people think it may be a magical thriller, and others assume high fantasy. A few years ago Rowling mentioned writing a "political fairy tale" for an even younger audience than the *Harry Potter* series. Some suggest that she may have taken that idea and aged it up for adults. But I suppose that the two major questions raised by this announcement are these: will the rabid *Harry Potter* fan base accept a book by Rowling without the spectacled hero or, perhaps, without any magic at all? And will the book be any good?

I think my feelings toward *Harry Potter* grew up with my tastes. I will probably always cite myself as a non-fan of the series, and after saying so, I

will probably have to quell the shouts and cries of my fellow generation-Xers. I have a great fondness for books one through four and a deep hatred of all the poorly paced pieces of melodramatic fan-service that followed. And there will still be a few shouts and cries.

But perhaps not so many as there would be if I faced the truth, which is that I probably dislike the whole series in general. I've always hated re-reading books, and the thought of starting once again from the beginning of an almost 3,500-page series (about 1,900 pages of which I already know I hate) sounds scary and boring. So I'm not sure if I can separate my nostalgia from my legitimate opinion, and even if I were to re-read the first four again out of curiosity, I have the feeling that my memories of costumed midnight releases with pumpkin juice, and summer camping trips spent marathon-ing each newest volume would considerably sweeten any objective opinion I could hope to make.

I guess that's my follow-up ques-

tion for our entire generation. Can we, in the end, separate our lifelong memories growing up with this series from our opinions of it? And then the more relevant question: can we separate whatever feelings we have for the series in general from its author?

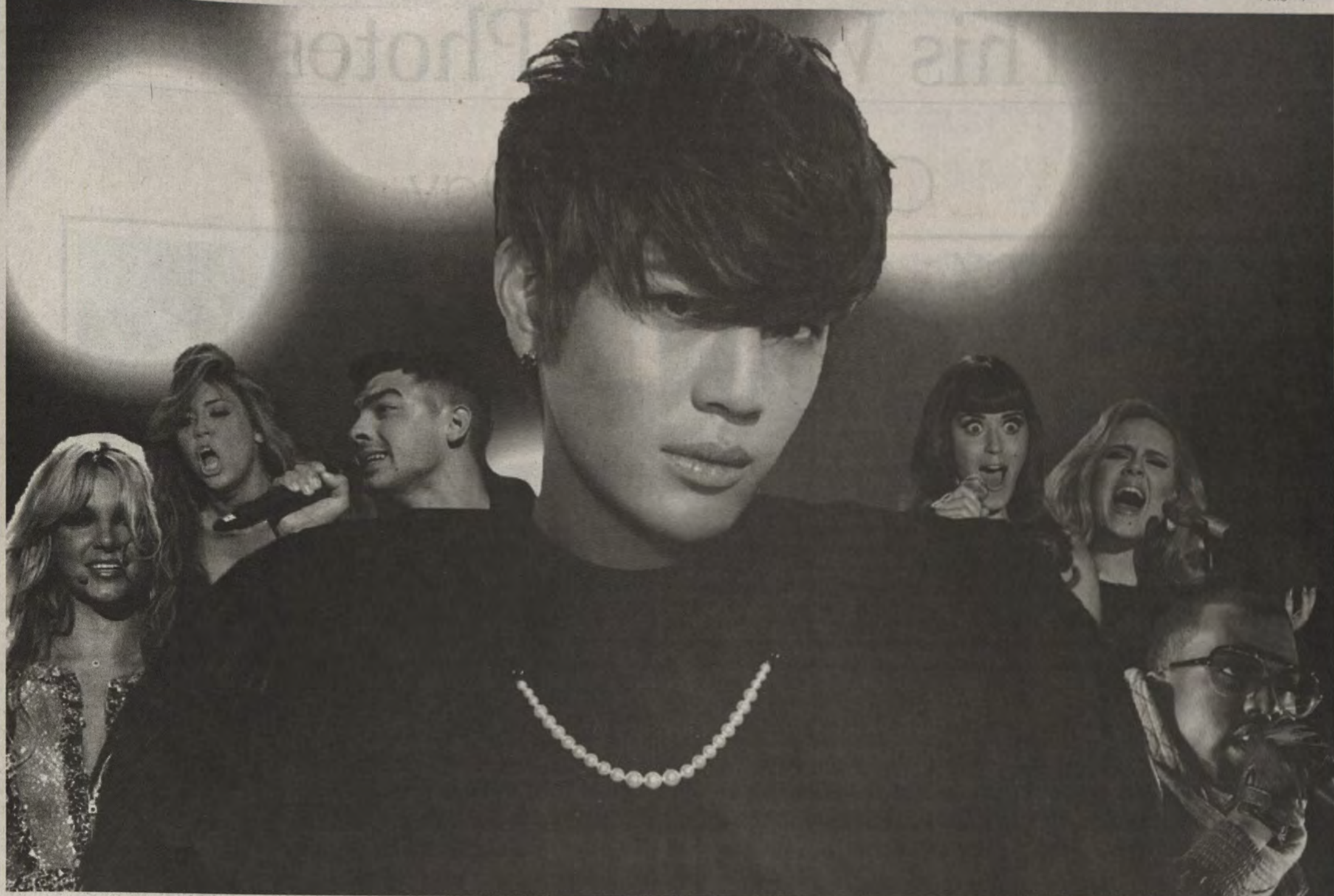
I do not think that Rowling's next book will be good. I think she's a dull and clichéd writer who happened to create a rich world in *Harry Potter* by borrowing heavily from fairytales and myth. I think that preemptively labeling this book as "adult" is meant to be provocative and nothing more. I think it may have darker themes and subject matter than *Harry Potter*, perhaps a few more swear words, but nothing deeper than that. And I know that no matter what it is, it will sell millions of copies.

