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Conn Reviews Its Grading Policy and Cutoffs for Latin and Dean's Honors

BY KATHERINE SHUSHTARI '11

staff writer

There is no written document for teachers that states what constitutes an A-worthy paper. Some are hard graders, others easy, and many fair. However, many feel that the achievement of an A grade is not the same accomplishment it was ten or twenty years ago. Some students may say that is not true, but many parents are able to see the difference and remember a time when a C was actually the average grade.

Connecticut College community reflects on these issues as well. The debate between whether or not grading is becoming less rigorous, or kids are becoming more intelligent, seems to be at the heart of grade inflation. Have students become brighter over the years due to technology and the many pressures of getting high-paying jobs or into strong graduate programs? Have teachers changed the system to better suit the needs of their students? These are the questions the faculty and the administration ask themselves about grade inflation. Dean Rossi-Reder states, "I believe

there is grade inflation everywhere. Students and their parents are, by and large, more grade conscious than in the past, and there is a sense of having to receive good grades because of the high cost of college." She goes on to say, "However, pedagogy has also come a long way since I was in college. Professors are often now trained to teach and trained in learning and teaching styles. As a result, I would hope that students' grades go up because we are teaching better than we ever have--in theory!" Though many would like to believe this theory, it is almost impossible to know the actual truth.

Since the year 2000 the average grade point average for the graduating seniors at Conn has increased every year, with the exception of last year's class, where they finally seemed to plateau. The average GPA has moved from a 3.27 to a 3.4, where females have over 0.1 higher average GPAs than males. Unlike some institutions, Conn is without a standardized grading rubric, which

may be one of the reasons why some majors do considerably better than others. As many would predict, majors in the arts and humanities tend to have higher GPAs, whereas science and math majors are on the lower end of the GPA spectrum. Why is this? It's hard to say. John Nugent, Senior Research Analyst, Special Assistant to the President, and former Government professor, says that it could have to do with the fact that science classes are far more concrete; there are distinctly right and wrong answers. It is harder to say why an English paper is not good than it is to say that a student made an addition mistake. Nugent states, "Grading is an art, as well as a science...The B is the new C."

Grading can be a challenge for many teachers, especially art professors. Ted Hendrickson, the photography professor at Conn, explains how grading an art student depends on more than just showing up to class and doing the assignments.

SEE GRADING

continued to five

April Brings Multitude of Events to Campus



Orlan spoke to Connecticut College students on Tuesday, March April 1st (Photo: Web)

The College is scheduled to host a number of prominent guest speakers, engaging faculty book talks and stimulating panel discussions during the month of April. One of the most extraordinary, the lecture by Orlan, an international performer and visual artist who uses her own body and the procedures of plastic surgery to make "carnal art," was one of the most popular lectures of the year.

There are plenty of other exciting events left, so remember to make time for some of these fantastic events to come!

"Are We Nearing the Peak of Fossil Fuel Energy? Has Twilight in the Desert

Begun?" Matt Simmons, chair of Simmons & Co. International, a specialized energy investment banking firm, will discuss the future of global oil supplies April 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the Ernst Common Room, Blaustein Humanities Center.

Old Saybrook artist Chiang Chien-fei will talk about his exhibit at Connecticut College, "Watercolors through Eastern and Western Eyes," and demonstrate traditional Chinese painting

SEE APRIL EVENTS

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Letter from the Editor

Seniors are expected to pay \$60 to attend the events of Senior Week, and if they miss the end of the pay period, the fee increases to \$80. In the back of my head, I knew we had to pay for the debauchery that is to come. I guess I just got spoiled with events of this semester—the 100 Days party was free, 50 Days was free, Changing of the Guard is free this weekend.

I definitely think the juniors “helping” with Senior Week ought to pay. But this is for seniors. Even if it comes down to less than \$10 an event, it rubs me the wrong way. Tell me that you need us to chip in for, say, the Senior Formal, and I would be glad to. This seems like I have to pay my dues to be a graduating senior who wants to cut loose.

Henry David Thoreau is turning over in his grave, and maybe those of us who oppose the fee on principle should do something. Am I going to? Nope. I will pay the \$60 and I better have a fantastic time. I feel even worse for the seniors at other colleges who have to pay upwards of \$200. I guess we should be happy it's not that much.

Those on the Senior Week Committee, I waited a long time for this, don't give me a case of buyer's remorse.

—Areti

SOURCES

Pressing Issues Around the World

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bbc.com

ap.com

Will Pac Be Back

nfl.com

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“This is my Body, This is my Software”

Phelan, Peggy. “Cinematic Skin.” *Orlan le Récit*. Milano: Charta 2007.



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The opinions and comics represented in *The College Voice* do not reflect the views of the editorial staff.

Around the World: Pressing Issues of the Week

COMPILED BY GOZDE ERDENIZ '08

news editor

National:

Bush Out of Touch on U.S. Economic Woes

The first hint that President George W. Bush might be detached from the nation's economic woes was in February, when he conceded that he had not heard about predictions of \$4-a-gallon gasoline.

Then Bush went to Wall Street to warn against "massive government intervention in the housing markets," two days before his administration helped broker the takeover of the investment bank Bear Stearns.

Now Bush is in Eastern Europe, one of eight foreign trips he is taking this year. As he delivered his farewell address to NATO on Wednesday, Senate Democrats and Republicans were scrambling to produce a bill to help struggling homeowners, the kind of government intervention Bush had cautioned against.

As the economy eclipses Iraq as the top issue on most voters' minds, even some Republican allies of the president say Bush is being eclipsed and is in danger of looking out of touch.

"He's over there arguing about who should get into NATO, and the American people are focused on what's in their pocketbooks," said Kenneth Duberstein, who was chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan in Reagan's second term. "He has talked about the economy, but it is not viewed as being a satisfactory response. Unfortunately, the lasting image is of not knowing of \$4-a-gallon gas."

Europe:

EU Cautiously Steps to Bolster Bank Regulation

Europe's finance ministers on Friday will take their first steps since last year's credit crunch to tackle the threat of a systemic financial crisis by agreeing to new guidelines on how to deal with cross-border banking failures.

But the guidelines fall well short of the kind of changes that the administration of President George W. Bush has recently proposed to shore up the regulation of U.S. financial institutions.

In a sign of the growing concern over the threat to the international banking system, European Union ministers will sign an agreement promising deeper pan-European cooperation, and laying down principles to be applied when financial institutions operating across frontiers face difficulties.

