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OPINION

"View From Gazebo" returns with their own thoughts on Black History. Plus, from the writer of "Jesus Freaks," the debut of "The Hebrew Hammer"



SPORTS

Women's hockey posted a shutout win over Hamlin (MN), but men's basketball is still searching for a NESCAC victory after falling to Wesleyan this week.



A&E

The College Voice speaks to talented singer/songwriter Stephen Kellogg on the eve of his Friday night performance at 10:00pm in the Cro's Nest.



THE COLLEGE VOICE

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CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT

A World Wide Web of Confusion, Frustration, and Misunderstanding

By MATTHEW LISTRO

STAFF WRITER

The newly launched Novarg/MyDoom virus caused extensive internet service interruptions on the Connecticut College campus and throughout the world. In recent months, frequent internet interruptions often lasting days on end have made it very difficult for students and faculty alike to operate in a technology-based society. As students in a technology-based society, the internet is an invaluable resource for students, who rely on it for course work, correspondence with teachers and fellow students, as well as numerous other operations.

The main cause of service failure has been an overwhelming volume of users who are currently all being directed to a single switch that is unable to handle this amount of traffic. Last week's virus, which introduced more network traffic on the school's server and around the world than ever seen before, compounded the problem.

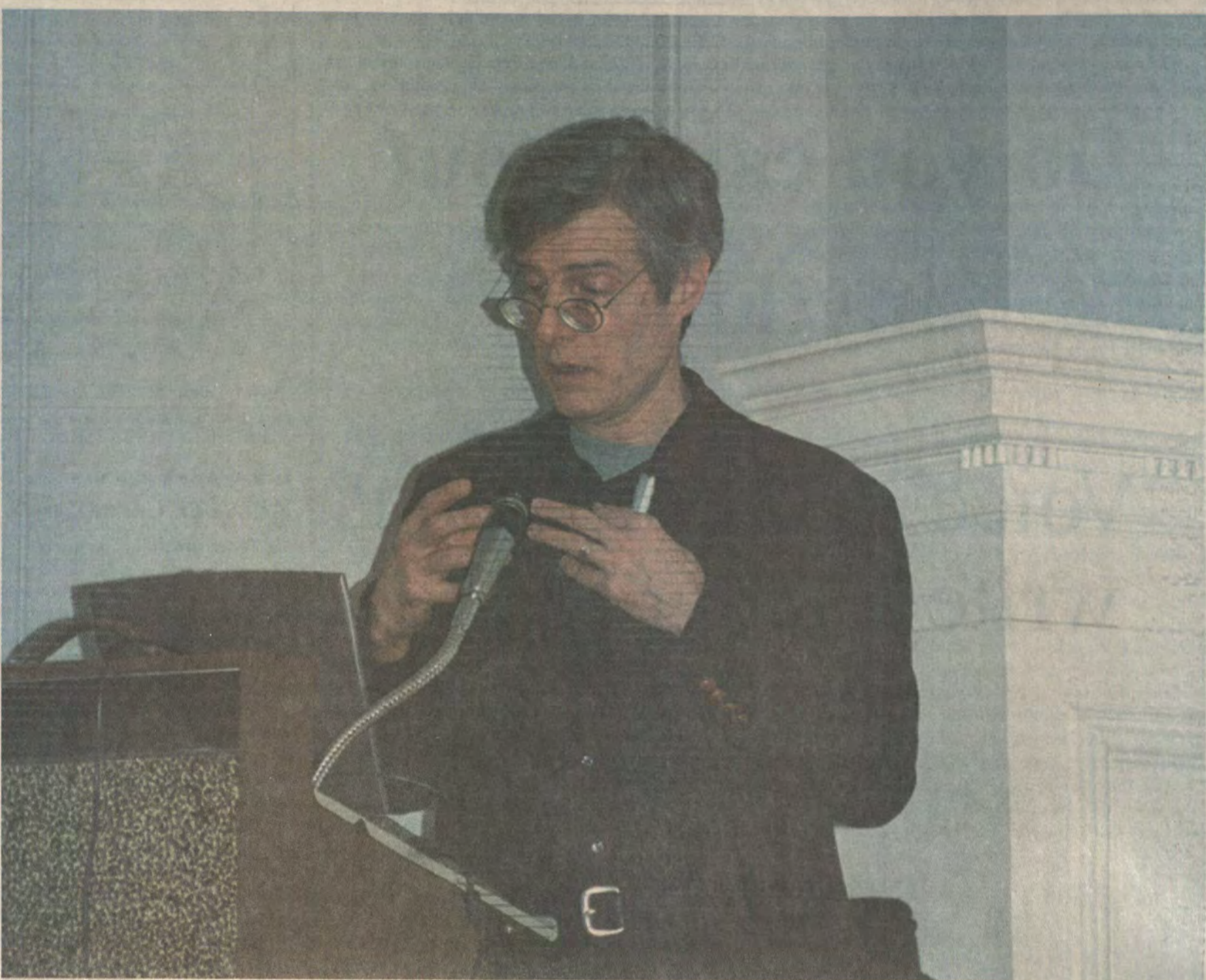
As a remedy, new switches, which can service the increasing number of users, were bought over winter break, however, they will not be installed until spring recess. A

new e-mail server solely for students was also purchased over break and was set up last week. It is expected that the transfer to this system will occur next month. In a recent interview, Bruce Carpenter, Director of Technical Support, remarked, "We view [service interruption] as a most serious problem. Our business is to provide just these services to students, faculty, and staff, and we have acquired some of the hardware needed to fix the problem...we have two staff members doing installations, and the problem is having enough staff to make things work correctly."

Another complaint by students is that the College does not use the internet to its full potential. Many cite that peer institutions have web-based features such as online course registration and posting of grades and transcripts. Fortunately, however, Conn has purchased a new system that will allow for just this—online course registration, and online review of grades, course schedules, and account balances.

Additionally, to be more efficient and eliminate the time consuming process of locating virus-infected computers, which now takes approx-

continued on page 7



Last Thursday, January 29, Dr. Robert Baldwin of the art history department gave a lecture at the Lyman Allyn entitled "Debunking the Da Vinci Code." The lecture focused on analysis of Da Vinci's works and their relations to New York Times bestseller *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown, a fiction-based novel.

College Honors Martin Luther King Jr. with Four-Day Week-end of Events

By CHASE HOFFBERGER

STAFF WRITER

During the week-end of January 23rd, the College honored the life of Martin Luther King Jr. through a series of events. "We tried to set up a series of programs that can engage students, faculty, staff and community members so that they can learn about Dr. King's spirit, hope and commitment," remarked Les Williams, the

Director of Multicultural Affairs at Connecticut College. In addition to the four days of festivities, the College did not hold classes on the 19th of January, King's birthday and accordingly, a national holiday. Williams was pleased with the way the school's calendar lined up with King's birthday because it allowed Conn to spend more than just a day commemorating the life of this vital figure in America's history.

Events kicked off with a Common Ground Common Hour Discussion. The panel of speakers included Tiana Davis '04 and Alexandria Gomes '04, two students who Williams describes as "putting King's dream into action." The former Executive Director of Interfaith Council of South Western Connecticut also participated in the panel.

An honorary Shabbat Dinner was held Friday at 5:30 in the Freeman Dining Room. The event was co-sponsored by Hillel. Unfortunately, Friday's Open Mike

Celebration of Community (sponsored by CoNNVerse) was not held.

Saturday featured a number of Community Service activities and discussions, such as a clean up of the Bateswoods Community Center and a discussion "Why Engage in Community Service?" The discussion was facilitated by Patrice Brodeur, Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life at Connecticut College. In addition, a Catholic Mass, led by Father Larry LaPointed, which included many references to King's religious services was held. A Protestant Worship Service was also organized for Sunday afternoon with the help of the Clark Memorial AME Zion Church.

Williams stated that he thought the highlight of the weekend was the Commemoration Service that took place at Harkness Chapel on Monday. Rev. James Carter was present to preach at the service. The ceremony also featured songs by the school's Unity Gospel Choir and a liturgical dance by the New London Youth Group of the Oasis Restoration Church.

One of Williams' principle concerns was the attendance at the weekend activities. "We need to create opportunities for people to interact over this weekend," Williams said when discussing the lack of attendance. "I hope to be able to organize events over the next few years that will attract an even larger number of Conn students and faculty."

A New Semester Brings New Camels: Seven Students Join Conn Community

By SARAH ARMSTRONG

STAFF WRITER

While in class, crossing the quad, hanging out in Cro, or nestled in your favorite library corner, you may stumble upon a face you had not seen at orientation your freshman year. No, not Coasties incognito, chances are these may be new Camels, fresh from another campus. This year, Conn welcomed almost 40 transfer students. In the Spring '04 semester alone, seven new students were admitted, four of whom are freshmen.

According to Jennifer Stein, Director of Transfer Admissions, there is no pattern in terms of what region of the country, or kinds of schools students transfer from. "We always get a lot of local and community colleges, like Three Rivers,

which is great...also a lot come from large universities." Ms. Stein also mentioned receiving applicants from Conn's peer institutions, among them Bates, Hobart William Smith, Franklin & Marshall, Wellesley, and Wesleyan. "Also, if, say, Fairfield cut their hockey program, we might one year get a whole bunch of interested hockey transfers. It just depends."

Adds Linda Bendfeldt, Assistant Registrar and Transfer Student Credit Evaluator, "Plenty of students are from large schools and look for smaller classes, and someplace more personal. Some also look for certificate

programs, but not necessarily." Stein indicated that students come for Conn's specialized studies departments, like museum studies, or architecture, but that just as many come for an academic or social

change. In particular, she noted that Conn has no Greek life.

The application process is smooth and uncomplicated, recalls senior Chris Detoy, who transferred to Conn after his freshman year at Occidental College in California. "I had a fine time at Occidental, I just didn't think I was going to get the most out of my college experience there," said the California native. Not sure what to major in when he began applying to colleges, Detoy sought transfer to Conn once he realized he wanted an International Relations major. Now graduating with a CISLA certificate and a double major in IR and Spanish, he says, "It worked out really well. I don't have any regrets or anything like that."

The Office of Admissions keeps

continued on page 7

Students Respond Positively to Study Abroad Experiences

By SARAH CEGLARSKI

NEWS EDITOR

At the beginning of each semester a certain number of students return to the Connecticut College community after spending a term abroad. With the spring semester of 2004 under way, Conn welcomes back the 135 students who chose to study away this past fall.

Shirley Parson, Associate Director of the National and International Office, names Italy, Spain, and Australia as some of the most popular study away destinations for Conn students. "The students that study away are mostly juniors, and most of them go through affiliated programs," she says.

Sarah Tacy, class of 2005, emphasizes that the best part about spending last fall attending John Cabot University in Rome was meeting new people. "Most of my friends were from different countries," says Tacy. "I met people from Brazil, Columbia, Venezuela, Mexico...I was friends with a lot of Italians, too." Having spent the summer of 2003 studying in Perugia, Italy, Tacy felt prepared and excited about spending a semester in Rome. "Junior year is a good time to study abroad because most people are ready after two years at Conn," states Tacy. "Going abroad is the best break you

can get."

John Stakes, class of '04, decided to study in Barcelona after hearing about the great experiences his friends had abroad. Stakes chose to forego the opportunity to study abroad during his junior year because he did not want to miss a season on the sailing team at Conn. Other than missing a semester competing for the Camels, Stakes is happy with the decision he made. "My main regret is that I missed the recruiting season for a lot of financial firms," says Stakes, who is an economics major. "I'd recommend studying away senior year to anyone who missed out on it junior year."

Stakes spent his time in Barcelona studying with the Institute for the International Education of Students and absorbing the culture of Spain. Academically, Stakes was pleased with the courses he took while in Barcelona. "My economics classes were great because I got an international perspective...It's good to hear how other people view our economic policies."

Adam Knoff, a junior environmental studies major, spent the fall of 2003 studying the Natural and Cultural Ecology of Belize with the School for International Training. Knoff decided on Belize because he had heard

continued on page 7



Reverend James Carter spoke at Commemoration Service on Monday, January 26th. The event was one of many held in honor of the late Civil Rights leader (Cben)

EDITORIAL & OPINION

New bookstore: everybody wins

During winter-break, Conn's bookstore was thoroughly renovated and revamped. The new store, composed of pristine shelving and floors, is aesthetically pleasing and conducive to expediting the process of finding and paying for books. The College deserves to be complimented on its vast improvement of this widely visited space.

Every student and presumably, most members of the faculty, visit the bookstore at least once a semester. It is a pleasure for the community to visit an establishment that is inviting and well organized.

In light of Conn's recent fiscal trough, it is important for the College to acquire funds where possible. The bookstore's new appeal on prospective customers is likely to yield greater profits. In this sense, the improved bookstore is a win-win scenario for administrators and students.

The bookstore is also an establishment viewed and consequently judged by prospective students as a reflection of the College. The space should reflect the prestigious institution that Conn is and accordingly, serve to attract future students that will sustain and even further improve the College's student body.