While I can't say I'm excited for the book, I will say that I am fascinated to see the world's reaction. There's a strong possibility that the use of the phrase "adult" is meant to ease *Harry Potter*'s wide readership into the idea that magic will not be involved in Rowling's next work.

This would be a problem for her. The success of the *Harry Potter* series is based almost solely on Rowling's ability to create an interesting magical world. If her next endeavor is set in the Muggle world, then "THE NEW BOOK" will have to rely much more heavily on character, tone and theme. Based on seven books of flat characters, dull white-grey tones and almost painfully clichéd themes, I predict any story of J.K.'s set in the real world could only be saved by an amazing plot.

But never mind all this speculation. There's a much more interesting conversation to be had about this announcement. It has to do with that now oft repeated phrase: "proper adult novel." What is an "adult novel"? This is what I think matters about this story. Whatever "THE NEW BOOK" will be, whether good or bad, it will be an experiment in popular fiction that will challenge our tastes, our memories and maybe even our concept of the categorization of literature. •





ISABEL ULATOWSKI

# Is K-Pop the Next British Invasion?

FRED MCNULTY

WEB CONTENT EDITOR

Viewers of *The Late Show with David Letterman* frequent the program not only for the recognizable host and for the pithy comedy, but also for the musical guests. From Eminem to Madonna, a plethora of different performers have all graced the show during its over two-decade long run. Earlier this month, a lesser-known musical guest made an appearance on the iconic American show — Korean female pop group Girls' Generation.

Sonyeo Sidae — SNSD, for short, or Girls' Generation in English — is one of many pop artists breaking out of South Korea in recent years. The “Hallyu Wave,” what journalists have dubbed the increased popularity of Korean entertainment — specifically its music — outside of South Korea, has been gaining traction in recent years due in part to the growing influence of the Internet.

While other Asian countries have faced a similar interest in Korean music, its popularity has been extending far beyond the continent over the past few years. From flash-mobs in Europe to topping the charts in South America, the international fan base for “k-pop” has been exponentially increasing. YouTube Music and the Billboard Charts have both very recently added k-pop sections to accommodate the demand. It is not unusual to see Korean artists breach the Top 10 on iTunes either.

But, what is k-pop? In the United

States, “boy bands” and “girl groups” used to dominate the charts in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Throngs of devoted fans would swarm in music stores to purchase the CDs of their favorite groups — Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls, \*NSYNC, etc. While these trends largely faded in America, the Asian music industry kept them alive. Rather than using outdated business models to market their stars, Asian companies chose to innovate: incorporating modern dance techniques, utilizing hip-hop/rap styles and staying at the cutting edge of fashion.

Currently, the United States lacks a pop music scene. Pop music, as a genre, and popular music, as a measure of what music is currently well-liked, are two separate entities. Our top ten pop music charts are *not* centered on a pop music styling, but, rather, around which hip-hop, rock, R&B or electronica song can sell the most. Only a handful of artists — Lady GaGa, Rihanna, Katy Perry — are carrying the entire pop genre.

As a result, Americans have witnessed some pretty awful songs topping the pop charts over the past few years. Remember “My Humps” by the Black Eyed Peas or “Crank That” by Soulja Boy? Some artists have even made a career out of marketing themselves as bad or trashy — just look at the personas of Ke\$ha or LMFAO. America is struggling to find a unifying pop genre.