The document, however, will not propose creation of a pan-European regulator or lay down strict rules. Instead it will bind national authorities to favor private-sector rescues where possible, and urge them to decide in advance who would foot the bill for banks that operate in more than one EU nation if state bailouts are required.

The memorandum of understanding, to be signed by EU finance ministers at a meeting in Slovenia, highlights mounting concern about the health of the banking system in the aftermath of the subprime crisis that originated in the United States.

Middle East:

Report says Israel has been Slow to Admit Patients from Gaza

A report by the World Health Organization has found that 32 Palestinians from Gaza have died in recent months largely because of Israeli restrictions that

delayed their access to urgent medical treatment in Israel.

Israeli officials rejected the findings Wednesday. They said that the people who had compiled the report had never asked them about the cases, that Israeli officials had no records of entry permits being sought in some of the cases and that details of other cases were inaccurate. Israeli officials also said that the number of Gazans admitted to Israel for advanced medical treatment was increasing.

The report, released Tuesday by the WHO, the UN health authority, and covering October through March, said that in some cases permits to enter Israel had been late, while other applicants had been denied permits on security grounds. In five cases, the reason given for the delay was a lack of hospital beds.

Most of the report was based on interviews in Gaza with relatives of the dead and with Palestinian medical workers and other Palestinian officials.

The report points to the turmoil in Gaza and bureaucratic staff changes there as factors hampering access to urgent health care.

Ambrogio Manenti, the director of the World Health Organization office for the West Bank and Gaza, focused on the effects of the Israeli border closure in presenting the report and said the cases it described were illustrations of "nonsense, inhumanity and, at the end, tragedies" that "could have and should have been avoided."

Asia:

Chinese Dissident gets 3.5 years for Essays

A Chinese court Thursday sentenced an outspoken human rights advocate to three and a half years in prison after ruling that his critical essays and comments about Communist Party rule amounted to inciting subversion, his lawyer said.

The conviction of Hu Jia, 34, quickly brought outside criticism of China at a time when the government is already facing international concern over its handling of the Tibetan crisis. Hu's case has been followed closely, especially in Europe, and critics say his conviction is part of a government crackdown to silence dissidents before Beijing plays host to the Olympics in August.

Diane Sovereign, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, described the U.S. government's reaction to the verdict as "dismayed."

"Mr. Hu has consistently worked within China's legal system to protect the rights of his fellow citizens," Sovereign said. "These types of activities support China's efforts to institute the rule of law and should be applauded, not suppressed or punished."

Latin America:

Raúl Castro Employing a bit of Capitalism to Freshen up Cuban Communism

It's not the stuff of Marx or Lenin, or even of Fidel Castro, but it's hardly free-market capitalism, either. In fact, a series of new steps to encourage a Cuban spending spree may help the Communist system and its new president survive.

In rapid-fire decrees over the past week, President Raúl Castro's government has done away with some long-despised restrictions, lifting bans on electric appli-

ances, microwaves and computers, inviting average citizens to enter long-forbidden resorts and declaring they can even legally have their own cellphones.

More changes could be on the way. Rumors are widespread that the government could ease travel restrictions and tolerate free enterprise, letting more people start their own small businesses. And hopes that it also might tweak the dual-currency system - which puts foreign products out of reach for most Cubans - have sparked a run on the peso.

"We're going to get out and buy more and more," said Roberto Avila, a retiree. "That's the future in Cuba, and it is a strong future."

Cuba is still far from a shopper's paradise. Nearly everyone holds government jobs, earning an average of \$19.50 a month, although many get U.S. dollars from tourism jobs or relatives abroad. It would take the average Cuban five months to earn enough to buy a low-end DVD player that an American could buy with about two days' work at the federal minimum wage.

Africa:

Police Raid Opposition's offices in Zimbabwe

President Robert Mugabe's government raided the offices of the main opposition movement and rounded up foreign journalists Thursday in an ominous indication that he may use intimidation and violence to keep his grip on power.

The police raided a hotel used by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change and ransacked some of the rooms. Riot police officers also surrounded another hotel housing foreign journalists and took away several of them, according to a man who answered the phone there.

"Mugabe has started a crackdown," the Movement for Democratic Change secretary general, Tendai Biti, said. "It is quite clear he has unleashed a war." He said the clampdown Thursday was a sign of worse to follow but that the opposition would not go into hiding.

"You can't hide away from fascism. Zimbabwe is a small country. So we are not going into hiding. We are just going to have to be extra cautious," he said.

The opposition says it won the presidential race outright. While the election commission has issued results for the parliamentary races held alongside the presidential race, it has yet to release any presidential count.

Official results showed the opposition won the majority of seats in the 110-member Parliament. But the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission said there were "logistical problems" delaying the results for the 60-member senate.

Deputy Information Minister Bright Matonga said Thursday that Mugabe was ready for a runoff, dashing hopes that he would bow quietly off the national stage he has dominated for 28 years.

"President Mugabe is going to fight. He is not going anywhere. He has not lost," Matonga told the British Broadcasting Corp. "We are going to go hard and fight and get the majority required."

Failure: A Case Study of "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip"

BY JACOB TISHER '08

staff writer

Aaron Sorkin writes drama/comedies for TV and film. While he has written many successful television shows and screenplays including *Charlie Wilson's War* and *A Few Good Men*, he is so self-involved that the only subject available to him is himself. Most recently he has managed to turn a show about late-night comedy into an intensely political narrative, reminiscent of "The West Wing," Sorkin's most successful show. I no longer watch network television, so I was unaware of the existence of "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" until it was made available on iTunes. The pilot peaked my interest, but after downloading an episode from the last season, I was completely lost and gave up on the show for a few months. When I returned to "Studio 60" it was out of sheer boredom on an eight-hour flight, but what I saw was just beginning to sink in.

In the first few episodes a beautiful, new, female studio executive attempts to purchase a show called "Nations" about the halls of the UN. "Nations" is the show Sorkin wished he had written. It is described by the beautiful executive as "smart, dramatic, and brilliantly funny." "The West Wing" was smart, dramatic and funny for a while and in that time it was the number one rated show on television. For three seasons, "The West Wing" managed to be fun and light-hearted in spite of its weighty subject matter. "Studio 60" started from the opposite end of the spectrum with a light-hearted subject. Without a seconds hesitation the pilot episode burdens the subject with weighty political narratives.