The administration has made a change that benefits students for the short and long-term. Despite current hardships, the new bookstore reflects Conn's efforts to improve the experience of its current and future students.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Another Career Girl Responds

To the editors:

The article "Career Girls respond" published in last week's issue of The College Voice fails to acknowledge the most important points made by Connecticut College Professor Rhonda Garelick in her recent Op/Ed Feature, published in the New York Times.

Garelick begins her article by describing the enormous difficulty that Julia Robert's character in "Mona Lisa Smile" has to inspire critical thinking in her students, "who see their elite education as a passport to upper-class wifedom." She points out that the film ends on a note that suggests its featured young women, turned forward-thinking by the influence of Robert's character, are the predecessors of feminist thought, which was to expand and remain with us today. She then goes on to question this idea, using her experience at another selective liberal arts college, our own, as evidence that feminism and political activism are dwindling among college students. She does not, however, make a direct attack on Connecticut College, as suggested by the previous Voice article.

The News editors of The College Voice criticize Professor Garelick for making a generalized statement of her female students, without having "taken a thorough survey of Conn's female student body." However, they are solely guilty of sweeping generalizations. They claim that they made an "extensive effort" to receive the responses of a "large number" of female Connecticut College students to her article, and that Connecticut College women responded with "an almost total view of opposition." It is interesting that they feel entitled to the authority to comment on the entire female student body of Conn, whom they obviously did not give a "thorough survey," while denying Professor Garelick the right to comment on a group of students with whom she interacts regularly. It is also interesting that they failed to seek the responses of Professor Garelick's own students, to whom the article truly drew attention.

The editors make conflicting statements about the atmosphere in Connecticut College classrooms, describing it as a place where "girls can thrive politically," while also stating that they "relate to the depiction of 'blank stares' in the classroom in response to issues of current events." If we cannot openly discuss political issues in the safe atmosphere of a classroom, as the editors admit is true, there is no basis to their assertion that girls can thrive here politically.

The editors also make the point that because our school has a numerical majority of women, the female student body here has "strong intellect and motivation." While this statement makes sense, it also has nothing to do with Professor Garelick's argument. She knows that the female students here are intelligent - that is why she expresses frustration at "even the very brightest female students to hold their hands over their mouths when they speak." Whether we choose to admit it or not, the reticence displayed here by many female students is reflective of a male-dominated classroom environment.

As a student of Professor Garelick, both last semester and currently, I can say without hesitation that her cited examples from French class are valid: With French cinema, the class did tend to label the female characters in a sexist manner; we were also overwhelmingly silent at her attempts to provoke political discourse. In giving these personal examples, her intent was not to criticize her students specifically, but to draw attention to a lack of political awareness and feminism in our generation.

Thus, we should not take personal offense at her article; we should, instead, try to understand her motivation for writing it. Her article is a fiery wake-up call to young and old alike that political activism and feminism are failing in today's youth. As part of that group, we can either ignore the problems by acting defensively, or we can acknowledge them and try to remedy the contagious apathy that plagues us and distorts our ability to think politically and see the backward strides that feminism has taken.

-Caroline Carow '07

Russia at a Crossroads

Dear Students,

I would like to draw your attention to a subject dear to my heart, to the fate of the country in which I studied spring semester of my junior year. Today, Russia truly is at a crossroads. The Mother Country has a number of paths that she can take in the near future that will determine her destiny and that of the world community. Therefore it is important to examine this in great detail as I describe the situation, the possibilities, and the solutions. This analysis should be of interest to anyone interested in Russia or the world. As I studied in Irkutsk, the center of Russia, I have a unique and unsurpassed authority to consider these important topics.

First, certain historical facts should be reviewed. More than a decade has passed since the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the creation of the Russian Federation. In that more than a decade period of time, many important developments have taken place. The evil influence of state ownership has been replaced by a business community run by well respected and quite civilly conscious (not to mention civilized) executives and entrepreneurs who put our executives to shame with respect to honesty and integrity. A financial crisis in 1998 has been reversed and Russia is once again back on course. I can attest that the standard of living for ordinary Russians is great. Where only a few years ago people would come up to foreigners and beg for visas, now people come up to me and ask if I am running away from the poverty of my own country, so rich is the new Russian nation. Culturally too, Russia has undergone a wonderful transformation. Gone are the days of grey clothed Communists creating uninspiring literature, movies, and artwork. Today, Russian girls and boys watch dubbed American Movies, listen to American music, and can even be spotted hanging out in European style cafes and going to night clubs. In short, life is good. Yet all the same, Russia is at a crossroads and will have to make some tough decisions to find the right path. Fortunately, there are a number of options available.

The first option is to continue on the same course that Russia is currently on as described above. This would essentially leave everything to chance and the nation would just sort of go with the flow. The risk here is that not meddling with things is risky as the future cannot be steered away from any possible dangers.

The second option is to conscript all eligible girls to raise funds for the course shift. This has precedent, and indeed today all Russian males are conscripted into the army or an alternative service for a period of time. Likewise, it would be prudent to conscript girls into government run brothels. This would serve a number of purposes. Russian girls are notoriously difficult to catch and very sexually conservative. This service would likely loosen them up. It could then serve to reverse the population crisis that threatens to wipe out the Russian race within a century. At the same time this would remind American President Bush that Russia can and will stand up to American power by serving as a rebuttal to Bush's crusade against sex tourism. If anyone is wondering what is wrong with western women in bed, Michel Houellebecq's novel Platform gives a good answer on some of its pages. So, if Mother Russia is to stand up to the United States of America she will have to stand tall and seductive.

The third and final option available to Russia is to just give up. This would clearly be the most Russian of the options and would fit neatly into the historical pattern. Russia is a land of huge experiments and even bigger failures. Just saying, "enough with it" should be enough. If this path is followed, the world community may be forced to make emergency donations of vodka to this great nation.

So, clearly of the three choices, option number two is optimal for the situation that currently faces Russia. It is the second least risky after path number three, and it provides a platform for the future. International aid organizations can facilitate this path by sending donations of makeup and cheap imitation Italian clothing. I urge my fellow students not to give up on our sister nation and to start collection boxes immediately. I hope everything turns out all right for Russia as she truly is a country to be loved.

Respectfully Yours,
Jeffrey Louis Weichsel

OPINION

THESE LIPS SPEAK NO LIES

ADAM WEINBERG • THE HEBREW HAMMER

"Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction."
Dick Cheney, August 26, 2002

"The Iraqi regime . . . possesses and produces chemical and biological weapons. It is seeking nuclear weapons. We know that the regime has produced thousands of tons of chemical agents, including mustard gas, sarin nerve gas, VX nerve gas."
George W. Bush, October 7, 2002

"Our intelligence officials estimate that Saddam Hussein had the materials to produce as much as 500 tons of sarin, mustard and VX nerve agent."
George W. Bush, January 28, 2003

"We have sources that tell us that Saddam Hussein recently authorized Iraqi field commanders to use chemical weapons – the very weapons the dictator tells us he does not have."
George W. Bush, February 8, 2003

"Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised."
George W. Bush, March 17, 2003

March 20, 2003- The United States launches the "Shock and Awe" attack on Baghdad to open the war on Iraq.

"... the area in the south and the west and the north that coalition forces control is substantial. It happens not to be the area where weapons of mass destruction were dispersed. We know where they are. They're in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south and

north somewhat."

Donald Rumsfeld, March 30, 2003

May 1, 2003- George W. Bush declares an end to major combat operations in Iraq.

"I'm absolutely sure that there are weapons of mass destruction there and the evidence will be forthcoming. We're just getting it just now."
Colin Powell, May 4, 2003

"We never believed that we'd just tumble over weapons of mass destruction in that country."
Donald Rumsfeld, May 4, 2003

"For bureaucratic reasons, we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction (as justification for invading Iraq) because it was the one reason everyone could agree on."
Paul Wolfowitz, May 28, 2003

"It was a surprise to me then – it remains a surprise to me now – that we have not uncovered weapons, as you say, in some of the forward dispersal sites. Believe me, it's not for lack of trying. We've been to virtually every ammunition supply point between the Kuwaiti border and Baghdad, but they're simply not there."
Lt. Gen. James Conway, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, May 30, 2003

January 18, 2004- United States death toll in Iraq reaches 500.

"It turns out we were all wrong, probably, in my judgment, and that is most disturbing."
David Kay, Former Weapons of Mass Destruction Investigator to the Senate Armed Services Committee, January 28, 2004

ing than perfect ones. One way many writers have done this is to surround the central hero with an ensemble, let some of the secondary characters save the day once in awhile to show that the hero can't do it alone, then have the hero redeem themselves if they screwed up by getting in the last shot. *Lord of the Rings* botches this formula like nobody's business. At no point do I want to cheer for Wood's Frodo because from mark one he screws up every task he is given and always needs to be bailed out by somebody else. Viggo Mortensen's Aragorn at the very least doesn't need much saving, but he doesn't do a hell of a lot to show me why every girl swoons over his poorly kept hair (Head & Shoulders, dude!) and unshaven façade (I go weeks without shaving and never get that many chicks). Characters like Astin's Sam and Ian McKellan's Gandalf are the ones constantly saving the day, but you know in the end Frodo and Aragorn are still going to be the conquering heroes...except they do nothing! Frodo continues to fail spectacularly right up through his last shot to do anything remotely useful. Aragorn's most useful contribution is "let's let them all circle up around us and pray those two untrained midgets we sent into hell get lucky." By the end I was actively rooting for these two to end up on the end of a sword. You can only have the sidekicks save the day so many times before they have to be considered the heroes, because the heroes suck; the latter happens here, but not the former.

the prospect of the two being the 'entertainment' for the super bowl, but nevertheless all of us sat back and watched, and tried to resist the temptation to fling ourselves out the window.

Then something happened.

Justin Timberlake, who was chasing Janet around the stage in a mock "Oh, you watch out, I'm gonna get you!" way, which seemed more fatherly than sexual, grabbed Janet's boob.

And ripped part of her top off.

And there was her boob, saying hello.

Hello world! I'm Janet Jackson's boob! Pleasure to meet you all face to face!

My friends and I, a group of people who would not hesitate to hoot and holler if we randomly saw a celebrity's boob on TV, turned to each other after this happened. We did not hoot, holler, or do what would be the universal response of the human male upon seeing a woman's breasts (Yell, "Booooooooooooooobs!"). We just asked each other, confused as to what just happened, "Huh? Was that just Janet Jackson's boob? What the heck just happened?"

Since no one really could be deemed 'conscious' during the mind numbing musical number Timberlake had sung, answers were scarce. Some thought Janet had worn a skin-colored top under the top she ripped off. Some thought Janet was wearing little things, which I believe is the scientific term for them, over her nipples. No one was sure though, and since it

continued on page 7

BACK TO ISRAEL

YONI FREEMAN • VIEWPOINT



(including eastern Jerusalem) and the Golan Heights. We also maintained a strong Jewish character during the trip.

The trip took us from the northern part of the land (the Golan Heights) to the more southern Dead Sea and the Negev desert, while we maintained a base in Jerusalem, the undivided capital. The following column will be dedicated to my observations and descriptions of those events which intrigued me the most in those areas outside of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. I must also remind you that this was my first trip back to the Holy Land in five years.

First - some of my observations concerning the general status of the Israeli society. For one, Israel is much, much poorer than during my previous visit. I hate to say it, but it was shocking to see how much poorer the infrastructure has become. People weren't starving or dying on the streets due to the economy of course, but I must say there was a different status quo in Israel this time. People have also become poorer due to the many strikes that have been going on. There is also a lot of trash around as a result. I noticed far more homeless people, people asking for money and just sitting around looking like there is no tomorrow. The main reason for this has been the Arab terrorism, which has caused much foreign investment to leave and closed doors of many businesses. Dwindling government revenues has caused a cut in needed services normally provided to new immigrants, and the fact that funds must be prioritized to fight a war for survival. Arab terrorism is not only murdering Israelis from the outside, but it is also causing hardship on the inside to the Israeli society.

However, the Israeli people still have hope that things will be better in the future. Most continue to love life and have not stopped believing in their dream of a Jewish state. In addition, there are signs Israel has suffered the worst of its economic problems, and that there are improvements on the near horizon. Israel also continues to be a member of the First World in terms of economic and military power.

Another observation was the continued support of America, especially in its war in Iraq. Whenever a US soldier falls in Iraq, people and the media in Israel feel as if an Israeli soldier has fallen. They are very sympathetic and wish the best to America in its continued battle against the same enemy Israel alone has been fighting for over 50 years. Some people in Israel also believe that Israel should be doing to the Palestinian Authority terrorist regime what the US did to the Taliban and Baathist regimes.

I have also seen, of course, much more security around. In the past the most security would be at major bus stations and a security check of your bags, if you were to go, for example, on a bus from Jerusalem to Beer Sheva. But now, at bus stops which are frequented by passengers, you find security watching for suicide terrorists. When you enter malls you will get frisked and have your belongings looked at; when you want to park your car at the mall, you will be asked to open your trunk; when you enter a supermarket or a major restaurant you will be searched with a metal detector. One must

HUH? DID I JUST SEE JANET JACKSON'S BOOB?