A similar phenomenon occurred in the late 1950s. After Elvis Presley

entered the military, the American pop scene fell into a slump. The music was not necessarily all bad, but there was no uniformity to the genre; it was going through an identity crisis. Luckily, in the mid-1960s, a foreign music scene presented itself as a viable option in America: the British Invasion. To me, connections between the Hallyu Wave and the British Invasion are blatant.

That is not to say that Korean art-

*Rather than using outdated business models to market their stars, Asian companies chose to innovate.*

ists would not have their obstacles. Aside from the obvious language barrier, the United States has more than a few cultural differences. When it was discovered Korean rapper G-Dragon had taken one hit from one joint of marijuana *by accident*, a huge controversy ensued in which his entire career was suspended and the media publicly shamed him. Contrast that with the United States, in which performers make careers on bragging about taking harder drugs.

South Korea is still extremely conservative on a lot of issues; drugs, profanity, violence and sexuality are hardly discussed with the same level of openness as in American music.

The two cultures also see gender roles in a much different light. In South Korea, male celebrities are praised for being fashion forward, wearing makeup and experimenting with eccentric hairstyles. Last year, for an extreme example, male group BIGBANG all wore skirts in their promotions. This kind of behavior would be denigrated as “gay” in the United States, although I must note that South Korean artists only maintain their heterosexual reputations because Korean society largely ignores homosexuality in general, not due to open-mindedness.

For this reason, it is likely that the first Korean artists to break into the American market will be female.

Unfortunately, the recent attempts to break into the American market have been lackluster at best. South Korea has three main k-pop corporations who have explored promoting their artists in the United States: JYP Entertainment, SM Entertainment and YG Entertainment.

JYP has tried to popularize their girl group The Wonder Girls by having them open at Jonas Brothers' concerts and with a straight-for-television movie on Nickelodeon. Appealing to a young audience seems to be JYP's *modus operandi*.

SM controls the rights to Girls' Generation, who recently released their first American album called *The Boys*. While promotions have been aimed at a more mainstream audience than JYP's, the music has been less than innovative. Imagine

The Pussycat Dolls, remove nine of ten references to sexuality, dull down the music and ever-so-slightly increase their singing ability: that's *The Boys*.

Last, despite YG having no currently announced plans for the United States, it has long been considered the most “western” Korean music corporation. In the late '90s, its CEO, Yang Hyun-Seok, was credited with popularizing hip-hop/rap in South Korea. Recently, they have worked with Diplo (of “Paper Planes” by M.I.A. fame), RedOne (“Fire Burning” by Sean Kingston, “Bad Romance” by Lady GaGa), and will.i.am (from The Black Eyed Peas) to produce music with them.

If I had to put my money on one group gaining popularity in the United States, it would be 2NE1 from YG Entertainment. Male group BIGBANG is also promising — and they won an MTV European Music Award last year — but I am not convinced that the United States is ready for boy bands again. 2NE1 achieved international fame online for their 2011 hit “I Am The Best” and their partnership with will.i.am seems promising.

Americans are only likely to listen to Korean music if it retains enough Asian influence to be noticeably different from American music, but not different enough to intimidate English-only speakers. If marketed properly, the Hallyu Wave could be the next British Invasion. •

## Fiction

THE COLLEGE VOICE

## Flatonia

MARCH 5, 2012

Editors: Sarah Fasano &amp; Alex Saffron

fiction@thecollegevoice.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Now Cynthia McDowd's sixth grade Spanish ain't good enough to have understood everything that was said but you don't have to be a linguist to know what “cocaína,” means and besides she had seen Scarface. As Cynthia tells it, she asked Raul to calm down and put his hands in the air as she drew her pistol. Raul began to raise his hands but in doing so his lower back gave out and he made a sudden movement, and right then either Raul Gomez or Martin Smith depending on how you look at it became the first man Cynthia McDowd ever killed.

With Gomez' body lying dead on the floor five feet or so in front of her, Sheriff's Deputy McDowd stood there shocked, which gave Oscar Vasquez just enough time to get out his twenty-two which he had stashed on the first of a set steps hidden under a false set of linoleum tiles that lead to a basement where he

and Gomez — who was apparently the official owner of the Fat Burger outside of Flatonia — had been packaging their cocaine for sale and distribution.