The full title of the show is "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip." Beginning in medias res, the pilot introduces the viewer to "Studio 60," the show within the show. "Studio 60" is a "Saturday Night Live" clone, but in the new millennium the show is having difficulty finding the humor in current events. The show's head writer has a breakdown and interrupts a live broadcast in order to speak truth to power, and proclaim the death of quality television. The episode ends by introducing us to Matt Albie (Matthew Perry), a previously fired writer for Studio 60 who is re-hired to breathe new life into the show.



Admittedly Sorkin doesn't need to do a lot of searching to find the seriousness in late-night comedy. Nobody seemed to notice the demise of "SNL." And though it is still on the air, its ratings are lower than ever. Sorkin makes the case that the demise coincided with the rise in religious extremism post-9/11. But just because Sorkin makes a convincing case doesn't mean it makes for good TV.

Embarrassingly I was, and will always be a huge fan of "The West Wing." I was content in the knowledge that the show was nothing like the actual goings on in the White House. "Studio 60" is far too close to home.

"The West Wing" was notorious for maintaining a running tally of about five narratives per episode. Some narratives were resolved within a season, some within an episode, and some were abandoned almost before they began. "Studio 60" does exactly the same thing. The entire narrative centers around which sketches make it into the live show and which don't. Can you begin to see the issue? It becomes painfully obvious that the narratives in each episode go through the same committee process as the sketches. It's hard to escape the feeling that you're being cheated out of most of the episode. The show attempts to make the case that shows shouldn't be written based on the ratings, but as the ratings of Sorkin's show dropped, the show within the show's ratings dropped in order to create more drama.

Ironically, if Sorkin was content with being just funny, the show may

have been a resounding success. His talent as a writer is his humor, but when the show gets caught up with the characters' illnesses, relationships, and rivalries, the humor collapses under the weight of the drama. Instead of being funny, the show makes excuses for why its not. The personal drama is relatively entertaining. What made the drama in "The West Wing" so engrossing was the quick-witted, snappy, intelligent and un-realistic dialogue. "Studio 60" has some of the dialogue that made "The West Wing" great, but it is too few and far between to sustain a 21st century audience.

To distract from the over-dramatic narrative, Sorkin turns the sex, drugs and hip-hop up to eleven. But again, the subject matter is all too familiar. For some reason Sorkin was replaced with a team of writers after the fourth season of "The West Wing," and the show's intelligence and quality was replaced accordingly. The declining viewership does not adequately explain the network's decision. It is tempting to theorize that the decision to replace Sorkin as writer was because of a marijuana possession charge and not the ratings. In the case of "Studio 60" a drug charge may have increased public interest and saved the show. The show that began with an intense bidding war between NBC and CBS, which ended with NBC paying Sorkin one of the largest licensing-fees in history, was canceled after one season. The ratings declined steadily after a very successful premier and never stopped.

Gnarls Are Back With The Odd Couple

BY SAM HERNDON '10

staff writer

The once enigmatic Gnarls Barkley of Atlanta is back, earlier than expected, with *The Odd Couple*, the follow-up to 2006's *St. Elsewhere*. A collaborative effort between dual artists Danger Mouse and Cee-Lo, Gnarls have taken breaks from their respective solo projects to produce the new LP, and fans are glad to see them reunited.

The album wasn't due to be released for another three weeks, but unlike the usual music biz practice of pushing back availability for weeks or months, Gnarls Barkley decided to pony up to consumer demand. "With the shifting seasons, furtive romantic entanglements and fierce college basketball rivalries, the latter half of March can be confusing. People need to be soothed and inspired now," said a Gnarls spokesperson. Leaks of the LP online may also have contributed to the preemie release.

Following the critical and commercial success of their first album, with the unavoidably catchy single "Crazy," Gnarls Barkley's sophomore effort will not disappoint.

The Odd Couple has a more calm, smooth sound, and demonstrates an increased maturity on the part of the musicians. This is apparent in the album's helter-skelter lyrics. "Whatever" has Cee-Lo whining about lost love, jaded and bored, while "Surprise" takes a turn for the morose, as Cee-Lo croons, "When everything that's alive ultimately dies/don't be surprised," and also to the spooky, with "Don't be surprised/Somebody's watching/Maybe you want

them to see you." Listeners who enjoyed "The Boogie Monster" and "Necromancer" from *Elsewhere* will find similar graveyard hip-hop threads in *Odd Couple*.

Diverse styling and influences make *The Odd Couple* an interesting listen, and a recommended workout playlist. The sassy 'tude of the first single "Run" has already made its video a music television favorite. Tracks like "Open Book," a potent survival anthem that makes use of heavy synth beats and drum machine rhythms, mix styles that might seem to compete in other artists' work. But the collaboration between Cee-Lo and Danger Mouse allow the Motown, Gospel, tribal, R & B, and myriad other influences to complement one another.

"A Little Better" ends the album on a personal note for writer Cee-Lo. He muses on his adverse upbringing, and his drive to lead an accomplished, admirable, awesome life, since death can strike at any moment. This bluesy, Buddhist-ish closing summarizes the erratic, creative, fun style Gnarls Barkley always bring to their projects.

Choice tracks: "Who's Gonna Save My Soul," "Open Book," "Going On"

The duo are still arranging tour dates, so keep an eye out for this headlining act at a venue near you.





A Taste of Harris: Just a Tease?

BY BEN EAGLE '09

sports editor

Food festivals are a restaurant reviewer's wet dream. Where else can one find so much good food in such a small area? While I still may be a ways away from receiving an invite to any of the prestigious food festivals, on Wednesday afternoon I was invited to one: The Taste of Harris at Harris Dining Hall.

Every year vendors flood Harris with samples of their bites in hopes of landing a contract with Connecticut College. Students are given a survey and encouraged to try and comment on everything. In theory, the food with the most positive reaction will appear in the dining hall next year.

In keeping with Harris' current repertoire, many of the choices were fried (The ability to efficiently cook large amounts of food will always make it a popular choice for dining halls). The companies tried to set themselves apart from standard dining hall fare with new

flavors. Buffalo chicken, fried shrimp and scallops, chicken cordon blue bites, and variations on onion rings were just some of the selections.

None of the chicken dishes were anything to write home about. If you've had one fried chicken finger, you've probably had them all. The sauces and spices are a nice addition, but it's merely a disguise for a tired staple. The onion rings, however, drafted a letter to my parents all by themselves.

Battered in a black-tan mixture (Bass Ale and Guinness usually), the onion rings were crispy and tasty. It is hard to mess up food like this, and equally hard to get it just right. Kudos to Market Dynamics (the company who brought the rings to Harris) for accomplishing the latter, and I hope we see their rings in the dining hall next year.