JORDAN GEARY • I LIKE TO WRITE THINGS



complete joke, useless (At this point in the article, the environmentalist faction on campus sticks a knife through my picture in the yearbook and they say, "We'll see who will be 'rendered useless', Mr. Geary", and then cackle maniacally).

The second thing that I noticed is that there are no excessive riots or celebrations of any sort on campus. This is a surprise, because the New England Patriots had won the super bowl the day before. What was everyone doing? The answer, of course, was that everyone was talking about Janet Jackson's boob.

Ah, I remember it like it was yesterday, because it was. I was watching the super bowl with my buds, enjoying throwing my Miami Dolphins visor at the screen whenever Josh Groban or Kid Rock showed their ugly mugs on the screen, when Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake came on for their portion of the halftime show. Men and women of the world groaned together at

BLACK HISTORY

B.J. ODUOR-OWINO & CHAKA ZARANYIKA • A VIEW FROM GAZEBO

Time kills pain and erases sad and happy memories. History brings the events back, even though at times a little and even more exaggerated to quench the thirst of the writer. We are caught in this ideological limbo as we try to live past these memories, yet the facts are bared in the process, staring us right into our own faces. At times it is very painful to write or even to read about the harshest and most dehumanizing events in the history of mankind, yet we try to forgive the perpetrators and live like brothers and sisters.

It is not a lack of political muscle and will, nor is it a lack of wisdom or of political chicanery. It is knowing the difference between what is morally wrong or right. Different schools of thought tend to argue about what is wrong or right, but slavery stands out to be none of the controversies. Even some rabid believers of some obnoxious crude form of social Darwinism tend to agree. Slavery was the jet black chapter in the book of humanity as humanity was reduced to stain of shit. Yet black people still triumphed over the evil.

It is tragic, however, that despite the fact that they toiled under squalid and dingy conditions in the industries and on the farms, they are still languishing in abject poverty. Just because they were black, they did not deserve equal treatment under the law. They were sub-humans; they did not deserve to vote for their oppressors. They, black people, were suppose to procreate in order to increase the number of laborers who would be sold at auctions like they were camels in Morocco. Despite all of this ill-treatment, they rose, and are still rising to claim what is rightfully theirs.

Racism, racial-profiling and lynching are undoubtedly some of the most sinful acts to befall black people. As we write this article, racism and racial

understand that Israel is constantly on the highest alert system and does not have the benefit of having a color scale telling its citizens when it is safe or not safe. Every day is a maximum alert day. Everyday may be its last.

During my time in Israel there were 5 successful terrorist attacks (in addition to a dozen or so intercepted), one of which, in fact, was not far from where I was staying the last week, Beer Sheva. When you think about it, everything is VERY CLOSE to where you live, due to the sheer size of Israel. This is one of the reasons many do not believe Israel should give up any more land to a continually lying and murderous enemy.

One of the places we visited outside of Yesha (Judea, Samaria and Gaza) of much interest to me was Masada, near the Dead Sea, the sad site of the last Jewish rebel stand during the Jewish Revolt. Its inhabitants committed suicide rather than to come under Roman control. I had been there before, but coming back refreshed many details I had forgotten about.

Another memorable event was the meeting at the Lechi Museum with Ezra Yakhin, a man who fought the British in the 1940s and took part in the initial battle for independence and in other wars as well. He was a true Jewish patriot. He described the feelings Jews had when Jerusalem was finally fully liberated in 1967 and how once he was saved from death, due to God's protection. He talked about the excitement Jews had in their return to God's land. The great part about this lecture was the vividness in his description of the fighting he took part in as a member of Lechi at that time.

At another excellent seminar, we learned about Jerusalem and the unequivocal Jewish rights to the city. Furthermore, we got details as to the structures around the site of where the Temple stood, and some ideas on how structures, such as what is now known as the Western Wall, were built. The tour guides were excellent during this time (in general all our guides were). Our prayer at the Western Wall, the site all Jews in the world face during services in their synagogues, was enriching.

Finally, integral parts of the trip included meetings with Israeli government officials. We met with Natan Sharansky, the Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs, who talked to us about the rising anti-Semitism on campuses in the US. Uzi Landau, a minister in the Israeli government, got together with us and expressed thanks for our support, and wished someday we will all make Israel our home. Other personalities such as the former Minister of Treasury, Yaakov Neeman, talked about problems Israel was facing today. We also heard the President of Israel speak at a student conference.

These are some of the things which stand out when I recall this trip during winter break. This is also just an introduction, and in future columns I will be including more descriptions of what I did or heard (especially in Yesha) from those people such as those considered to be "settlers." In addition, I predict some of the information I received in Israel will at times help me in future columns to enlighten you on various issues relating to Israel.

Let me also put in a sales pitch about a new political radio talk show that me and Chris Devine have on the college radio station (90.9FM). It is called "Worldview" and we are on every Tuesday from 3PM to 4PM. Hope you can listen in.

Until next time,
YF

WHY I HATE LORD OF THE RINGS

BEN MORSE • LONELY AT THE TOP

For the past two years I have fought a seemingly endless war against people shorter than even I, and against all odds, I have somehow held my own. By the grace of God, and with a little help from *A Beautiful Mind* and *Chicago*, I have been fortunate enough not to witness Peter Jackson trot his Jim Henson-on-an-all red meat diet self up to accept the Oscar for Best Picture. This year, I fear that my streak of good luck has run out. With a particularly weak field of contenders to oppose it, I'm afraid this time around, *Lord of the Rings*, the epic monstrosity that has already robbed me of nine hours of my life, will not pull the Casey at the Bat three-peat it so richly deserves. But, with little over a month remaining until the fateful day, there is still a chance, though I be but one man, that I can forever prevent small children from having to see Elijah Wood and Sean Astin (loved you in *Rudy*, man...how far you've fallen) jumping up and down like eight year olds who just got an extra slice of cake holding those sweet gold trophies. If there are any members of the Academy reading this (hopefully I didn't alienate them all with my Halloween column): hear my plea.

(NOTE: From here on out I'm going to spoil *Lord of the Rings* like a mofo for people who haven't seen it. If you fall into that category, my first advice to you would be to save your money and keep reading, but if you honestly don't want to know what happened, stop now, file this newspaper away in your Ben Morse collectibles cabinet, and read it later after you see that I was right).

The reasons why I hate *Lord of the Rings*:

There's nobody to root for

There's been a trend in action and fantasy films (and television shows, books, etc.) of recent years to make the heroes more vulnerable, less invincible than the unstoppable characters of the early days of the genre through the eighties. This is in general a good thing; flawed characters are almost always more interest-



ing than perfect ones. One way many writers have done this is to surround the central hero with an ensemble, let some of the secondary characters save the day once in awhile to show that the hero can't do it alone, then have the hero redeem themselves if they screwed up by getting in the last shot. *Lord of the Rings* botches this formula like nobody's business. At no point do I want to cheer for Wood's Frodo because from mark one he screws up every task he is given and always needs to be bailed out by somebody else. Viggo Mortensen's Aragorn at the very least doesn't need much saving, but he doesn't do a hell of a lot to show me why every girl swoons over his poorly kept hair (Head & Shoulders, dude!) and unshaven façade (I go weeks without shaving and never get that many chicks). Characters like Astin's Sam and Ian McKellan's Gandalf are the ones constantly saving the day, but you know in the end Frodo and Aragorn are still going to be the conquering heroes...except they do nothing! Frodo continues to fail spectacularly right up through his last shot to do anything remotely useful. Aragorn's most useful contribution is "let's let them all circle up around us and pray those two untrained midgets we sent into hell get lucky." By the end I was actively rooting for these two to end up on the end of a sword. You can only have the sidekicks save the day so many times before they have to be considered the heroes, because the heroes suck; the latter happens here, but not the former.

The bad guys aren't all that bad

In a franchise like this, it's key that the bad guys are scary as all hell, because only then will there be any sort of suspense in the eyes of the viewer (particularly since everybody and their mother has already read the book). *Lord of the Rings* did an ok job of this in the first movie and the start of the second; those

continued on page 7



profiling are raring their ugly heads, awaiting an opportunity to gobble us. Although we think it is not our sole responsibility to 'educate' people, it is deeply insulting that those who choose the not glorified path of ignorance and mind-made prejudices tend to subscribe to them with evangelical certainty. In the mean time, a significant number of young, African-American, male adults are cooling their heels behind bars, most of them for crimes they did not commit. It also looks like police brutality has not taken a nose dive.

"But we are all equal before the law," I bet you are right! Talk about modern day lynching, just give me a break! This is the history of the Black Man, the man who supposedly has low intelligence, is incompetent in everything and can not govern himself well. Yeah you got that right, I presume.

Iconic figures in the names of Kwame, Mandela, De Bois, King Jr., have risen above the tide of the inferiority complex in order to claim their positions among the paragons. There are many others whose contributions towards the black man's cause cannot be mentioned in this small article because of space, but their names still play some melodious tunes in our ears. The inevitable question is this: as a human being, whether black or white, what contributions are you making towards the cause of the oppressed and marginalized and do you think history will do you justice when it says you were among the perpetrators not among the saviors? Remember that it is always the best thing to do what is morally right even if it is not popular and as Marechera once said, "Humanity is a cloud of lingering colloids in a supersaturated plasma of human idiosyncrasy, only proper orientation can bring its definition."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New Kids Kellogg and the Sixers Debut at Cro's Nest

By PAUL DRYDEN
STAFF WRITER

Stephen Kellogg is an up and coming singer/songwriter based out of Northampton, Massachusetts. He's opened for popular acts like John Mayer, Matt Nathanson and Howie Day and is releasing his fourth CD, *Bulletproof Heart*, on February 10. Kellogg will be playing *Friday Nights Live* with his band, the Sixers, Friday night in Cro's Nest at 10 PM. The *College Voice* caught up with the talented artist on the eve of his performance at Conn...

CV: Where did you grow up? Did that affect your interest in music/inspirations?

SK: I grew up in the Fairfield, Connecticut area. I wouldn't say it influenced me any more than any other songwriter's home would influence their work. But I went to college in Massachusetts and that's definitely a hotbed for songwriters.

CV: When did you start writing music?

SK: I started really getting into music when I was around 11 years old. I had a really cool older sister and she brought me to a lot of concerts like Motley Crue and Bon Jovi when I was really young. I then really started writing music in high school. I was in a hard rock/metal band called Silent Treatment. We once played a gazebo in the middle of town during the day, a place that usually had dixie-land and bluegrass music. There were 200 senior citizens there that cleared the entire lawn after five minutes of us playing.

CV: Any inspiring concert experiences in your early life?

SK: Definitely that Bon Jovi concert. I saw him in the newspapers saying how he just got his leather jacket, did his thing and got to meet girls. The energy of it really just made me want to do it too.

CV: So how did you transform into a relatively laidback singer/songwriter after being a heavy metal rocker?

SK: Well I just think it was a natural transition. When I was in college I really got into classic rock, bands like the Allman Brothers and the Dead. And then I've always been into the Counting Crows. Just in general, leaving your home and going to college is a big thing for writing.

CV: How do you usually write your songs? Do you write the lyrics or music first?

SK: First I write the lyrics and then I try to find the music that will fit them. I do a lot of writing in my car while driving.

CV: It seems like a lot of your music is influenced by southern roots or country music... but you're from Massachusetts... any reason for that?

SK: Well I've traveled in the South a lot and I like Southern rock bands like the Black Crowes and the Eagles... there's something about that Southern flair. Those white man blues... I kind of relate to that. Also, the voice that I was born with kind of has that sound. Oh and half my family are total hicks and I just grew up with that whole down home element.

CV: What's the song, "Anthem of our Discovery" about?

SK: It's a song I wrote at UMASS about being up all night with someone and then seeing the sunrise... and in the morning having a moment of clarity when everything makes sense. My songs are always a little autobiographical and are my take on a certain event.

CV: Where did you record the new album? Who did you work with?

SK: In Conway, Massachusetts, 30 minutes from my home. Dave Chalfant produced it, he produced the last album [*Lucky Eleven*] too. On *Lucky Eleven* I had a lot of friends play, but with this one, there are no real special guests except for Gordon Stone playing the pedal steel on a couple of tracks. Dave also plays electric guitar on the album.



Emerging singer/songwriter Stephen Kellogg speaks to the *College Voice* about his upcoming performance this Friday at 10:00pm in the Cro's Nest.

CV: How did you meet the guys in your new band?

SK: Keith, I met at a truck stop one night. We both had bands in western Massachusetts and we had heard about each other. So I had him play on the album [*Lucky Eleven*] and it just went from there. With Brian, one day my drummer quit and as luck or fate had it, he randomly e-mailed me saying his band had broken up and offered to play drums if I ever needed him. We had met once in college one drunken night and had jammed on some 70s covers together. So yeah, I was just looking for guys that wanted to tour and have a fun time, and it worked out.

CV: Are you going to be touring with them all the time?

SK: You never know what's going to happen but I could see myself playing with these guys for a very long time. I still like the intimacy factor of playing by myself though.

CV: How does touring with a band compare with touring solo?