Without Cynthia noticing, Oscar cocked back his gun and started letting off shots in her direction as he ran away. Meanwhile Billy Slauson and Carlos — Vega, not Brown, Brown works Tuesdays, remember — took cover wherever they could. Shots ricocheted throughout the kitchen hitting all sorts of pots and pans and the grill even. That is until Cynthia, who kneeled down behind a cutting table stood up, drew her weapon once more and shot the wild Vasquez in the chest. When the smoke had cleared there were three men hit.

Billy Slauson got word from his doctor today that he could finally start drinking again. It's been two weeks, and Billy's only been having beers the whole time. “That mean I gotta start working again?” Billy asked the doctor.

The answer was no. But it wouldn't have mattered really, though, because there wasn't any job to go back to. The Fat Burger just outside of Flatonia was closed anyhow, and Billy, who got injured on the job was still eligible for worker's compensation.

Happy about this fact and happy about being able to drink again, Billy went for a sit on the front step outside the trailer he shares with his sister to have himself a glass of Old Grandpa. In his other hand was the paper, which had a picture of Cindy McDowd looking real nice with a bow on her state trooper hat and everything.

But just as Billy was about to start reading the article Carlos Vega rolled up. “Biiiiillyyy,” he shouted and gave a honk.

“Carlos,” Billy nodded.

“Hey, man, do you want to go for a drive?” Carlos asked.

“Where to?” Billy asked.

“I don't know man, I was thinking like out to

like Paradise, what you think?” Carlos asked. “It's like six hours north, but I got enough whiskey to last and plus it's supposed to be the fifth nicest place in the whole country, man.”

“The fifth nicest?” Billy asked.

“Yeah,” Carlos said.

“And you got whiskey?”

“Old Grandpa,” Carlos added smiling. He was flush from his worker's comp as well.

“Alright,” Billy agreed, and he and Carlos drove off, heading north to meet up with 35. The car rumbled and all of Carlos' junk swayed, including the gold tooth — now flattened from a ricochet bullet — which Billy was wearing two Thursdays ago at work when everything happened. They drove through Flatonia once more, passing Gray's and Abella's and not much else before getting on the highway four miles before the Fat Burger, now closed, just outside Flatonia. •

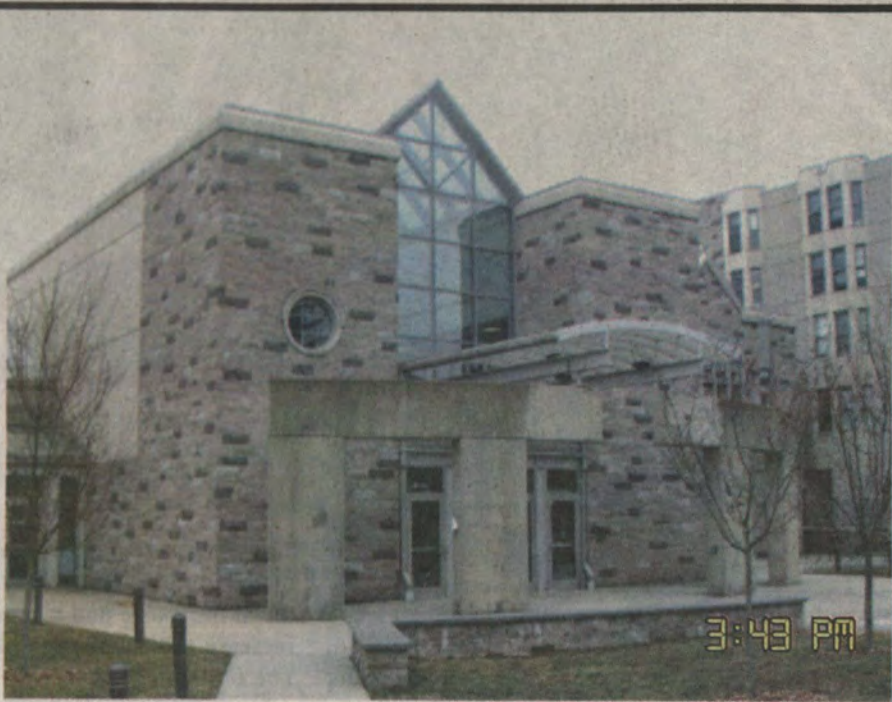


# This Week in Photos

MARCH 5, 2012  
Editor: David Shanfield

THE COLLEGE VOICE

## Campus, In A Day



PHOTOS BY CECILIA BROWN, MAIA SCHOENFELDER, TANAHA SIMON, AND IGGY STERLING  
COMPILED BY PAIGE MILLER



# Vibrams

## Fitness Craze or Valid Innovation?



JEFF BELING  
SPORTS EDITOR

Perhaps many of you have seen the newest craze in running and fitness—the Vibram Five Finger running shoes. Purported to be a more natural running shoe, the rubber-soled human feet imitations allow runners to, according to the website, “Let [their] foot move naturally”. This seems like a solid idea on the surface, however, the shoes have their detractors. Many see the shoes as ugly and useless, placing those that wear and swear by them in the same category as snake oil salesmen. The opposition takes not only the aesthetic side of the argument, but uses scientific research as well,

utilizing Evolutionary Biologist Pete Larson’s statement:

“To be honest, I don’t even think science currently provides particularly good answers as to what any individual should wear or not wear on their feet. I think runners need not be afraid to experiment, and that they should take what they are told in most running stores with a grain of salt.”

Larson’s stance against barefoot and near barefoot running comes as a reaction to the incredibly popular book *Born to Run* by Chris McDougall, a book based on McDougall’s time spent with the Tarahumara Indians of Mexico searching for remedies to running-related foot pain. McDougall claims throughout the book that these natives are able to

run hundreds of miles in sandals, forever disproving the need to wear what he claims are clunky running shoes.

Runners have been incorporating barefoot elements into their training for years. It is the notion that one would be best off doing all of one’s training in barefoot shoes that has become the focal point of this debate.

Both sides have relevant anecdotal data that often comes into play, such as the barefoot side detailing that, as evolutionary beings, humans were meant to be barefoot. The idea is that our human forebears would chase animals while barefoot for hours in order to tire animals out and eventually catch prey that, at the outset, was much faster than our an-

cestors. The reasoning is that we, as a people, were built to run barefoot.

The opposition complains that this view is outdated in that one cannot simply switch from running shoes to a barefoot shoe.

Personally, I side with the latter group in the debate. Although there are benefits to running short distances barefoot, in the scope of one’s running it is a poor decision to make a big jump to barefoot shoes. Injuries in running are common; especially if you wish to run enough miles to, train for a marathon, or even a local 5k-road race. It makes sense to wear shoes that fit your running style, as opposed to a shoe that is supposed to herald the best possible running form.

When it comes down to it, many

people do not need the type of training that Vibrams provide. The chance of injury is very high, especially if you start running higher mileage. That is not to say that lighter shoes are the devil. I run in a pair of Saucony Mirages, a lighter shoe with less stability. However, these shoes are a far cry from the “Barefoot Feel” that Vibrams provide.

Vibrams do have their place on the running shoe shelf, and if they work for you, that’s great. I understand that this type of shoe has valid running benefits. I guess I might be biased as a distance runner, so if you love the look of neoprene and rubber faux-human feet, be my guest. •

## The Boys are Back: Rugby gears up for another season

ETHAN HARFENIST  
OPINIONS EDITOR

I started going to the Conn Men’s Club Rugby games last semester. Living in the Village, it was an easy walk to the field and a nice place to bask in the sun trying to overcome poisonous hangovers. I like football, so I figured I’d like rugby, too, since my American thought process equated it to football mixed with cricket and soccer. For whatever reason my brain felt less pummeled from the night before as my eyes watched men repeatedly crash into one another and rough each other up. While I never understood rugby (and still don’t fully), I could not deny how entertaining and adrenaline-fueled it was. Though Conn’s men’s rugby team went 2-3 last semester, losing those three games to rivals Wesleyan, Nichols College and Westfield State, the boys are gearing up for this semester’s matches with a renewed sense of carnivorous blood lust, ready and able to bash some faces and crack ribs like kindling. It’s almost time for rugby’s spring season.

Rugby is one of those sports here at Conn that doesn’t enjoy the glitz and glamour of playing home games on the green. Rather, the team is relegated to the backyards of Connecticut College athletic spaces, the beautiful but isolated Dawley Field down by the water past the Winchesters. One would expect such exile to be partially beneficial, allowing the club to practice without bother and enjoy a certain level of independence from the traditional varsity athletic sphere. This isn’t the case, though. “One of the big-

gest issues for our club has been finding adequate space to practice. More and more each year we have been given less time on a field that has been traditionally used as the rugby field,” says team president Henry Rossoff ’12. “Sailing has built a shed and a generator on Dawley field without discussing it with us, and rowing has occasionally just left their boats on our field. As we see it, there’s a lack of respect towards our club by the varsity teams and other higher-ups.”