The Mediterranean delights also garnered my approval. Orzo with artichoke, edamame salad, and grilled vegetables were all nuzzled in the sport normally reserved for Harris' sandwich station. All of three of them were what a good

pasta salad should be: light, tasty, and not too oily. Unlike the grilled vegetables that are normally served in Harris (the same ones that bathe in a mire of monounsaturated oils), these veggies tasted like they had been grilled. The others were an upgrade over the consistently delicious pasta salads of JA and Smith.

As excited as I am by these new foods I know to temper my expectations. Are our collective memories too short to remember the delicious macaroni triangles from last year's Taste of Harris? Everyone I talked to love the isosceles-like balance of flavor and texture. Yet, did anyone see them ever again? As great as the Taste of Harris is, it is like an allergic father taking his kid to the pet store: it may be fun for the kid while he's there, but he knows he'll never take a puppy home.

And why will he never take home a cute puppy? Like all issues, it comes down to the greenbacks. As a Wednesday New York Times article outlined, food prices are rising. The current system, which subsidizes farmers who grow pro-

tein, grain, and corn as cheaply possible, is completely reliant on fossil fuels (it's in the cars they drive and the fertilizer they feed their animals). With gas prices rising, it was only a matter of time before food prices are adjusted accordingly.

There may be hope however. What if we ate food that didn't have to travel far to get to us? What if we ate protein that wasn't fed with hormone enhanced fertilizer? S.P.R.O.U.T is proposing just that. In a recently circulated petition, the agriculturally concerned committee called for Conn to go local and organic.

My first reaction was incredulous. If Conn can't afford to buy quality food now, how are they going to afford local and organic food, which is traditionally more expensive because, it isn't subsidized by the government. But, as gas prices keep rising, it may be more economically feasible for Conn to invest in food that would have minimal travel time.

Conn, and the Board of Trustees' real reaction will be much like next year's Harris line-up: a mystery.

Funny Games Offers Sick Twists and Smart Thrills

BY RACINE OXTOBY '11

staff writer

If you look up the term "torture porn" on Wikipedia, one of the movies you'll find listed is *Funny Games*, a movie about a family taken hostage by two innocent-seeming young men. However, this is incorrect. Although the movie is quick to judge, upon closer examination, you discover that *Funny Games* is actually anti-torture porn. None of the violence, except one bloody surprise, is ever shown onscreen, leaving the audience to use their imaginations to piece together the horrifying sounds they're hearing and decide for themselves what's going on.

Michael Haneke directs this shot-for-shot remake of the 1997 Austrian film of the same name, also directed by Haneke. While some might blast Haneke for his lack of imagination, I respect him for not letting an American director turn it into the next *Saw*.

In the newer version, the unlucky family is played by Tim Roth (George), Naomi Watts (Anna), and Devon Gearhart (Georgie). Michael Pitt and Brady Corbet play the two killers with frightening ease. Right from the opening scene, you know you're in for a wild, twisting ride. The family drives to their lake house, their sailboat towing behind their car, while George

and Anna quiz each other on different snippets of classical music. Just when you think you're going to be quickly bored with this couple, the title of the movie encompasses the screen in vibrant red letters while screeching heavy metal music fills the audience's ears. The color of the letters and the metal music contrast heavily with the scene playing, and it catches you off guard. This should be the first hint to not trust your expectations. This movie is about to go against convention in many troubling ways.

The two young men, who refer to each other with different pairs of names (Paul and Peter, Tom and Jerry, Beavis and Butthead), are soft-spoken and polite. It's no wonder Anna is willing to let them into the house to borrow eggs for the neighbors, whom Paul and Peter claim they are staying with. They start to grow persistent however, refusing to leave and continually breaking the eggs they are given. Eventually they break George's leg with his own golf club. The family is introduced to the bet that will take over the remainder of the story: the family bets that they will be alive at nine the next morning and Paul and Peter bet that the family will be dead. Thus begins a sick series of mind games, one of which is a game of eeny-meeny-miny-moe over who gets to die.

One of the main themes of the story involves Paul breaking the fourth wall and addressing us, the audience. While playing a "hot-or-cold" game with Anna over where he's hidden the missing dog, he turns to the

camera and gives us a smirk and a wink. When the bet is announced, Paul turns to the camera and asks us who we're going to root for. Then he says that he knows we'll root for the family, because that's what's expected of us in this situation. He's the only one who seems to know that he's in a movie, even using a remote control to change how one scene is played out. It's completely random and it defies our expectations of the movie.

I'm glad, in a way, that I haven't seen the original *Funny Games*, because it seems that the main argument most critics have against the movie is the fact that it is a blatant copy of the original. It's sort of like when Gus Van Sant remade *Psycho*. People asked, "Why is this necessary? Haven't we seen this before?" However, *Funny Games* works because it is a remake of a foreign movie not often seen or heard of by most Americans, whereas *Psycho* is a Hitchcockian classic that everyone is familiar with. If I had seen the original *Funny Games*, the suspense would have been limited, and instead of enjoying a suspenseful thriller, I'd be experiencing an hour-and-a-half long bout of déjà vu, which isn't quite as fun.

Despite some obvious plot holes that make you want to scream at the screen (why not break into the car to grab the other cell phone, Anna?), *Funny Games* is a great movie for those who enjoy intelligently made thrillers. The moral of the story: if someone comes to your door asking for eggs, don't let them in. In fact, call the police. Because they're probably going to kill you.



Why You Should Care About Rugby

BY MIKE FLINT '11

staff writer

As everyone probably knows by now, Connecticut College does not have a football team. Although there are some people who may like this aspect of our school, for those of you who wish we had a football team to root for, here is good news for you: Connecticut College has a rugby team.

What's rugby, you ask? You only like American sports, you say? Well, the men's rugby team hopes you will give them a chance anyway.

"I defy anyone to come to a rugby game and not enjoy it one way or another," says flanker Nick Bright '11. "It's the best team we have at school. People go to basketball and other games all the time because they're good. We might not be a varsity sport, but the games are so sick."

Like football, rugby is known for its intensity and hard hits. Players are a perfect combination of strength and speed and are not afraid to simply rip the heads off the other team's players. Concussions, dislocated shoulders, and bone fractures occur quite frequently during games which is not surprising since no one wears pads.