SK: A lot more energy gets exchanged when you play with a band. Every time you add an element, the highs are higher and the lows are lower. The potential for magic really increases. When you mess up with the band, it can be a train wreck, but if you mess up by yourself, it's easier to adjust. The biggest priority for me is to have a fun time, it's more important than being amazing musically. I know a lot of people are going to call me a total jack-ass for saying that.

CV: What's your favorite song on *Bulletproof Heart*? Why?

SK: "Cradle of Family." It's the longest song and really slow. A lot of people will blast through it for the first six months they have the disc. But we really let our guard down on that song and it's very personal. My goal is to be honest in all my songs. Not catchy or clever but real.

CV: Have you guys been practicing any new covers?

SK: I actually just came back with practicing with the guys. We plan on playing some new tunes, covers and originals, in the future. But right now we're just practicing with having an electric guitarist in the band. Dave Chalfant [the producer] is going to be playing on half the dates and Fuzz [of the funk band, Deep Banana Blackout] on the other half.

CV: If you had the opportunity and right situation to sign with a label, would you do it?

SK: I'm not really worried about it. But I definitely would if it was the right situation. I'm definitely short-term oriented though.

CV: Is there anyone out there that you'd love to collaborate with?

SK: A dream collaboration would be with Sheryl Crow. I'd love to write a duet with her. I'd also like to tour with the Counting Crows or work with them.

CV: What's your opinion on downloading music on the internet? Would you contribute a lot of your following to the internet?

SK: It's been good for me. The internet is really like a record label for independent music. I'm not sure we could make the living we're making without the internet. I think it's a good thing... it's the reality. To talk about whether it's good or bad is so yesterday. We gotta act on it now because it's not going anywhere.

CV: Who are your favorite bands/songwriters now?

SK: Ryan Adams... he's crazy, an awesome songwriter though. Matt Nathanson, a good friend and I love his music. Rich Price. I'm getting into 70s rock again, bands like Fleetwood Mac, The Band and The Eagles.

CV: Have you been to any fun concerts recently?

SK: Ryan Adams... I wouldn't call it good, but it was entertaining. I just played a show with The Clarks. I loved their set.

CV: Are you still bringing the kazoo on the road?

SK: Definitely. It may keep me from getting a record deal, but I love it.

CV: If you could create the soundtrack to your life... what would it be called and what songs would be featured on it?

SK: Hmm, that's really tough. But I definitely know that Van Morrison's "Crazy Love" would be on it. That's probably my favorite song.

CV: Care to share any crazy recent experiences from the road?

SK: A long while ago we played an auto park place. The agent told me it was a corporate gig. So we get there and we're like you gotta be kidding me. Oh so we play this game on the road called "sex on the left." You pretend that you have to have sex with the person driving on your left. So if it's a trucker, you're like "oh shit!" If it's a soccer mom, you give everyone high fives. So we were playing the game one day and we ended up driving past the venue almost a 100 miles. It was a big club gig too.

CV: What have you learned from touring so heavily?

SK: I've definitely learned a lot about business in general. Also, I've learned to be happy now and to live in the moment, not just having all these goals and only being happy when this or that happens. I've also learned how to live with a band. Most people only have to learn to live that close with their spouse. But just a little love and understanding and not judging them goes a long way. I will definitely never regret one second.

Jump Off the Bandwagon:

When I was in high school, I worked at Strawberries in South Portland. If there's one thing I miss about high school, it's Strawbs. My boss Matt and the assistant managers Ron and Beth were great, and they really taught me a lot about music. Matt got me into a lot of bluegrass and non-radio alt-rock, while Ron nourished my punk and hardcore sensibilities and Beth taught me to love obscure indie rock and Two-Tone ska. Eventually, it got to the point where I loved everything and any promo that came in that was rejected by everyone else came home with me. I remember once bringing home a whole box of Dreamworks records that no one had heard of (ironically, the box included Jimmy Eat World's record with the runaway hit "Bleed American"). With me, each record got a chance, and while some of these records - like Jimmy Eat World - became huge hits, others still seem to be only favorites of mine, collecting dust in cut-out bins in record stores nation wide. This week's column is dedicated to these musicians who helped me to build my "I listen to obscure crap" persona, and to my pals from Strawberries, all of whom have taken off to do bigger and better things.



EMILY MORSE
Jump Off the Bandwagon

NICKY LOVE *Honeyvision*
Dreamworks

Nicky Love's album *Honeyvision* was one of the biggest scandals Strawberries had seen in years. The promo arrived in the above mentioned Dreamworks box with a biohazard pink sticker slapped across the front reading "In stores 7/17 Playboy Pictorial This Summer." We assumed it was another poor pop record. However, I rescued it from a hard knock life in the back office's rejected promo drawer and tried it out on my own time. The record is sunny and warm, despite a highly cynical undertone and quite innovative for its time. With *Honeyvision*, Nicky Love incorporates wordly beats into clever power-pop songwriting. Her vocals range from light-hearted to dark and seductive, adding another dimension to this intensely-layered mix. Several songs—such as "Daylight Tripping," "High," and



This Is My Throwback Column

the title track "Honeyvision"—have a trip-hop meets neosoul feel, while others are very much lighthearted pop-sounding with a bit of a late-nineties-rock edge. The overall effect is very much Portishead and Sneaker Pimps meet Pink. Arguably the catchiest song on the record is "Because Of You (I Hate Everything)" with its light drum machine rhythm, guitar-driven straight up pop, a Madonna-esque monologue, not to mention its uplifting feel despite the bitterly angry lyrics. Another stand out is "Hush," which is reminiscent of Garbage on their self-titled record, with heavy bass and a driving vocal. It is Nicky Love's punchy, exciting sound that hooks the listener for the first time, and her diverse range of influences and clever use of pop, grunge, and electronica that keep the listener hooked for life.

CATATONIA *Equally Cursed And Blessed*
Atlantic 2000

Catatonia is one of the most distinctive-sounding bands I've had the pleasure of discovering in my time as a music snob. This band was introduced to me with this record, as it had come out not too long after I'd started working at Strawberries. Matt played the record quite often, and I knew I loved it far before I knew what it was. Soon enough Matt just gave me both of the Catatonia promos he'd brought home for himself (he was probably sick of me picking up *Equally Cursed And Blessed*, almost buying it, and then returning it to its lonely slot in pop/rock/r&b). Thank heavens. This record got me through several track team bus trips, walks to and from school (uphill both ways, for real), and general periods of "all my music sucks!" despair. Hailing from Wales, Catatonia are straight up late-nineties alternative with a chick singer that sounds somewhere between Norah Jones and Marianne Faithful. Some songs feature dance beats and pop smarts (such as my favorite track, "Karaoke Queen"), while others have wild guitar and aggressive vocals ("Storm The Palace"). The instrumentation on the record ranges from keyboards and guitars to harp, horns, and violins, and is always percussively and vocally interesting. "Londinium" includes a sound of a siren in the distance along with faint



radio transmissions while "Bulimic Beats" almost sounds like Bjork, with the strained vocal and with little accompaniment for the harp melody. Of course, the single "Road Rage" is also distinctive, with clever lyrics, catchy melody and vocal arrangement, and minimal instrumentation. Note also that the final song on the record is called "Mulder And Scully," which feels like the kind of song that would be played at the end of a high-quality teen movie. *Equally Cursed And Blessed* is a clever, well-written, feel-good record that no collection should be without.

SMARTBOMB *Yeah. Well. Anyway...*
Razor & Tie 2001

Originally I was drawn to this record when I heard the band's cover of Faith Hill's "Breathe" and suddenly the song no longer sucked.* We gave the record quite a few spins in the store, but ultimately, we stopped carrying the record and I got to take the store copy home. Smartbomb have a sound that isn't quite punk, and yet isn't quite *not* punk either. Their sound is rich and energetic, landing somewhere on the alterna-pop spectrum between Athenaeum and Lit. It's true to its time period, with catchy, electric guitar-driven pop songs and primarily love-inspired lyrics. But somehow Smartbomb has an edge. The vocalist sounds a lot like a less whiney and more growly Tom DeLonge (Blink-182), and the overall tone of the record is contagiously upbeat. And while the lyrics aren't terribly profound, they are cleverly written. Standouts include "50 In My Wallet," an ode to a "gorgeous tattooed girl" and a cute first date story, "Exactly Where You Are" (sounds a little like Train or Splendor) and of course the Faith Hill cover, which is not only energized and punked out, but reinvented with an aggressive male vocal, heavy drums, and a far from nauseating na-na-na refrain. Any band that turn around a Faith Hill song, make it their own, and not be kidding deserves mad props.



*Jump Off the Bandwagon would like to apologize to Director of Student Activities Scott McEvor for slamming Faith Hill twice in one academic year. It will probably happen again.

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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Novelist Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* Breaks from ConventionBy ELIZABETH GREENMAN
STAFF WRITER

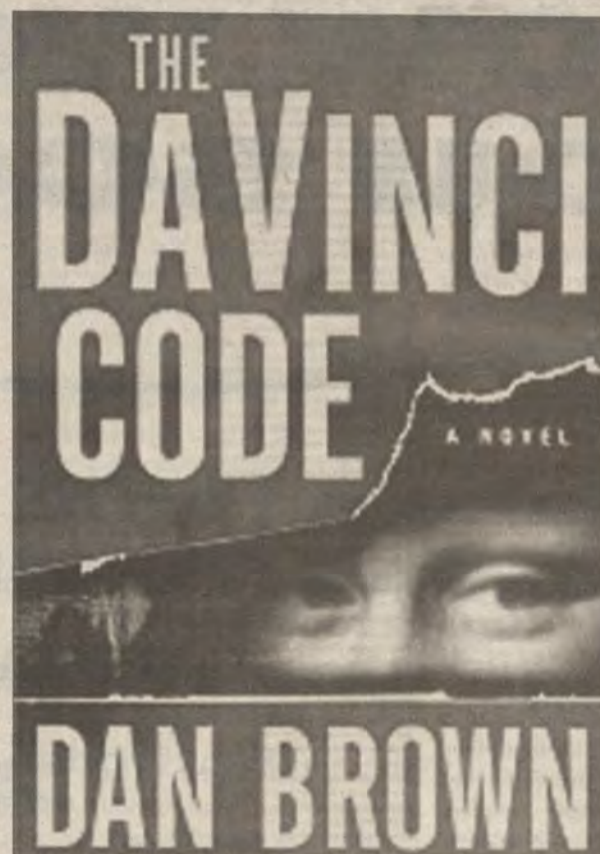
Anyone who pays attention whatsoever to the world of literature or pop culture recently has heard of the record breaking book *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. Normally, being an endlessly busy college student, I never have the time for "pleasure reading." However, the mind numbing tedium of the last week of break found me digging through my family's Christmas presents to find something to entertain me. Lo and behold, I picked up *The Da Vinci Code*, hoping it would put me to sleep that night. I started around 12:30 am, and instead of dozing off quickly as I had hoped, I wound up reading until 4:00am and throughout the next day while working, eating, and even driving until I finished it around dinner-time.

For a book to hold my attention so powerfully, it has to be amazing. *The Da Vinci Code* has been on the New York Times Bestseller list for 45 weeks and currently remains in the top spot, so the rest of the country seemed to enjoy it as well. The official website of the author reports that there are over 5.5 million copies in print. If impressive numbers and achievements don't convince you that this book is worth your precious time, then perhaps the intrigue of a story that qualifies as both a thriller and a mystery will entice you.

What transforms the novel from a regular old "who-dunit" to a breakout page-turner is the ancient historical and religious facts that serve as the backbone of the story. Personally, I think it's nice to think that one can relax and enjoy a novel and actually learn something at the same time. Moreover, the story is refreshing because it doesn't involve spies, hi-tech weapons, or government conspiracies that plague many other thrillers today.

Some religious fundamentalist groups are bound to be offended by the novel's suggestions that the Church's long history is based on misquoted myths and cover-ups about Jesus and his contemporaries. It essentially questions the entire foundation of Christianity as well as the legitimacy of divine mysteries. It's hard to explain the controversy further without giving away the specifics of the plot, but it suffices to say that it will surely ruffle some people's feathers.

A prime example of this discontentment with the novel's inaccuracies was the lecture given by Dr. Robert Baldwin, associate professor in the art history department, at the Lyman Allyn Museum last Thursday evening. Unfortunately, the lecture was misleadingly advertised as "Debunking *The Da Vinci Code*," so many students interested in the novel attended. Much to the dismay of the audience, Dr. Baldwin hadn't even read the book. Instead, his talk focused heavily on an extensive analysis of Leonardo Da Vinci's artwork, some of



which minimally overlapped with the book's contents. His overall view of the book was that "the whole idea is loony" and it was just a "wacky theory [that] makes for very good marketing."