“The administration doesn’t like us, or at the very least doesn’t respect us,” gripes Michael Natriello ’12. “The athletic department thinks we’re just another club sport, and unfortunately I feel like some members of our team are convinced that this is true also. Put simply, if someone even knows that we have a rugby team at Conn that’s about as good as the press can get.”

This vented frustration translates into bone melting tackles and a testosterone soaked competitions. Since there is virtually no fandom, little glory and constant hurdles, it is incredibly commendable that these guys even suit up on a weekly basis. Notwithstanding the lack of any kind of support mechanism from the school, the team is always striving for wins. The boys are still finding their stride after losing such powerhouses as James Jackson ’11 (known popularly as DJ E@sy), Keith Winking ’11 and Nick Bright ’11 at the end of the 2011 season. There has been an injection of new talent, particularly in their scrum, so the spring season should prove to be more successful. Natriello believes that, “Tom Olsen, who was trying out for basketball in the fall, will be

integral to renewed success. He’s a player of diverse skill and can really help us out. We need more aggressive players like Tom. In terms of my personal performance, I’ll be better if I get in shape, and if my tackling is more consistent.”

Hopefully, more wins will also lead to more of a following at Connecticut College for the rugby team. “We’d like to increase our exposure at Conn, it’s just difficult as normally we play on a field that is as far away from main campus as possible,” says Rossoff.

For a school that dons t-shirts bragging about a fictional undefeated football team, we have a very real and exciting “substitute” already. “Rugby is an extremely physical sport but there’s a lot of strategy too,” says co-captain Alex Soffron ’12. “A good team needs to run plays and combine an overall strategy with brute physicality in order to win.” Rugby is fast paced and stimulating—basically, all of the ingredients for an awesome sports viewing experience. Though they play far away from the traditional action of campus, it’s definitely worth the trip down to the waterfront. Club sports retain a grit and semi-casualness that make for entertaining and unpredictable matches. Rugby, in particular, is balls-to-the-walls fun; it has all of the brutality of football without the constant pauses and dead space. You got scrums, line-outs and a ton of hits, all with no pads or helmets—absolute-

ly invigorating stuff.

The season kicks off after spring break, and this sports writer highly suggests that anybody with an appetite for violence or human kinetic poetry makes the trek down to the

water on a sunny day to watch these striped warriors gelatinize players from other colleges. •