"I played football and wrestled in high school, but I've never done anything like this," explains the 6'3", 200 pound Bright. "Rugby is faster paced and more intense than football. Plus, there are no stoppages. It's awesome."

But anyone who plays rugby will tell you that the best part is not hitting and tackling, but the partying and singing that comes after games. Rugby players love to party; after every weekend game, no matter where they play, the rugby team finds a way to throw a party and often includes

the opposing team in its fun.

"After we played Brandeis, we hung out with their team, and it was really cool. We chilled out, sang some rugby songs [...] That's what's cool about rugby. There's so much team unity, but at the same time, when the game's over, a rugby player is a rugby player and we're all friends," says Bright.

Rugby brings the physicality and rawness that Americans love, but it also has a social component that a lot of people here at Conn would enjoy. If you can get down to Dawley Field on game day to watch them play, you will realize just how much fun rugby can be.

The team recently had an impressive 27-0 win at Brandeis. Wing Pete Erhartic '09 dominated in this match and scored 3 of Conn's 5 tries (rugby touchdowns).

The Camels' last home game is the season finale on April 26th versus Rhode Island College.

If you are still unsure whether you want to catch a game this spring and you remain unconvinced that rugby can take the place of football at Connecticut College, Nick advises you to "go on Youtube and watch some rugby highlights. It's [pretty] sick."



Player of the Week Lacrosse's Sara Christopher '10

BY MARISSA DEMAIS '11

staff writer

The Women's Lacrosse team's recent success has featured some outstanding play from Sara Christopher '10. Hailing from Andover, Massachusetts, she had an impressive week in Colorado where she totaled ten goals, one assist, and three ground balls. Due to her tremendous efforts, Christopher was recently named the NESCAC Player of the Week. I met with her to break down her excellent start to the season.



Marissa DeMais: You were very productive last week in Colorado. What do you think was the key to your success?

Sara Christopher: Our team gained a lot of confidence, and we came together as a team. We really did all the small things right which was important for us.

MD: The season has started great so far, how do you think the team is progressing? What still needs improvement?

SC: Our first two conference games were really tough but in Colorado we really gained confidence. We learned spread out our offense, which has allowed us to score more. We hope to improve to win all the fifty-fifty balls.

MD: How did you first get involved in lacrosse?

SC: When I was younger both my brothers played, so when my town started a girl's team of course I wanted to join and to copy everything my brothers did.

MD: What do you think sets the women's lacrosse team apart from other teams in the conference?

SC: I think we are more of an up and coming team. This year has been a huge transition for our team. In the conference we are the underdogs and we keep surprising teams. We just lost to Amherst in overtime, which was really important.

MD: You are very active in Conn athletics. Is it difficult balancing two sports?

SC: No, for me I'm better with time management in season. In the fall I'm probably less focused.

MD: How do lacrosse and hockey compare for you?

SC: Different mental focus and the team atmospheres are different. But there are seven girls that do both with me, so we all find a balance with the two. They are very different but we love them for that reason.

MD: What are your predictions for the rest of the season? What would you like to achieve this season?

SC: To make it to the NESCAC tournament at the end of the year

MD: With almost three years still left, do you have any goals set before you graduate?

SC: Personally, it's for the team to improve and get better every year. The seniors on the team have only won two NESCAC games, so we hope to continue to bring the program up and bring a threat to everyone in the NESCAC.

Surging Men's Lacrosse Squad Rallies Around Common Goal

BY EMILY WEBB '11

staff writer

Lacrosse has come a long way since its origins in Native American culture. It was originally played to resolve conflict, heal the sick, and develop strong warriors. Native Americans also used lacrosse to prepare for war, and these matches could have as many as 1,000 players per side.

Some similarities still remain between this ancient form of lacrosse and the sport that is played here at Connecticut College. Although the men's lacrosse team is indeed a large squad and has a roster of 37 athletes, which is a typical size for college team, the program does not function to develop warrior skills in college students.

The team opened the spring season with a slow start but then went on to win three games in a row this past March to bring their overall record to 4-4. Led by Head Coach Dave Cornell, Assistant Coach Topher Grossman, Assistant Coach Dave Howes, and captains Matt Flanagan '08, Brendan Moses '09, and Ben Stahl '09, the Camels show much

promise not only for this season, but for the future as well.

As Head Coach Cornell discusses the nature of lacrosse, his passion for the sport becomes quite obvious. "I love lacrosse because each game is so different. You never know if it's going to be a 5-4 game or a 15-14 game. The sport represents the best qualities of many other sports. It has the game preparation of football, the physicality and speed of hockey, the endurance of soccer."

"The sport represents the best qualities of many other sports. It has the game preparation of football, the physicality and speed of hockey, the endurance of soccer"

One of the largest triumphs for the team was its 9-5 victory over Tufts on March 26th. Not only was this game the third consecutive win for the Camels, it also marked their first NESCAC win of the season. Goalie Mark Moran '10

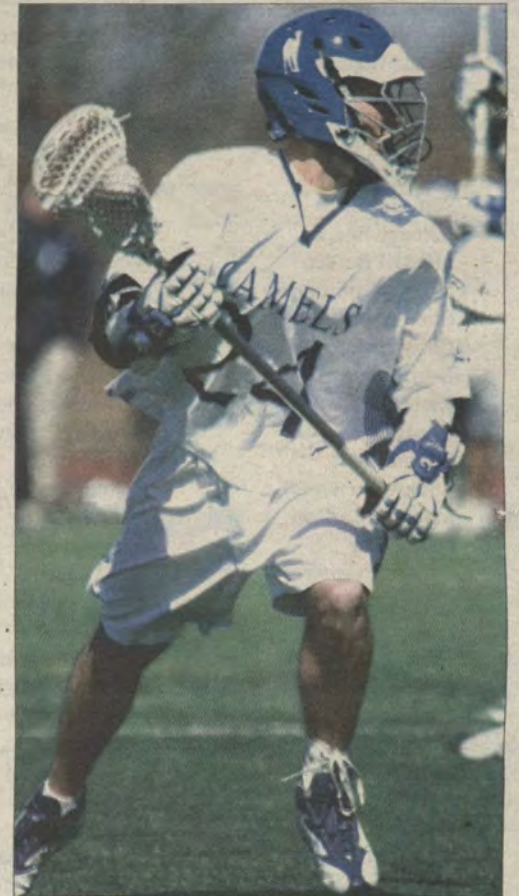
made 15 saves to keep the Camels ahead, and the offense tallied four early goals and scored another five goals as the game went on.