However, such opinions of historian and religious elite should be considered with the perspective that the novel is a fictitious piece that is meant first and foremost to entertain, which it does excellently. If anything, opponents of the novel should recognize that instead of being blasphemous or scholarly unsound, *The Da Vinci Code* is an asset to their field. It arouses interest in spirituality and history among millions of people in the general public who would otherwise be indifferent. It's comparable to the controversy provoked by world-renowned Harry Potter series in regards to the witchcraft, which may have damaging effects on children according to skeptics. The more realistic approach would be to take a step back and admire the work that J. K. Rowling is able to compose, inspiring millions of people, particularly ten to thirteen-year-olds to sit down and read a 500-page book. Any reasonable person will take what they read in these fictional works with a grain of salt and merely enjoy them as entertaining and stimulating for the imagination. Additionally, after breezing through 454 pages of *The Da Vinci Code* in no time flat, reading a 50-page history packet will be just as easy and pleasurable, right?

Perfect Score Fails at the Box Office with Abysmal Acting Love and Good Food Is in the Air at Tony D's

By SOPHIE FITZGERALD
STAFF WRITER

Perfect Score challenges the widely held notion that the SAT has America's youth defined solely by their test scores and that colleges often overlook applicants' personalities and extra-curricular achievements in favor of perfect scores. So, from the beginning of the movie, younger audiences can sympathize with the main characters immediately. Clever teenage angst turns into pathetic slacker woes and ruins what might have been a bearable venture. For after all the trouble the characters go through to break into the Test center to obtain the answers, the viewer has to ask—"How is this a better alternative to just taking the test again?"

Perfect Score starts off strong, with a premise that any teenager would be willing to watch. Of course, it was easier for me, as someone who survived the college process, to watch a movie about six high school students trying to steal the SAT answers in order to achieve their respective dreams. The concept is simple and initially appears to be promising.

While the plot line goes awry well into the movie, the acting is dismal from the beginning. Scarlett Johansson, who was recently nominated for two Golden Globe awards, is surprisingly refreshing and the only talented cast member. She displays her usual spunk and therefore one forgives her for taking on such a generic role. Her performance, however, cannot save the uninspired acting of the rest of the cast. Chris Evans portrays the main character, Kyle, and acts as if they pulled him off the street the first day of filming. One slightly redeeming aspect of the film is Darius Miles, playing a talented high school basketball star (surprise, surprise), and the basketball scenes make up for his bad acting. The movie is narrated by an Asian pothead, Roy, who overhears the conspiracy to steal the Test answers while smoking up in a bathroom stall. His humorous commentary keeps the audience from walking out of the movie hall, but none of his lines are memorable enough to stick



with the audience. The collective cast is just as dysfunctional as the characters they play, and, aside from Johansson, every scene seems like a workout for them.

It is a shame that this movie fails to live up to its potential. The standardization of America's youth in the college process is a subject that could make for a great movie but *Perfect Score* manages somehow to fall short of this along the way. Cleverness quickly turns to cheesiness, and there is little that can save the movie from the fate of that description.

Love and Good Food Is in the Air at Tony D's

ELIZABETH GREENMAN
Lunch With Liz

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, it's hard to ignore the love in the air or the lack thereof. For all the romantic couples on campus planning to spend the weekend together, a candlelight dinner may enter into the equation. For the rest of you who don't have a significant other to smooch with all night long, you can still round up a group of friends and treat yourselves to a fancy night out. After scouring the fine dining in the area, Tony D's Italian Chophouse jumped out at me as a perfect addition to an intimate weekend. I rounded up a group of guys and girls to get both perspectives on the romantic potential.

Located in downtown New London, Tony D's is a diamond in the rough amongst its pub and pizza joint neighbors. Stepping inside, my party immediately noticed the elegant ambiance. We immediately felt underdressed and low on cash. It was hands-down the fanciest restaurant I have been to in all my time as a reviewer.

I was relieved we made reservations, as it was Friday evening the dining room was full. We were seated in a booth in the corner with dim lighting and real linen napkins. The room was decorated with ivy, oil paintings, and ceramic angels. It would be hard to come across a more desirable environment for a romantic evening.

Another noteworthy aspect of Tony D's that distinguishes it from other more casual restaurants is the professionalism of the waiters. Instead of having some zit-faced teenage server, our waitress was professional, wearing a tie, spouting detailed descriptions of the specials, Italian accent and all.

We instantly received warm salted Italian bread (clearly fresh from the oven and hot to the touch) along with the olive topanod and flavorful olive oil. The bread was so yummy and rich that I would have been content eating that as my whole meal.

We also shared an appetizer of Calamari Caprese, which the menu described as tender squid rings, lightly battered and sautéed with tomatoes, read onion, mixed herbs, balsamic vinegar & a touch of mascarpone cheese - sounds good and tastes better. To us that translated to breaded calamari with an original tangy balsamic flavor. Even those members of our group who were originally skeptical genuinely liked the squid appetizer. Needless to say we cleaned the plate (and the bread was great to soak up the sauce).

We were surprised when our table received salads seeing as no one had ordered one, nor had we bothered to read the fine print on the menu, stating that all entrees are accompanied by house salads. The salad was comprised of spinach and lettuce with vinaigrette dressing.

Between the substantial proportions of this unexpected salad, the unique calamari and the fluffy bread, it was actually convenient that it took our entrees a while to come out, giving us an opportunity to digest and prepare ourselves for round two. Tony D's is obviously not designed for the diner on the run, but rather they follow the Italian principle of "slow-food," emphasizing quality cooking (everything is made to order) combined with a relaxed social setting.

The cuisine relies heavily on pasta dishes, many with seafood toppings. Additionally, they offer chicken and veal. Our group covered almost all the areas. I ordered Tagliatelle, pasta served with scallops, salmon, swordfish, halibut, roasted bell peppers, shitaki mushrooms, and a light lobster crême sauce. As a seafood aficionado, this dish was right up my alley. The crême sauce was devilishly rich. Coupled with the peppers, it had an unusual tasty kick that certainly defied the traditional garlic crême style. Everyone else sampled my food and the general consensus was that it was the overall best dish.

Three of my friends ordered the Veal Parmigiana, not terribly adventurous. The menu describes the dish as breaded veal with mozzarella and marinara sauce over linguine. My friend astutely noted that all the entrees were monstrous portions, easily shared by a couple.

A friend rounded out the diversity at the table by ordered Chicken Parmigiana, described identically to the veal excluding the pasta. Her slab of chicken took over the entire plate. She was overwhelmed just looking at it. The Parmigiana people commented that the marinara sauce was excellent. They said it was fresh and tasted homemade, "like grandma's." The only complaint that the boys had was that the veal was slightly chewy, but they still managed to put away most of their meal.

By the end of the meal were nauseous from eating so much good food, but were somehow suckered into ordering dessert. Since the rest of the meal had been so excellent, we couldn't deny ourselves a shot at dessert. It was painstakingly difficult to choose from the tantalizing and homemade options of tiramisu, cannoli, crême brûlée, bread pudding, crepes, and chocolate soufflé. We finally decided to split the tiramisu and crême brûlée.

The tiramisu struck a perfect balance between rich and fluffy. The bread at the bottom was soaked in espresso, giving the dish a robust mocha flavor. It was the perfect finishing touch to an overall exceptional meal. The crême brûlée was also chilled, which I found curious since traditionally it is a warm dessert. For those of you aren't familiar with this delicacy, it is a mixture of rich cream, caramelized sugar, and egg yolk, with burped vanilla on top for

continued on page 7

Folk Spirit DiFranco Goes Raw and Candid on her Twenty-First

By ANDREA LODICO
A&E EDITOR

Folk singer Ani DiFranco has defined her musical career through an unwavering independent spirit, tireless touring (through which she has amassed legions of passionate fans), and just as tireless recording. The release of DiFranco's twenty-first solo album, *Educated Guess*, at the end of January is an incredible feat for any musician, but even more so when you consider that DiFranco is just 32 years old and released her first album just thirteen years ago. When DiFranco first emerged onto the folk scene in the early 1990's she established her own record company, Righteous Babe Records, which has expanded to include other emerging, talented artists, and a foundation that supports different grassroots cultural and political organi-



zations, incorporating the ever-present political spirit of folk music. The past twenty-one albums have found DiFranco evolving her sound from one firmly rooted in folk and the essential power of an acoustic guitar, to experimenting with funk, jazz and the lush sounds of orchestration. *Educated Guess* marks a stripped down return to the raw emotion of DiFranco's folk roots while simultaneously displaying the growth of her artistry and production talents over the course of her career.

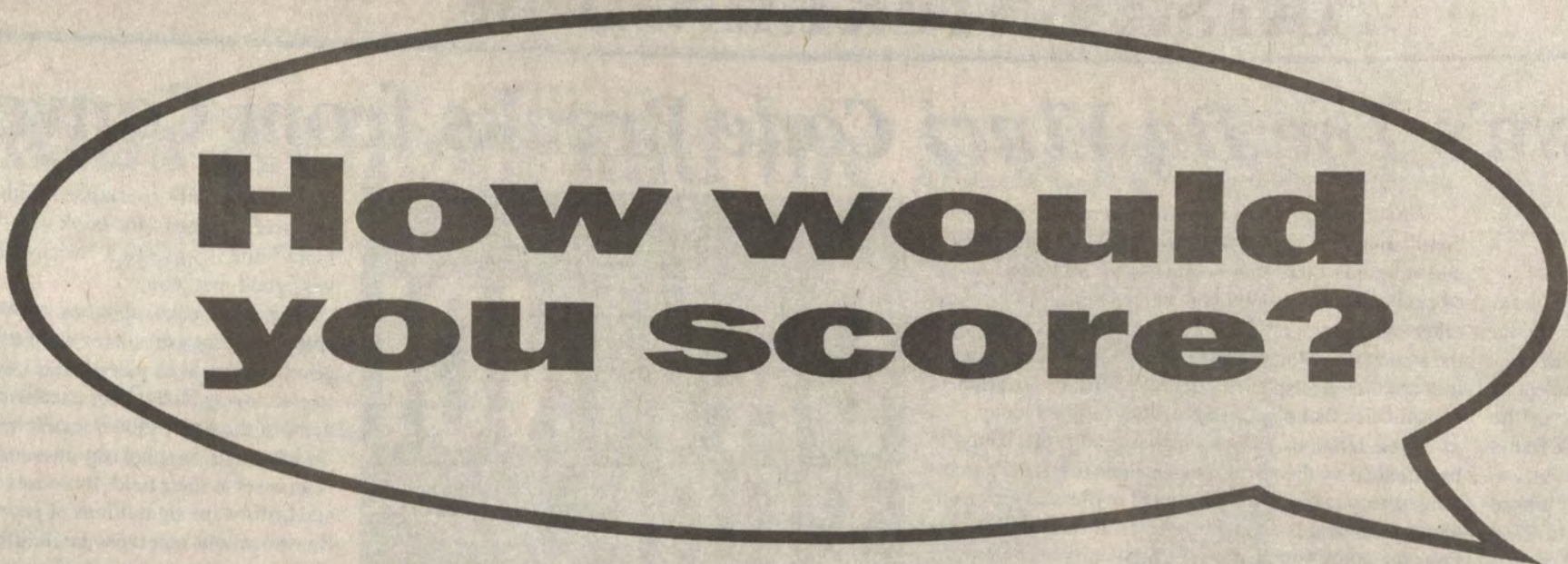
On *Educated Guess* DiFranco not only provides lead vocals and guitar but the backing vocals as well, along with performing the recording and mixing herself, allowing *Educated Guess* to emerge as a solo album in the most authentic way. There is a raw feeling to DiFranco's latest work as her use of vintage reel-to-reel recording equipment offers the image of hearing the music performed live in a massive, empty warehouse, as the rich quality of DiFranco's vocals and guitar merge from a deep place to fill the speakers. The live sound of *Educated Guess* provides a welcome reprieve from the studio orchestrations that inhabited DiFranco's previous releases, *Little Plastic Castles* and *Up Up Up Up*, albums that marked her departure from pure folk.

Educated Guess opens with "Platforms," a short spoken word track that sets the tone of a return to folk as DiFranco says: "So I pulled on my first pair of boots/bought on the street of Astor Place/before New York was run by suits/and I suited up for the long walk back to myself." What follows is both dynamic introspection and reflection, as DiFranco examines past and present relationships through lyrics that read as the most intimate of poetry. Despite the personal nature of many of the tracks, DiFranco infuses many tracks with an exploration of her frustration and anger over the current state of national and world affairs, frankly presented on both "Animal" and "Grand Canyon." DiFranco's own background vocals, although inventive and original as she harmonizes with herself, tend to lend a dissonance on such tracks as the title, creating a distraction from the power and force of DiFranco's own melodies. *Educated Guess* closes with "Bubble," a first person narration of past love that captures DiFranco's underrated guitar talent as she reflects upon personal stories to complete her most intimate album.

This new release gives us an ever-evolving DiFranco, as *Educated Guess* displays her distinct vocal and guitar talents along with her mastery of production and mixing. The album captures DiFranco's combination of the introspective and the political in her carefully crafted poetic lyrics, as spoken word tracks such as "Platforms," "The True Story of What Was," and "Grand Canyon" stand out on an album that reflects upon the complexity of human interaction and human emotion both on a small and more worldly scale. On *Educated Guess*, DiFranco's candid songwriting and impassioned musicianship combine to create an album of true honesty and emotion.