223 Thames Street  
Groton, CT

11 AM - 9 PM

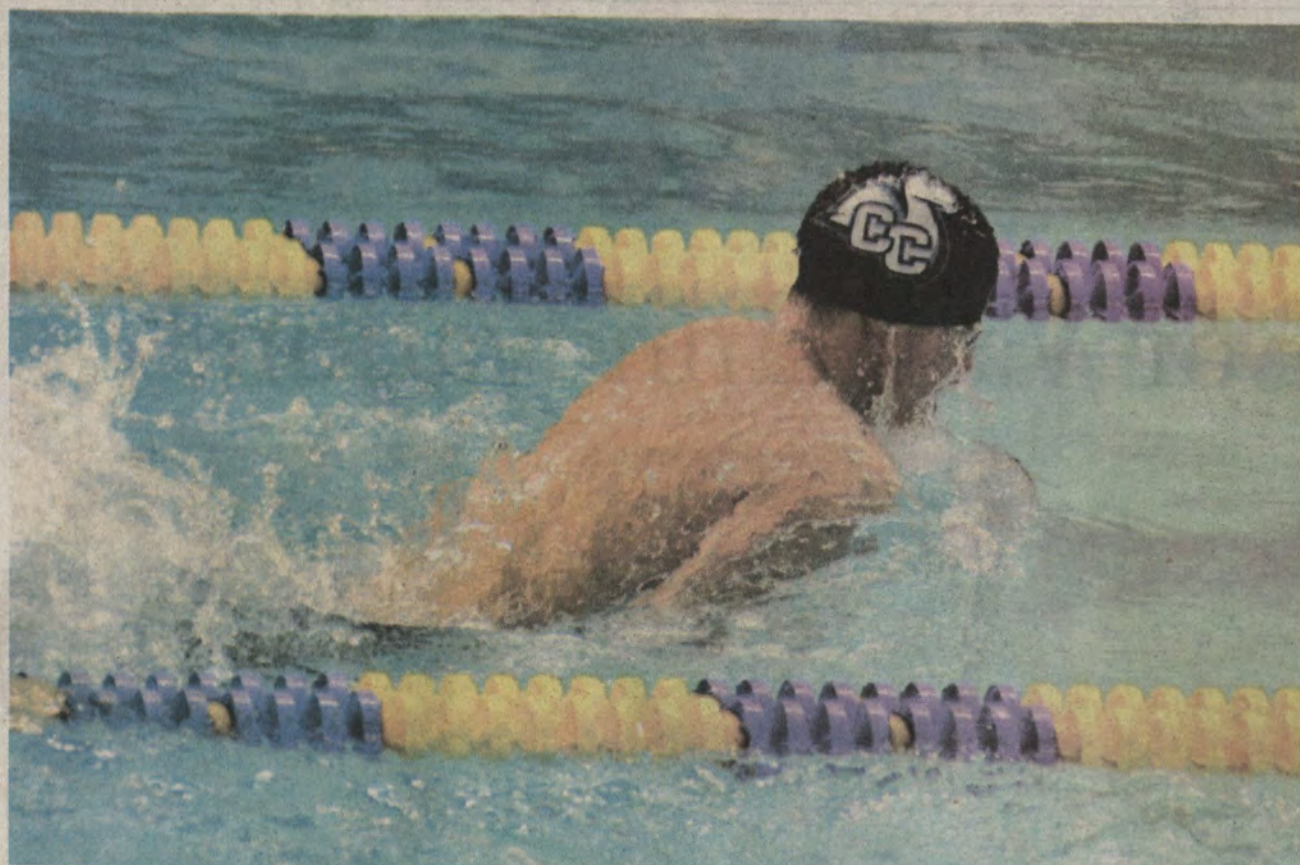
Tuesday-Sunday

[www.paulspastashop.com](http://www.paulspastashop.com)

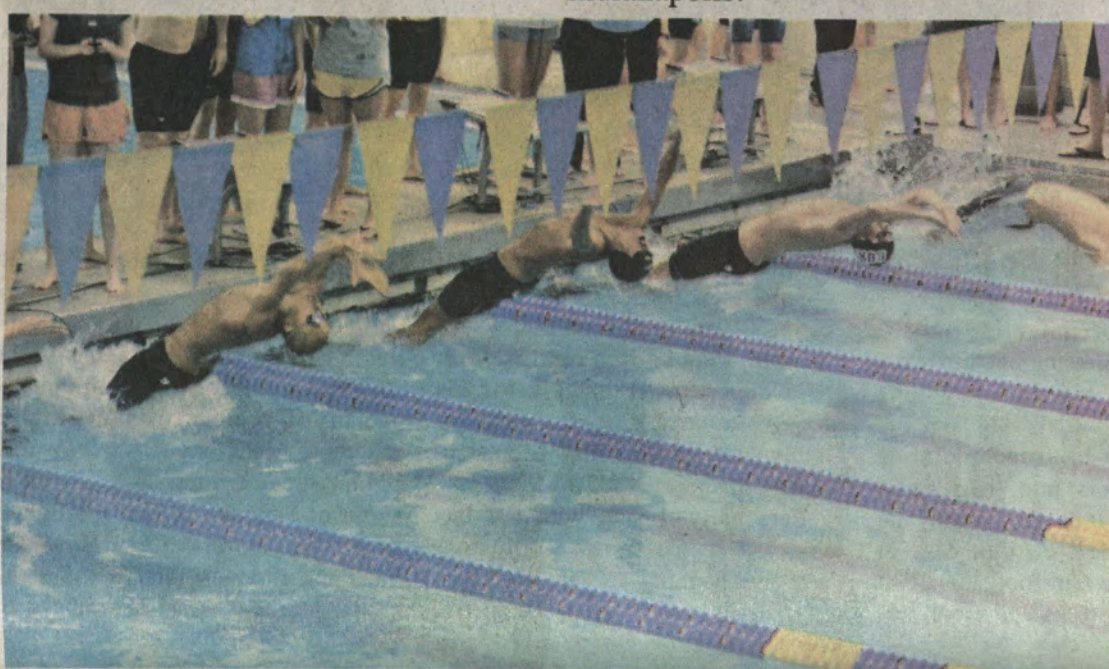
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# Featured Teams: Men's and Women's Swimming