Tufts only trailed by two at the half and had plenty of time to get back in the game, but the Jumbos failed to take the lead. "Every win is exciting. Its tough to win college lacrosse because of the parity," says Coach Cornell. "In that game [against Tufts], we just shot the ball better than we did in our losses to Amherst and Bowdoin."

Despite the team's four losses, Coach Cornell and his players remain positive. They realize that these defeats will help them improve and prepare them for their next game.

The season is still young, and the team continues to work together towards a common goal. "Our goal is to make the NESCAC Tournament and advance a game at a time once we're there," explains Coach Cornell. "That's our goal every year."

Right: Matt Flanagan '08 (Narewski)



NESCAC Scoreboard

MEN'S LACROSSE							
	NESCAC			OVERALL			
	W	L	T	W	L	T	
Middlebury	5	0		7	0		
Wesleyan	3	0		5	2		
Colby	2	2		5	2		
Trinity	2	2		4	4		
Tufts	2	2		5	3		
Bates	2	3		3	6		
Amherst	1	2		6	3		
Bowdoin	1	2		6	3		
CONN	2	4		4	4		
Williams	1	4		2	4		

WOMEN'S LACROSSE							
	NESCAC			OVERALL			
	W	L	T	W	L	T	
Amherst	4	0		8	0		
Middlebury	5	0		5	2		
Bowdoin	1	1		6	2		
Colby	2	2		5	3		
Wesleyan	1	2		4	3		
Tufts	1	3		4	3		
Williams	1	3		2	4		
CONN	1	4		4	5		
Bates	1	4		3	5		

MEN'S TENNIS				
	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Williams	0	0	8	1
Middlebury	2	0	8	3
Bates	1	2	7	2
Trinity	4	0	6	0
Tufts	2	2	6	3
Bowdoin	2	1	4	3
Colby	1	2	4	4
Wesleyan	0	2	5	5
CONN	0	2	3	7
Hamilton	0	2	1	4

WOMEN'S TENNIS				
	NESCAC		OVERALL	
	W	L	W	L
Amherst	1	0	7	0
Middlebury	1	0	7	0
Bowdoin	3	0	5	2
Hamilton	0	1	5	2
Trinity	1	2	7	3
Tufts	3	0	6	3
CONN	0	0	4	3
Wesleyan	1	2	7	5
Colby	0	3	3	6
Bates	1	3	2	6

What to Watch For

GOLF

The Masters 4.10 - 4.13
ESPN

NBA

Phoenix at San Antonio 4.9
ESPN, 9:30 p.m.

Denver at Golden State 4.10
TNT, 8:00 p.m.

Senior Giving Reaches 51 percent after Soiree

Members of the Class of 2008 keeping the giving tradition alive:

Elizabeth Abelow
Zachary Adams
Leigh Ahrens Dorf
Eric Aronsohn
Craig Audin
Caitlin Baptiste
Karin Barklis
Kyle Bartro
Joshua Batts
Sarah Baumann
Ross Behymer
Elizabeth Bennett
Micah Blazar
Stefanie Block
Bethany Boles
Michael Borden
Margaret Bordonaro
Cheo Bourne
Christina Brennan
Lauren Brug
Katherine Buesing
Christopher
Buonincontri
Linnea Camerota
Madelyn Carlson
Nikita Carr
Christine Carter
Christopher Carter
Caroline Castillo
Theresa Chan
Ashley Christie
Christopher Coffey
Jennifer Cohen
Zachary Cohn
Danielle Coleman
Katherine Conway
Rachael Cooke
Eliza Cooper
Thomas Cote
Jacqueline Cousineau
Samantha Couture
Colleen Cowperthwait
Diana Coyne
Lyman Creason
Amy Crespi
Peter Crisafulli
Arielle Curtis
Peter Cyran
Christopher Davis

Emily DeClue
Kate DeConinck
Mackswell Dickson
Claire Dowd
Keith Drake
David Driscoll
Scott Dunay
Kathryn Duncan
Jessica Ebert
Robert Elliott
Sarah Ellison
Whitney Eng
Matthew Engel
Zeynep Erdeniz
John Evans
Ashley Faber
Amy Fellenbaum
Cong Feng
William Fisher
Catherine Flint
Christopher Foote
Meridith Friedman
Milan Fry
Harold Garrity
Jeremy Geller
Neal Gibeault
Lola Glazer
Alyson Glick
Nour Goda
Elyse Goveia
Katherine Graves
Eliza Greenman
Julia Griffin
Sarah Grimaud
Jane Gronner
Basar Gulcu
Zeynep Gundogdu
Alexander Gundry
Victoria Hallowell
Jamie Harris
Anna Harrison
Sarah Hartigan
Elizabeth Hawkins
Adam Haya
Gregory Heller
William Henrich
Rebecca Hodges
Laura Hoffman
Maegan Hoover

Cassandra Horvitz
Matthew Hoza
Adrian Idrizi
Christine Jackson
Matthew Jacobs
Hans Jensen
Michael Johnson
Edward Jose
Kendall Judson
Steven Kamin
Jacob Karlin
Taylor Katz
Daniel Keiser
Angela Keller
Benjamin Kenison
Katrina Kennett
Alec Keon
Robert Kiley
Alexander Krogh-Grabbe
Alexandra Krotinger
Sydney La Londe
Rene LaPlante
Jessica Lawson
Julie Lederman
Matthew Leers
Bethany Lepene
Samuel Lindo
Sarah Lindsay
Thembumenzi Lukhele
Jillian Mauer
Courtney Mayer
Charles McClure
Andrew McCulloch
Jonathan McLean
Jacob Meade
David Meloney
Adrienne Mennitt
Stephen Mery
Lindsay Michel
Aubrey Millen
Mackenzie Moll
Vladimir Morar
Randall Morrison
Stephanie Muller
Amanda Mygatt
Kyle Neidhardt
Kirstin Niver
Sarah Noble

Jane Oliveri
Zachary Olson
Kaitlin O'Neil
Daniel O'Shea
Emily Palten
Bryan Patterson
Sally Pendergast
Carolyn Peterson
Jenna Petok
Eric Plapper
Nicole Porter
Megan Porzio
Alexandra Pressman
Robert Purple
Janneke Quick
Kristen Record
Lauren Reiff
Amy Reiniger
Emily Ricketson
Alyson Ridgway
Ralph Riedel
Laura Robertson
Jennifer Robinson
Winslow Robinson
Julie Rosenman
Arian Rotondi
Romeo Sacripanti
Areti Sakellaris
Jazlen Samboy
Alison Scaramella