Got an opinion you just can't hide?

Contact Ben Morse at x3441
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A World Wide Web of Confusion, Frustration, and Misunderstanding

continued from page 1

imately four hours, the College has implemented an internet registration policy. Contrary to early fears among students, this will not be a process required each time a user signs on to the internet. It will be a one-time process which will insure that only members of the College community have access to the internet. In fact, without registration, it was possible for someone to bring a laptop to the library and run a business with the school's internet connection. It is hoped that this minor inconvenience will help secure the network and avoid situations such as this.

In light of the recent plethora of computer malfunc-

Students Respond Positively to Study Abroad Experiences

continued from page 1

excellent things about SIT, and knew the program would complement his major. The program exceeded Knoff's expectations, and he was able to adopt to the new country with ease. "My favorite part about studying away was the feeling of being connected and responsible in a new culture. Towards the end I would forget I was in Belize...it was just where I lived."

Some students have found that returning to Connecticut College is an adjustment. Knoff says this period has been fairly easy for him because "a lot of juniors were away this fall and many people are in the same boat" as he is. Tacy finds the change in environment has been a little difficult.

"Everything is easier here," says Tacy. "I lived in an apartment outside of Rome and I had a lot of independence. I didn't have all the safeties I have here. I walked a half hour to school every day, and in a given day I would walk about five miles. But you learn to enjoy it, and you meet so many interesting people along the way."

Tacy also finds the social life at Conn to be less varied than the nightlife she experienced in Europe. Stakes agrees, saying that the nightlife in Barcelona was "a lot of fun."

The College harbors a philosophy that encourages students to spend a semester abroad, stressing that "time in a foreign country opens a student's mind to political, social and economic systems within traditions that may differ greatly from that in which the student was nurtured." The returning students largely agree with this philosophy.

"Everyone I've talked to had a great experience," says Tacy. "It doesn't matter where you go. Every experience is different, but every experience is wonderful."

Love and Good Food Is in the Air at Tony D's

continued from page 5

a crispy exterior and a creamy inside. It is hands down my all-time favorite dessert, so I obviously thought it was fabulous despite the temperature.

Tony D's is an ideal choice for Valentine's Day, whether you're looking for romance or just an enjoyable night. The service is commendable, ambiance is elegant, and the food is amazing. The only downfall to the entire experience was the bill. Dinner for five totaled nearly \$150 dollars without tip. Each entree was in the neighborhood of twenty dollars, and desserts were a pricey seven dollars each. Based solely on quantity of food we got (bread, salad, appetizer, huge main courses, drinks,

the computer help desk has been inundated with inquiries. In fact, it received 4,900 calls this past September, a time when the wait for an appointment was three weeks. Today, however, approximately 900 calls are placed each month, and same day service is usually available.

"Unexpected hurdles make the process of recovery incredibly time-consuming and difficult," Carpenter stated. "However my fellow staff members and I are working rigorously to make the system more efficient."

continued from page 1

student applications for five years after they initially apply, mentioned Stein. Interest is largely taken into account - so transfer students who have applied to Conn in the past are held in high regard.

While transfer applicants go through much the same process as regular admission applicants, transfers are not asked to submit any standardized tests. In some cases, admissions officers ask for high school transcripts, but most of the emphasis is placed on how a student has fared academically in college. "How well you've done in a college environment is important...if students...have matured since high school, that counts more than high school grades," Stein said Tuesday over the phone.

Stein stressed that admission as a transfer requires almost the same thing as regular applicants: they look for extra curriculars, perhaps a job, and students whose native language is not English are asked to submit a TOFEL, in addition to essays and an interview - but she made it clear that grades were the most important element in selection.

Students with averages lower than "C" are not considered.

CC does not recruit transfers, but receives roughly 180 transfer applications annually. The selection process is just as competitive as it is for regularly accepted students - usually 30% are accepted.

Some issues transfer students may face concern financial aid and housing availability. Some years, especially recently, sophomore transfers got singles, while others, as in Detoy's case, all were placed in doubles.

Lauren Knudsen, a sophomore who transferred from Skidmore and who attended the Williams school until college, recalls "Every transfer

got a single...which is awesome...but its also really hard because you don't have a roommate...I'm definitely really happy to have a single, but, unlike new freshmen, there's no automatic person to go to Harris with in the beginning of the year."

Financial aid is more readily available for Fall than for Spring transfers, a fact due to the difficulty in forecasting budget and expenses for the Spring semester. It is also harder to predict the number of spots that will be open in the Spring, which depends on students going abroad and vacating their rooms.

Stein said that while she does hope the number of transfer applicants grows, she hopes the number of available positions does not! Conn is very proud of its retention rate, which is in the nineties. "We're trying to bring in a certain amount of tuition revenue, and a certain class size," she told *The Voice*. This is why it becomes imperative for Admissions to fill vacant spots, as opposed to giving an empty room to an already-enrolled deserving freshman or sophomore.

Great attention is given to students who think of transferring from Conn - one reason for its high retention rate. "The College tries to find out who may be thinking of transferring...and if there's anything we can do to try to help them," says Ms. Bendfeldt. "Some students want to be in a big city, or maybe want a program we don't offer...and the college tries to be proactive for students thinking about leaving."

After a moment, Bendfeldt added, "I would think Dean 'A' would try to convince them to stay!"

Transfer students are not allowed to transfer more than 64 credits upon matriculation at Conn. Among the key elements in transfer orientation is meeting with Teaching Assistants

and Faculty Advisors to decide transferable credits and value. While the rare student may have credits that do not all transfer, there are others, like Knudsen, who was appointed double credits for intense music classes at Skidmore.

If credits do not transfer, students frequently choose to over-point, or to take classes during the summer, according to Bendfeldt.

Bendfeldt also ensures that transfer students meet general education requirements. There is scarcely a risk of not graduating on time, she assured; yet, there "are some courses we can't give credit for." Only when students are coming from specific pre-professional, computer and technology, or communications backgrounds are credits not easily transferred.

This is due to the fact that Conn does not have specializations in these fields.

An issue of note is that "transfers don't need as much support as regularly admitted freshman do," according to Stein. Yet this statement is refuted by at least one transfer. Said one recent transfer, "They assume that you know a lot...we [transfers] are not very babied, but we didn't want to be...and we kinda needed to be."

Detoy concurs, "[It was] hard to find out about the school itself versus the college experience" at transfer orientation.

"You're given a lot more freedom as a transfer...but they need to get transfers together so much more," stresses Knudsen. "We would have loved to have someone tell us to all go to a pizza party."

When all is said and done, transfers generally agree with Detoy: After three years as a camel, he says "I think Conn's a great place."

WHY I HATE LORD OF THE RINGS

BEN MORSE • LONELY AT THE TOP

continued from page 3

shrieking flying dudes were freaky, the army of goblins or whatever looked nasty and that stupid glowing eye was just enigmatic enough to be threatening. Then we come to the end of the first movie and strike one: the dark wizard who got his ass kicked in *Star Wars* that year as well and his army of Sloth from *The Goonies* rejects get destroyed by...wait for it...talking trees! Talking trees that move more slowly than Patriots nose tackle Ted Washington after the buffet has already been finished. Was anybody else sitting there going, "Dude! You're an all-powerful wizard! Just set them on fire already!" Strike two comes in the third installment: they spend a great deal of time building up "the Witch King," the leader of the flying guys, as being the most powerful weapon in the arsenal of the bad guys. Gandalf, who has already come back from the dead and fought off whole armies with a walking stick, is scared of him. So you figure it's going to take a Herculean effort from more or less every character to put a dent in him, right? Wrong! He gets killed after getting tripped by a midget and then whacked in the head by a pretty little blond girl who eludes him for about twenty minutes! As you all know, I'm a champion of Pluralism and all that jazz, but...are you kidding me?! Strike three: the stupid eye never ends up doing anything. At all. Doesn't even cry a river of blood as Justin Timberlake plays in the background. Strike out.

Orlando Bloom: What's the big deal?

I had no idea who this Orlando Bloom cat was before I saw the first movie. All I kept hearing was how great he was though, and how he'd be the next big thing, so I went in with high hopes. Now as anybody who knows me will tell you, I'm not the kind of person who rejects things just because girls croon over them: I enjoy the Backstreet Boys and Buffy the Vampire Slayer, so you know I'm not going to dismiss a guy as a bad actor just because girls croon over him. Thus, with a clear conscience and lack of bias I can say: Orlando Bloom sucks, man. As a formerly certified archery instructor, I appreciate that he's good with a bow and arrow, but when it comes to acting, his aim is a little off (Whoa! Take that, metaphor fans!). He's got a range of two emotions: really shocked and really overconfident. Worse, he's one of those guys who just stares at the camera for like twenty seconds in between lines with his eyes lost in "thought" and his mouth slightly agape because he is just that pretty. I figured maybe he just got stuck with a bad character (Legolas seems like he's mostly there for exposition, and those characters, the walking Encyclopedias, are never fun), but I saw him in *Pirates of the Caribbean* and he raises the bar by adding numerous eyebrow movements to his extensive dramatic repertoire; his voice remains wooden, his focus completely on how his reflection looks in the camera rather than the action. In this day and age, it's simply not enough to be good-looking (the common defense of Orlando Bloom fans for their

hero). Matt Damon and Colin Farrell are good-looking guys, but they can also act when necessary. The aforementioned Mr. Timberlake is considered by most to be cute, but he still produces songs I like (yeah, I said it). I am incredibly hot, yet I still edit an award-winning (someday) college newspaper. If you can't multitask with the good looks you've been blessed with, you're doomed to become an endangered species nowadays, a path I hope young Orlando soon travels down.

That stupid CGI...thing

Yeah, ok, the guy who is behind the motions for Gollum is a genius, he does amazing work, blah blah fine. The first time he does the little "talking to myself but the me I'm talking to is EVIL" thing it's kinda cool. Second time, I more than giggled at the absurdity. Beyond that, it became a really bad Muppet Movie. This character was a neat idea that needed to be used much more sparingly; the over saturation of the films with him turned him from innovation to lame joke.

Parts of trilogies should never win Best Picture

Just a little personally held belief. I just don't think it's possible, or in the very least it's very rare, that the first, middle or last part of a story is better than four or five other movies good enough to be nominated that tell an entire story start to finish. Even if *Lord of the Rings* were good, maybe I'd reconsider, but as noted above and throughout this article, it was not.

Ok, I'm realizing very quickly that I could keep writing this column until Campus Safety comes to inform me that I've missed graduation and it's time to move out, so I'm going to cut to the chase...

Everybody else likes it

I'll be fair and honest: I was against *Lord of the Rings* before I ever saw the first one, simply because everybody I knew was daring me not to like it. I hate it when people do that. I found the one other person I have ever met with a similar attitude and we made a ritual of seeing these bad boys as close to opening night as we could and making fun of them until the people surrounding us demanded we leave and then laughed at them as they tried to insult us using catch phrases from the movie. So maybe *Lord of the Rings* could have been the best thing since Bud Light and I still would have hated it...

Y'know what, no, I've given good solid reasons why these movies sucked and they need to be taken into consideration. Good people of the Academy, I beg you, end the onslaught of irritation this series of films has rained upon my life. Do not force me to endure the indignity of having my friends and family mock me as Liv Tyler attempts to smile without looking like she's in a Pepsi commercial at the podium. Do me this one favor and I promise I'll actually take my Mom to go see whatever Jane Austen adaptation she desperately wants me to appreciate next year.

Also, give Best Supporting Actor to that guy from *The Last Samurai*; he rocked.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from page 2

CCLeft Thanks the Community, Encourages Further Political Activity

Dear Editors:

CCLeft would like to thank all those who registered to vote at our table at the OVCS fair on Monday. We registered over 50 people in two hours. Though CCLeft supports all those on the left from those moderate liberals to hard leftists, our goal is to encourage an active role in politics, for which voting is of paramount importance.

The percentage of youth who voted in the last presidential election was a dismal 37%. A higher youth turnout would have made a dramatic difference in the election results. CCLeft would like to see every eligible vote be cast in the upcoming primaries and in the com-

ing general election, because we take an activist role in political thought. Casting a vote for a candidate is the easiest way to effect change.

The Connecticut Democratic Primary will be held on March 2nd. This is your first chance to choose the leader of this country. CCLeft has compiled information on each of the candidates running. This flyer, though ubiquitous in your dorm bathrooms (we hope!), can also be taken from the web at: <http://oak.conncoll.edu/~dncml/demcans.htm>. CCLeft encourages the use of this and any tools to inform oneself on the candidates.

Thank you again for participating in your democratic process. If you missed the registration table, CCLeft will have a table on the first floor of Cro during the next week to register people for March 2nd's Connecticut Democratic Primary. If you register before February 26th, you will still be eligible to vote in said primary. Happy voting, and keep fighting!

-CCLLEFT

HUH? DID I JUST SEE JANET JACKSON'S BOOB?

JORDAN GEARY • I LIKE TO WRITE THINGS

continued from page 3

was Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake, everyone shrugged it off and said, "Who cares."