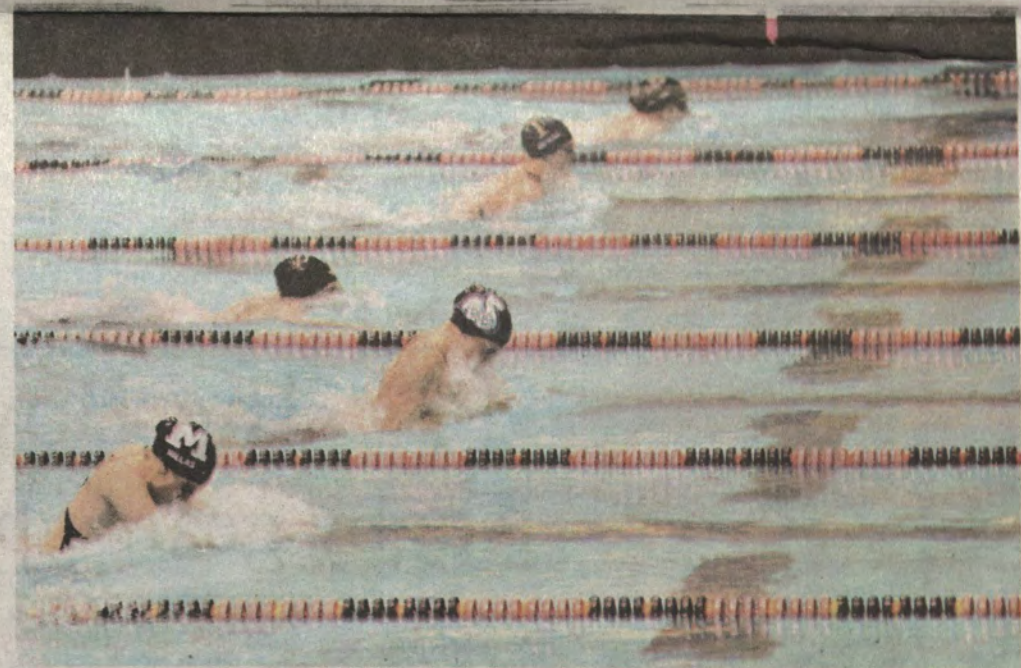


Men's and women's swimming and diving teams competed at the NESCAC championships the past two weekends at Williams and Wesleyan, respectively. The women placed 7th among NESCAC peers, setting 5 varsity records and earning 5 provisional NCAA qualifications. The Camel men ranked 4th - tying their highest placing in history - setting 8 varsity records and receiving four invitations to the upcoming NCAA championship meet March 21-24 in Indianapolis.



## NCAA INVITEES

Tim Walsh '12	100 backstroke
	200 backstroke
	200 medley relay
Sam Gill '14	100 butterfly
	200 medley relay
Kirk Czelewicz '15	200 medley relay
Pat McGinnis '15	200 medley relay



PHOTOS BY KATIE KARLSON

## NESCAC POWER RANKINGS



This is the first installment of the NESCAC Power Ranking. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on basketball and hockey.

An overall strong record has given Amherst a powerful lead, holding a tight grip on the top spot. This solidifies the winter sports power rankings for the 2011-2012 season.

SCHOOL	MEN'S BASKETBALL	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	MEN'S	WOMEN'S HOCKEY	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
AMHERST	1	1	1	2	1.25	1 ↔
TUFTS	4	2	4	—	3.33	3 ↑
BOWDOIN	6	3	2	3	3.5	2 ↓
MIDDLEBURY	2	11	3	1	4.25	4 ↔
WILLIAMS	7	5	5	6	5.75	5 ↔
WESLEYAN	3	6	6	9	6	6 ↔
BATES	5	9	-	-	7	5 ↔
TRINITY	9	8	7	4	7	8 ↔
HAMILTON	8	10	8	5	7.75	9 ↔
COLBY	10	3	10	8	8.25	10 ↔
CONN	10	7	9	7	8.25	11 ↔

The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editors, Amanda Nadile and Jeff Beling ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were averaged to create a composite overall ranking for each school. Bates does not participate in men's hockey or women's hockey. Tufts does not participate in women's hockey.

DESIGNED BY STEVEN SMITH/TUFTS DAILY

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Sun, Feb 26  
Women's Squash  
Howe Cup at Harvard  
University vs. Tufts 3-6

Sat, Feb 25  
Women's Ice Hockey  
NESCAC Quarterfinal  
Conn 0 - 3 Amherst

Men's Swimming and  
Diving  
NESCAC Championship at  
Wesleyan University - 4th  
place out of 11, with 964  
points

## SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

March 10 Sat  
Men's Lacrosse vs Bowdoin  
1 PM, Silfen Turf

Women's Lacrosse at Bowdoin  
12 PM, Bowdoin College

Co-Ed Sailing  
Wood Trophy at Connecticut College  
9:30 AM, Thames River

March 9-10  
Men's and Women's Indoor Track &  
Field  
NCAA Division III Championship All  
Day, Grinnell, Iowa