Cheshire Schanker
Rachael Scheffrin
Johann-Wilhelm Scheidt
Lori Schippers
Laura Schmidt
Thomas Selby
Katherine Serafin
Melissa Shear
George Sholley
Renata Shypailo
Tyler Silverman
Carolyn Slaughter
Courtney Smith
Katherine Smith
Carley Spencer
Jamie Spiller
Heather Stanish
Allison Stauble
Caitlin Steinke
Jacob Stolar
Adrian Stover
Helen Sullivan
Jonathan Sullivan
Nicholas Sullivan
Jennifer Superson
Jessica Swain
John Swig
Colby Tallman
Emma Tang
Ummuhan Tarhan

Brent Thomas
Daniel Titcomb
Bryanna Tokarz
Theodore Tomich
Sarah Trapido
Jeffrey Trosch
Anthony Tumuhimbise
Sarah Turchin
Caitlyn Turgeon
Julia Turnbull
Caitlin Turner-Woods
Yuko Ueki
Kristen Van Slyke
Sarah VanHooogenstyn
Michelle Vickery
Jacqlyn Wade
Alana Waksman
Kristin Walsh
Mallory Watson
Adam Weber
Rebecca Wells
Aaron Wheeler
Christine Wilson
Alex Wood
Walter Wright
Peter Yannielli
Brett Zolkos
Rachel Zwick

WILD, WILD, WEST

continued from page eleven

a couple games and point guard is by far the hardest position on the floor to integrate into a new system. But Kidd better get comfortable in Dallas soon because the low seeded Mavs will have to play a tough opponent in the first round. Also, their utter lack of a low-post game and a thin-front court may have them watching the rest of the play-offs from home.



The eighth seed: Denver Nuggets. No one wants to play this team. With two of the league's best scorers on their roster (Carmelo Anthony and Allen Iverson) as well as a defensive anchor in Marcus Camby, they are a tough match-up for any team.

Inconsistency and a lack-of commitment to defense have plagued them all year, and I am not sure if we should blame Coach George Karl or the players for their apathy. Either way, this team does not seem destined to very go far.



The ninth (possibly eighth) seed: Golden State Warriors. After a loss to the Mavericks on Wednesday, it's an up road battle for the Warriors. Their problems remain: they can't rebound, their shot selection is questionable, and defense is not their first priority. But, as we all saw during last year's playoffs, everyone should watch out if this team gets in.

Across

1. NBC sportscaster Bob
7. Third degrees, usually
11. PB&J alternative
14. Secret stuff
15. Harvest
16. The old college cry
17. "Coal Miner's Daughter" Oscar-winner Sissy
18. Remedy
20. Call it quits like a maid?
22. Turned tail
23. ___ Z (you name it)
24. "Just you wait, ___ 'ggins..."
25. Almost out of gas
29. Assault rifle
32. Mars or Milky Way unit
33. Without a ___ (broke)
34. Hand-me-down
35. Brighton brew
36. Call it quits like an electrician?
39. "Where ___?"
41. Beginning
42. A pop
43. Sib.
44. Hit head-on
45. "10" actress
49. Film fragment
51. Blue bird
53. U2 producer Brian
54. Call it quits like a cowboy?
60. Attractive
61. High-muck-a-muck
62. "___ Bravo" (John Wayne film)
63. Lewd look
64. State without proof
65. Craving
66. Bitsy beginning
67. Cornhusker rival

Down

1. Big man in Havana
2. Annie of the comics, for one

"Call It Quits"

By Bob Klahn

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16		
17						18			19			
20					21							
22					23			24				
25		26	27	28		29	30	31		32		
		33				34				35		
		36				37				38		
39	40			41				42				
43				44			45			46	47	48
49		50			51	52				53		
54				55	56			57	58	59		
60								61				
62				63				64				
65				66				67				

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3. Gaming guru John
4. Tampico treat
5. Freshly
6. Pseudonym of H. H. Munro
7. Whitney's partner in aviation
8. Fowl facility
9. Desert fruit
10. Broiler accessory
11. The noontime sack of an officeworker?
12. Pigskin pitchout
13. Vega's constellation
19. Mommie deer
21. Equine vote?
26. East Lansing sch.
27. Arctic
28. Oklahoma oil center
30. Herbert Marx
31. Loafed
34. Channels 14 and up
36. After-the-whistle contact
37. "It's Not Unusual" singer
38. Mary of "Where Eagles Dare"
39. Robin Hood's skill
40. "Working Girl" Griffith
45. "See ya"
46. Deli sandwich
47. Make one's blood boil
48. Legit
50. Links letters
52. Irritated
55. Wrinkly tangelo with a bad name
56. Painter Mondrian
57. Jacuzzi's
58. Unaided
59. Prince Charles's game

Will Pac Be Back?

BY JASON STARR '09



I joked in last week's issue that suspended cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones would return to the NFL some-time soon, but apparently many people around the league truly believe that he will be reinstated this season.

In March, ESPN reported that the Detroit Lions, New England Patriots, and the Dallas Cowboys were interested in acquiring the troubled corner from the Tennessee Titans. The Cowboys quickly established themselves as Jones' top suitor and offered the Titans a seventh round draft pick for him. On March 27th, Dallas increased its initial offer and added another player to the deal.

Even though these trade negotiations have stalled, Jones is confident that he will be sent to Dallas. In a recent interview in the *Nashville Tennessean*, he implied that his time with the Titans was over. Similarly, Tennessee's managerial and coaching staff does not expect Jones' off-field conduct to improve, and they have given him permission to seek a trade.

When most people think about Jones' two years in the NFL, they primarily remember that he has been arrested six times since April 2005. They will also recall that Commissioner Roger Goodell suspended him indefinitely without pay last May for his multiple arrests. Despite this suspension, Jones still managed to make the headlines and was accused of punching a woman in an Atlanta strip club in January.

It is only natural—and appropriate—that Pacman's legal record should overshadow anything he did on the field. Despite his violent behavior as well as his inability to stay out of trouble, everyone must recognize that Jones is an extremely talented football player.

In just two years—2005 and 2006—Pacman had four interceptions, nine fumble recoveries, one defensive touchdown, and returned four punts for touchdowns. He has the ability to take over a game every time he touches the ball, and Jerry Jones, the owner of the Cowboys, appears to believe that it is vital for his team to acquire Pacman.