The answers came that later that night, however. Every nerd reporter's dream came true in an instant, as their boss said to them, "Hey, I need you to look at this still image of Janet Jackson half topless and figure out exactly what is going on." As it turned out, Janet Jackson WAS topless, on national TV, during the most watched media event of the year. The really interesting thing, however, wasn't the fact that she was topless, it was that she had something on her boob. To be precise, she had a piercing of a sun, which went straight through her nipple. This is not such an odd thing, because I know at least one guy friend who has a nipple ring, and I know there are countless others out there who have piercings in that region. All, I can say, though, is that upon further inspection, Janet Jackson's piercing is one of the least appealing things I have seen in my entire life. If you happen to see a picture, which I am sure many of you already have since it has been all over the news, you will most likely agree with me. This brings us to the obvious question: What in the world was going through Janet Jackson's mind? Not only did she say to herself, "Janet, you are about to reveal your chest to the largest television audience of the year, which includes many children

and fragile old people", but she also said, "You know, why not show the FREAKY boob?"

The only logical reasoning behind this bizarre action is this: Everyone in the Jackson family is simply insane. I am quite sure I don't need to convince many of you of this, since Michael is showing R. Kelly what it means to be REALLY prolific in creepy, under aged hijinks, and Latoya is a masquerading infomercial nutjob. America had it in their minds that Janet was the normal kid in a huge family of oddities, and loved the feeling of saving her from her circus bretheren. Now, however, she is looking more and more like Michael and company. If you need evidence, turn on your television. They're probably showing the video of Janet apologizing to the public for her nudity, a video which looks like a Gus Van Sant shot-for-shot remake of the famous Michael 'I do not make love to little boys' video to the public.

Although all this Janet madness is the talk of the town, I hope all of you Patriots fans out there don't get too caught up in it, because you guys won the Super Bowl. You have the rest of your lives to talk about Janet's boobs, so make sure you celebrate the Patriots win now! If you riot, though, make sure you steer clear of Lambdin.

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Men's Basketball Continues Looking for First NESCAC Win

By Nick Culver
Staff Writer

The Connecticut College basketball team suffered a 88-65 setback to the Wesleyan Cardinals (10-8,3-2) last Saturday at Luce Fieldhouse. Zarette Rogers '06 scored a team-high 20 points on 8-for-16 shooting. Sokol Zejnnullahu '06 added 11 points while Jahkeen Washington '06 scored 10. Wesleyan's two-pronged attack proved as deadly as advertised, with fellow seniors Kanem Johnson and Keala Mills led the visitors, scoring 31 and 24 respectively. Johnson decimated Conn with a near unblockable one handed jumper while Mills frustrated defenders with an impressive outside game. Wesleyan shot 53% from the field while, by contrast, the locals had an off-shooting night, hitting just 33%. The Camels were particularly cold from beyond the arc, converting only 5-of-29 attempts, a 17% clip.

Head Coach Tom Satran admitted that "both [Johnson and Mills] had great games, despite being forced into tough shots." He also noted that although Conn had some good looks at the basket, the team simply "shot the ball very badly."

Rogers, who leads Conn in scoring on the season, left the game late in the first half with what looked like a knee or ankle injury but returned later in the game.

On Monday night, the Camels were in action against John Jay College (16-4), a team that started the season with nine straight wins despite having posted a mediocre 10-16 record last year. Washington scored a team-high 12 points in the losing effort and Derek Kelly '06 added 10 points and five assists. The game showed many similarities to Saturday's division matchup as Conn fought hard to stop John Jay's two primary scoring threats but were unable to contain them as a team; both players scored over 20 points.

The locals submitted another relatively poor shooting night, hitting only 38% from the field while struggling from the free throw line, where they converted on only 13 of 20 opportunities. Coach Satran thought the team "played hard and got some good looks" but that such looks simply did not fall. He also noted that his team's "lack of strength" had been a big factor recently, a team that maintains 4-5 freshmen on the floor at all times is bound to get out muscled occasionally and this

becomes a weakness against older, physical opponents.

The Camels have posted a 5-13 record against the ultra competitive NESCAC division thus far, and they face an even tougher road ahead of them. A murderer's row of powerful opponents await them beginning Friday when they visit the defending NESCAC and national champions who are currently the #2 Division III school in the nation, Williams College (19-1, 5-0). After a comparatively easier matchup at Middlebury College (11-7, 1-4) on Saturday, the locals will host their final home game of the season on Friday, February 13th against the #3 ranked DIII school in the nation, Amherst College (18-1, 5-1). Rounding out this formidable stretch the next day is Conn's final NESCAC matchup against Trinity College (17-1, 5-1), a team currently ranked 10th in the nation. Coach Satran believes that competing against such vaulted opposition is "a great opportunity and challenge." To supplement its national ranking, Williams boasts a recent victory against Holy Cross, a regular participant in the NCAA Division I Tournament.

Men's Hockey Sputtering Lately

By Steve Strauss
Staff Writer

With seven games to play in this year's men's ice hockey season the Camels have begun to struggle. In the last stretch of contests the Camels have gone winless with losses coming in all shapes and varieties. Since January 16 Conn has failed to tally a single victory while posting only one tie (at Salem State on January 30). This recent trend has brought Conn's record to 4-12-1 on the season. Making matters worse, the Camels must face four NESCAC schools in its remaining games; a task at which men's hockey has performed dismally so far.

Conn's tie at Salem State on January 30 was a bright spot in what has been an otherwise depressing second half of a season (thus far) for men's ice hockey fans. The tie (2-2) came in exciting fashion as all four goals in the contest came in the third period. Salem State jumped out to a 2-0 lead early in the third that was cut in half with roughly 12 minutes to play by a Tim Finkle '06 goal. Mike Lionetti '06 netted the game tying score with just under 4 minutes to play for the Camels. Play was ended after a scoreless overtime that saw only 5 total shots. On another positive note, Matt Gluck '07 was given the start and shined brightly,

making 37 saves in net for Conn.

In the last two games Conn's offense has finally started to click, triggering an offensive explosion. Unfortunately this has seemingly coincided with a defensive meltdown, yielding higher-scoring losses. There have been 28 total goals scored in Conn's last two games (both losses) at Southern Maine and Manhattanville respectively. At Southern Maine, on the 31st, the Camels skated to a 9-7 loss in one of the most exciting games of the season. Conn trailed 5-4 entering the third period and, though able to score three times, were unable to catch Southern Maine, even after Dave Moccia '05, scored his second goal of the night with 5:37 remaining to pull the Camels within one goal. On Tuesday, February 3 the Camels were bashed 9-3 at Manhattanville College. The seemingly one sided contest was not entirely dominated by the hosting Valiants (ranked #7 nationally), who only out-shot the Camels 43-40. High points for Conn in the contest were Moccia's two goals and Joe Anderson '05 coming off the bench to make 13 third period saves. Anderson's late game heroics have earned him the nickname "AAJ" or "Above Average Joe" among his teammates.

As this men's ice hockey season draws to a close, fans can look forward to be an extremely bright future. Though Jay Montecalvo '04, Nick Vealitzek '04, Jesse LaRusso '04 and CJ Burnes '04 might not leave on a winning note, they can feel confident knowing that they left a legacy of hard work, tough play and perseverance. In addition, the graduation class will have left knowing that they planted the seeds of success in this year's freshman and sophomore classes. Much of this season's offensive punch has been provided by Finkle, Lionetti, Jason Miller '07, Julian Madden '06 and Andrew Clavette, '06. One of the centerpieces of Conn's defense this year was Jake Henry, whose big hits and emotional drive never show up in the box scores. Noted Ben Sherman '07, "The upperclassmen have done an outstanding job of providing strong leadership and providing a base for us to work off of...They, along with the coaches, allowed us to grow and prosper in the collegiate hockey atmosphere; they instilled in us the necessity of paying attention to detail that many of us weren't used to...This season has been great so far, but we still have seven games and a lot to play for. We're definitely not finished."

Superbowl Recap and More

continued from page 8

heard on college diamonds coast to coast. Still, seeing the big guys get back into the swing of things can't come too soon.

I'll probably do a more extensive baseball preview later on in the spring, but right now I want to just jot down a few observations from the offseason. As usual, it's been a winter full of wheeling and dealing by the 30 major league teams. Who have been the winners so far?

1. Maybe a bit of a surprise to some people that I would put this team here, but I think the Kansas City Royals have had the best offseason, so far. They haven't signed the big names like Anaheim or Boston, but of all the teams, I think the Royals' additions have done the most to propel them to the top of their division. People like Matt Stairs, Benito Santiago and Tony Graffanino are going to be worth a lot more than they are getting paid, and Juan Gonzalez is a huge bat who could have a big year in hitter-friendly Kauffman Stadium.
2. The Anaheim Angels could have been first here, but I think they'll have a harder time climbing to the top of the AL West. They've brought in four big names: Bartolo Colon, Kelvin Escobar, Jose Guillen, and the premier free agent of 2003-2004, Vladimir Guerrero. Will it be enough to leapfrog the A's and M's? Probably, but don't count those two squads out.
3. Baltimore has signed Rafael Palmeiro, Miguel Tejada, Sidney Ponson and Javy Lopez, and will be much, much better than they were in 2003. I still think

they'll finish fourth in the AL East for the seventh straight year, but it's refreshing to see a downtrodden franchise make such a determined effort to contend after years of mediocrity.

4. I have to go with the Red Sox here. Curt Schilling and Keith Foulke are the only big names, but they should be enough to propel the Sox past the Yankees, who did OK for themselves too, bringing in two of the NL's best starting pitchers: Javier Vazquez and Kevin Brown. The Sox also signed defensive wizard Pokey Reese to play second base, and signed him for a mere \$1 million, at that.
5. This is sort of a pity pick, but I'm going to take the Tigers over the Yankees and Astros for this spot. Granted, the Tigers should be happy to lose less than 100 games this year, but they have really been trying this off-season. The biggest signing has been Pudge Rodriguez, who should increase the pop in the Tigers' toothless lineup. Other additions include Rondell White, Al Levine, Fernando Vina and Carlos Guillen. No superstars, but clearly Detroit is making an effort to scratch their way back to respectability. They'll be solid up the middle with Pudge, Vina and Guillen, and I give them an outside shot to lose 99 games or less.

That's it for this week. I'm glad all the Superbowl hype is over with. Now we can focus on America's pastime, whose opening day is fast approaching. Hopefully, the wardrobe malfunction story will have died down by then.

Presto: Completing the Cycle

continued from page 8

Bowls, however. In 2002, we could not stop cheering, feeling a complete jubilation followed every successful snap for the Patriots. The pressure to win was minimal, as it was commonly agreed that we probably should not have been there in the first place. I was able to enjoy the moment. In 2004, there was more swearing at blown plays than cheering. There was no jubilation with the exciting plays, just a football team meeting my expectations. This time there was a complete pressure to win or face the naysayers of 2001 coming back to life. There was more relief than joy with the win.

I was born out of what some may call a divine miracle in New Orleans, and now my journey ends the same way it started, this time in Houston.

When the hero finally returns to his starting point, they are ready for their journey to end, and transfer to the next phase of life (think Obi-Wan in Episode IV). And much like when Kenobi gave into Vader in the Death Star hangar, I have returned to that place.

In a poetic, fantasy world, this would be my retirement speech. I would go out in a blaze of championship glory, the way everyone in the World of Sport wants (or at least should want). The victory of Super Bowl XXXVI was utter joy, the victory of Super Bowl XXXVIII was utter relief. I have grown a lot in the past few days thanks to many personal revelations, and Vinatieri's 41-yard field goal that has opened a path for me to see what lies ahead.

I am not retiring, however, as I feel as though I cannot do such a thing until I am cut loose. Still, I have realized the End is here.

Deep down I know that not only am I not on the team, but also that I can barely even play football, despite my dreams of becoming a place kicker in my next life. Yet, the dynastic run of the New England Patriots the last three years has guided my own path. I have now come back to where I began this little journey of mine. I know that most of what I have said here today is a bit cryptic and philosophical, and pretty much straightforward babble as always, yet it is mostly here for me, serving as a start/finish line. The cycle is complete.

There was an air of difference about the two Super

less worthy than the space in the Voice that it held. Regardless, I took my allotted 800 words and punched out the emotional nature of what I had just seen. I discussed the impact of what the win meant for myself, as well as all other Boston sports fans who had been thirsting for a taste of championship glory.

While the article was sub-par at best (despite what my parents say), and may have been a good example of a hometown fanatic abusing a power that he did not deserve in the first place, what stood behind the newsprint was poetry. Some say that events in the world of professional sports should not be as significant to one's life as this writer takes them, but Super Bowl XXXVI was an experience that altered the course of my very existence. Adam Vinatieri's 48-yard field goal was representative of my divine birth.

I faced many different issues throughout the course of the last two years, but I have now returned to that point I faced in 2002. Both Sunday's contain eerily similar defining moments. Both were the first Sunday in the month of February, of a year that ended in an even number. Both of the weeks preceding each Super Bowl were filled with hype centered on the Patriots opponent. Even the courses of each game were similar. A devastating New England defense that shut down the opposing offense. A New England offense that was not flashy, but always managed to put points up on the board when needed. In both games New England would begin to pull away, allowing all Pats' fans to collectively exhale. Yet, both times, New England allowed their opponents right back into the game, overcoming ten-plus point deficits in the fourth quarter to either tie, or take the lead. Both times it was Ricky Proehl that scored the touchdown to even the score.

In the end, just when things looked bleak, when it looked as if my team was about to blow it once again, looked as if I may suffer a lethal heart attack, the ever-composed Tom Brady would march down the field with under a minute and a half on the clock to setup an 40-plus yard field goal for Vinatieri, that Mr. Clutch would drill to seal a New England win.

LOST & FOUND

Did you lose something and want it back? Start the semester the right way by getting back your stuff. If you recognize something on the list as yours, go to Campus Safety or call Donna at there at extension 2250.

- New Items**
5 Scarves
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Pair of Gray Gloves
Pocket Knife
- Previous Items**
Orange and Black Lunch Bag
Black Stearns Brand Pants

- Black Book Bag
Green and White Striped Jacket (Half-Length Zipper)
Green and White Striped Fleece Jacket (Full-Length Zipper)
Multi-Colored Striped Scarf
Red, Gray, and Black Wool Hat
"Book of Poetry"
Gold Bracelet
Pillow with Denim Cover
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Dorm Life



Jordan Geary

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SPORTS

Superbowl
Recap and
More

In the aftermath of Superbowl 38, some sportswriters called the Patriots-Panthers battle the best Superbowl ever played. The teams provided a gripping, edge-of-your-seat finish and a heck of a fourth quarter, making the game definitely one of the better ones in recent memory. But the best ever? Please. Superbowl 38 was nothing compared to the Patriots' victory over the Rams in the Superbowl two years ago.

At the outset, the game looked like it was going to be a slow, boring, defensive slugfest. The Patriots missed out on a couple of early scoring chances, as Mr. Clutch, Adam Vinatieri missed a field goal and had another blocked. I don't know if the Panthers even had a first down before halftime. After the hours of hype, the Superbowl started out as a distinctly underwhelming snoozer.

The second half was a different story, as the teams opened things up after the obligatory and typically tasteless MTV-produced halftime show. Unfortunately, the halftime show became a bigger story than even the outcome of the world's most-watched real sporting event (the World Cup doesn't count). Anyway, as viewers worldwide experienced a feeling of déjà-vu while Vinatieri's game-winning boot sailed through the uprights in Houston, Patriots fans celebrated a second world title in three years. With the victory, the Tom Brady Patriots are a veritable dynasty by modern standards.

Though the score was close in the end, the Patriots were clearly the much better team and outplayed the gutsy Panthers from start to finish. The Pats put constant pressure on Jake Delhomme, while Tom Brady was not sacked once all game (or in any of the playoff games). The Pats exceeded expectations with their running game, while preventing the Panthers from doing a lot of real damage on the ground. Tom Brady played a typically heady game, making one bad decision that turned into an interception, but also tossing for three touchdowns. As usual, repeatedly made the big throws when he Pats had to have them.

The Pats will open 2004 in the midst of a 15 game winning streak, the second longest in NFL history. Considering that they also have seven draft picks in the first four rounds of April's draft (including two each in the first two rounds), it's easy to picture a situation in which New England sets a new record for the longest winning streak of all time some time in September. At this point, though it's obviously very early to predict anything, the Pats have to be considered a contender for Superbowl 39 and a 3-out-of-4 run.

With football a thing of the past, at least for the next seven months or so, it's time to start looking forward to bigger and better things. I'm speaking of baseball, of course. While opening day is still almost two months away, spring training is just around the corner. And the college game is already under way, with the sweet sound of aluminum being

continued on page 9

Women's Basketball Wins a Squeaker Over USCGA

By PETER STERLING
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut College women's basketball team ended the month of January with a tough road trip to Wesleyan University, who were 3-2 in the NESCAC conference. Despite battling to a 10-10 tie early in the first half, the Camels were unable to pull into the lead, and eventually found themselves down 30-16 going into halftime. Casey Thran '07 produced her eighth double-double of the season, scoring 14 points to add to her 12 rebounds. Mary Bushnell '05 added 11 points for the Camels, although it was not enough to stop Wesleyan, who emerged with a 62-37 victory. Although the defeat was disappointing, Conn would be geared up for their next game against cross-town rivals Coast Guard, on Wednesday February 4th.

"They were a good team defensively, and we had trouble creating high percentage shots, which hurt us," said Thran after the Wesleyan game.

Throughout the week, the Camels practiced for their upcoming game against the Coast Guard. From the very beginning, the contest was marked by the intensity of the two teams' rivalry. Despite getting off to a slow start, Connecticut worked to build a comfortable lead late in the half, thanks in part to the 6-for-9 shooting of point guard Bushnell.

"One of their best players averaged a double double a game, and one of our initial goals was to con-



The Camels and Coasties traded runs in the second half, and the Camels emerged victorious with a 56-53 win over the local rivals. (Wilson)

tain her," Thran said. "When they came out, they quickly made a few three-pointers, and we were forced to change our defense, which rattled us a bit; we got off to a slow start but were able to adjust as the game went on".

The Camels did adjust, and with only 61 seconds remaining in the half, Bushnell sank a jumper to give the home team a 34-26 lead. The Coast Guard remained undaunted, however, and battled back late in the half. A long three-pointer with only

seconds left capped a 5-0 Bears run heading into the break down only three points to the home team. Although heading into halftime with only a narrow lead, the Camels knew that basics would win the game.

"We knew that we had to keep turnovers down, keep hitting our shots, and play tough defense," Thran said. "If we played our game we were confident the outcome would be positive."

Conn emerged confidently from

their locker room, and quickly widened their lead. The Camels jumped out to a 48-33 lead after a 14-to-2 run, in which Thran and Mollie Gage '05 combined for the first ten points of the half. Although the game appeared to be in Conn's hands, Coast Guard was far from finished. As is the case when any rivals meet head to head, the game would not be finished until the final horn sounded, and tonight would prove to be no different. The Bears came roaring back on a 14-to-2 run

of their own, and suddenly the Camels found themselves up by only a single point. With 1:34 remaining in regulation, the score was 54-53, and Conn found themselves fighting to remain in the lead. The difference in the final minutes proved to be the inside strength of the Camels. Conn was able to use 1:13 of the final 1:34 by grabbing three offensive boards, before Gage pushed the lead back up to 56-53 with a 16-foot baseline shot. With 21 seconds remaining in the game, the Bears were unable to penetrate the stifling Camel defense, and Connecticut emerged with their seventh win of the season. The win equaled the combined win total of the previous two seasons, showing remarkable improvement.

"When we went up 15, we switched to a zone defense, and tried to rush things a bit," Casey Thran noted about the second half's momentum changes.

The Lady Camels have two more NESCAC wins to make the tournament, and our goal all season long has been to make it. We're all working hard for it." Gage led the Camels with 21 points and 12 boards, while Casey Thran posted her ninth double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Mary Bushnell also netted 14 points in a winning effort. Amy Harmel led the visitors with 16 points. The Camels will play Williams at home on February 6th in a decisive NESCAC battle.



NICK IYENGAR
The Hot Corner



The Lady Camels posted a strong performance against Hamlin, ending up with a 1-0 shutout, goalie Gabbie Petrill's first clean sheet of the year. (Chen)

Women's Hockey Shuts Out Hamlin, 1-0

By GERALD WOLS
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut College women's hockey team went about their last game against Hamlin University in a business-like fashion on Monday night. Such a performance was necessary after their rough 8-0 loss to Williams. The game against Hamlin had a different script, which had a happy, 1-0 ending. The Camels dominated the first period, out-shooting the visiting team 18-2. Caitlin Sommer '06 netted her first collegiate goal, 4:03 minutes into the first period, giving the Camels a well-deserved lead, which they would never surrender.

The going got tough and it was only after regrouping that the Camels started skating like they did in the first period. Hamlin University played with some tenacity in the second period, but the Camels defended with determination and confidence, always a trademark of a well-trained team. The Camels played with a will to win, and that is necessary in today's NESCAC league.

The game was played at a furious pace and both teams deserve to be congratulated on their performances and sportsmanship. As we say back home in South Africa, when the going gets tough, the tough get going, and the Camels responded, regaining their composure. They defended more confidently and as a result the Camels came out on top. Mallory Littman and Suzie Connor assisted on the game-winning tally. Sophomore goalie Rachael Young (Buffalo, MN) made 42 saves in a brilliant performance for Hamline, but it was not enough to stop the Camels. Gabby Petrill (Greensburg, PA) had 15 stops for the Camels en route to her first shutout of the season. The Camels will resume play February 13 with a 7:00 p.m. game against Wesleyan.

"We took a lot of shots, that was awesome," stated Britt Appleton '07. With this amount of confidence the Camels are sure to be tough opposition for their next opponents.

"We have a coach, assistant coach, and another assistant coach who is a senior here who has been really helpful," says Ali Elkins '05. The Camels might not have had as brutal a pre-season training program and winter break as other Camel teams, but it sure prepared them for this season. With a record of 5-14, the Camels have still got a more than realistic chance of making this season's playoffs. The Camels, who have five remaining games left, will be looking to cement their playoff birth within the coming weeks. The Camels face Wesleyan, Trinity, Amherst, and Hamilton twice.

"Everyone on the team is really nice and accepting, we respect each other a great deal for who we are," said Elkins. With this respect, the team has grown not just mentally, but also as a whole unit and is sure to be a shining star in the bright future of women's hockey here at Conn. The Camels have a squad which contains 19 members. Of these 19 players, 14 are either sophomores or freshmen; this team is young and is bursting with talent and hunger just waiting for games to play. The four seniors provide stability and experience, a priceless asset in today's game, and junior Elkins completes the roster to make it 19 players in all.

With a young team and the coaching which they are receiving there is much hope for this team to become successful. This team can be an example to all Conn sports teams, with tenacity in training, a hunger to learn and a will to win. This is the direction the Camels are heading. The coming weeks should be an interesting time and will show us if the young Camels have the mental strength and the experience to make the playoffs.

Presto: Completing
the Cycle

As a budding philologist, I have spent some time in my college career examining the world of the great mythical heroes of yore. Throughout this examination I was easily able to pick up on the common idea of the life cycle. A theory that was most clearly documented by Joseph Campbell, the basic idea of which is the journey of life is a circular pattern, where the "hero" ends up where he began.

The journey begins with a call to action. The hero either learns of his divine birthright, or finds himself in a dramatic situation that requires great heroism, or is simply in the right place at the right time. As Campbell calls it, "fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won." Then, to make a long story short, the hero is thrust into this situation, undergoes all sorts of fun heroic things that I am sure you do not want to hear about, and before all is said and done, they have returned to where they began and the heroic journey comes to an end.

While Campbell may have focused on mythological heroes, I am going to share a tale of my own, proving that Campbell's theory works for mortals is well. 732 days ago I experienced

my own decisive journey, and my cycle began. Here is my story...

Two years plus two days ago, the only difference between what I was doing then and what I am doing now is that I was sitting in Marshall 306 versus Freeman 103. In the wee-hours of February 4th, 2002, I had just experienced one of the top three sport related moments in my short life. The hard working, blue collar, chip on their shoulder, underdog, Cinderella New England Patriots had just knocked off the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI, a game regarded as the best off all time.

I was just coming into my role as sports editor at the time, yet had declined the position of columnist as a result of my own inept writing ability. The Pats' win, however, not only inspired me, but also opened a hole that I knew I had to blow through if I had any ideas about progressing as a writer, a goal that I was very hopeful to pursue.

Thus, with featurist R.A. Woodward needing a week off, and finally having something somewhat poignant to speak about, Presto's Perspective was born. Sure, the first column was not very good, and far



MATT PRESTON
Presto's Perspective

Camel Scoreboard

Men's Basketball:

-1/24, vs. Colby, 40-69
-1/31, vs. Wesleyan, 65-88
-2/2, @ John Jay College, 63-80

Women's Basketball:

-1/24, @ Colby, 47-63
-1/31, @ Wesleyan, 37-62
-2/4, vs. Coast Guard 56-53

Men's Hockey:

-1/30, @ Salem State, 2-2
-1/31, @ U. of Southern Maine, 7-9
-2/3, @ Manhattanville, 3-9

Mens's/Women's Cross Country:

-11/15, New England Div. III Championships,
17th place/44 (women), 9th place/38 (men)

Women's Hockey:

-1/30, @ Middlebury, 0-7
-1/31, @ Williams, 0-8
-2/2, vs. Hamline (MN), 1-0

Men's Swimming:

-1/24, @ Wesleyan, 86-195
-1/24, vs. Clark @ Wesleyan, 159-61
-1/24, vs. Colby-Sawyer @ Wesleyan, 173-30

Women's Swimming:

-1/24, @ Wesleyan, 150-150
-1/24, vs. Clark @ Wesleyan, 222-77
-1/24, vs. Colby-Sawyer @ Wesleyan, 173-30

continued on page 9