These trade discussions have already experienced several setbacks, and there will probably be a few more, but this trade will be completed. Tennessee's head coach, Jeff Fisher, and team owner, K. S. "Bud" Adams, are fed up with Jones, but they recognize that he has

enormous trade value and will not part with him until they receive the perfect deal.

The Cowboys will eventually be Pacman's new team, because Jerry Jones loves to gamble on flashy superstars with big personalities. After the 2006 season, Jones elected to retain wide receiver Terrell Owens and chose not to resign head coach Bill Parcells.

Although Owens had a spectacular season in 2007, Dallas' new coach, Wade Phillips, could not control the team or adequately prepare his players for the playoffs. Parcells never would have let the Romo-Owens-Jessica Simpson drama escalate or allow it to pose a significant distraction to his team.

Jones' weakness for these hotheads cost him during the playoffs, and it will also cause him to make another big mistake and acquire Pacman Jones. Despite all of the excitement surrounding these trade talks, everyone seems to have forgotten that Pacman is still suspended and may not be eligible to play next season.

On April 1st, Commissioner Goodell said that he was "encouraged" by Pacman's comments, but this statement is clearly Goodell's attempt at an April Fools joke. Goodell has always treated Pacman with severity; he rejected Jones' plea for leniency and refused to reinstate him early last November. Is there any real evidence that suggests that Goodell will have a change of heart when he re-evaluates Pacman's situation before the start of training camp?

Trouble seems to follow Pacman everywhere, and he has not made much of an attempt to improve his conduct off the field. The NFL can't afford any more of that. While Jones has an incredible amount of talent, it is foolish to actively pursue him because he will not be playing football in 2008. Jerry Jones, however, will take a chance on Pacman and trade away several draft picks which will ultimately prevent the Cowboys from being Super Bowl contenders next season.



sports editor

The Wild, Wild West

BY BEN EAGLE '09



While many are captivated by March Madness, another madness pervades my thoughts. Who will win the NBA's Western

Division? Will this finally be the year Kobe wins one by himself? Can T-Mac finally get out of the first round, even without Yao? Let's analyze each team's strengths and weaknesses.



The one seed: New Orleans Hornets. Where did this team come from? After a mediocre 39-43 finish, no one expected much from this team.

After Chris Paul's meteoric rise to stardom, however, this team looks poised to maintain the one seed. Paul lifts the play of everyone around him, and the team is full of role players who know they are just that. But come post-season time, this team may be too young to travel deep into the playoffs.



The two seed: San Antonio Spurs. Two weeks ago, this team could have missed the playoffs.

Now, with everyone healthy again, they are pushing New Orleans for first place. The Spurs' style of play may not be exciting, but it sure is effective. They smother you on defense, and there may be no combination more lethal than Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, and Manu Ginobili on offense. These guys have been to the finals several times, which means they'll know how to get business done in the playoffs.



The three seed: Los Angeles Lakers. Here's the real wild-card of the West. When they are healthy, they have

the best starting five in the league (Jordan Farmar, Kobe Bryant, Lamar Odom, Pau Gasol, and Andrew Bynum.) But, health has been a major issue. Gasol has been gimpy as of late, and Bynum hasn't touched the floor since January 14th. Will these two be rusty come play-off time? Will they even play? One thing is guaranteed: Kobe Bryant is the game's most talented player. He is tired of early playoff exits, and he will do

sports editor

anything to win this year.



The four seed: Utah Jazz. This is a hard team to figure out. Talent wise, they rival the Lakers. The combo of Deron Williams,

Carlos Boozer, and Andrei Kirilenko is downright scary. The problem is they don't play defense, and they are a horrid 16-22 away from home. While this doesn't seem like a recipe for success, the team has been winning all season, and it would be foolish to discount the experience the team picked up when they went to the Western Conference Finals last year.



The fifth seed: Phoenix Suns. The end of the Run n' Gun offense was a sad day for me. They were one bad David Stern ruling

away from the Western Conference Finals, and they had won 60 games two of the past three years. Why mess with success? Now, after winning ten of their last thirteen with Shaquille O'Neal on board, I am a little less sad. The game slows down in the playoffs, and the Suns have prepared for that by acquiring O'Neal. Also, watch out for Amare Stoudemire these playoffs. In 22 games with Shaq, Amare has averaged almost 30 points.



The sixth seed: Houston Rockets. After winning 22 straight games, Houston has become somewhat stagnant. As great

as that streak was, we all knew this was coming. The Rockets' role players are coming back to earth, and Tracy McGrady can only do so much. Unfortunately, I think this is another year where T-Mac does not make it out of the first round.



The seventh seed: Dallas Mavericks. The Kidd trade has seemed to set them back, but records

can be deceiving. Dirk Nowitzki missed

SEE WILD, WILD WEST

continued on ten

Possible and Impossible Solutions for Kosovo: Avoiding Civil War in the Heart of Europe

By Stalinslav Andreev '11

contributing writer



On February 17, 2008, Kosovo, a small Serbian province, declared independence and proclaimed itself the newest country in Europe. Since then, the province with an area slightly smaller than Connecticut and a population of about 2.2 million people has drawn world attention numerous times. As expected, the recognition of Kosovo created stark opposition between the United States (which recognized it immediately) and Russia (which still claims, along with Serbia, that the independence of Kosovo is a "breach of international law"), as well as divided the European nations. Sadly, but logically, the outbreak of violence did not wait long: Serbs attacked border posts in northern Kosovo (on Feb.20), stormed the US Embassy in Belgrade (on Feb.22), and engaged in deadly clashes with NATO soldiers in the region (March 18). People who have not followed the issue closely might ask the logically following question: What is going on in the Balkans, yet again?

Although the sources of the problems in Kosovo are numerous, the demographical composition of the population is immediately recognizable as a source. Kosovo is composed of an Albanian majority (about 90%) and a Serbian minority, both of which are marred by the shadow of a vicious civil war. Between 1997 and 1999, Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president of Yugoslavia (of which Serbia and Kosovo were part) conducted a campaign of extermination against the Albanian population, which was ended by the NATO air-strikes against Belgrade in 1999. Eight years later, foreign military forces are still protecting the peace by preventing the ethnic conflict between Albanians and Serbs from unfolding in bloodshed. Ever since 1999, Albanians have claimed

it impossible to feel secure as an administrative part of Serbia, and have pushed for independence, which finally became a fact on Feb. 17, 2008. On the opposite pole, despite its size, Kosovo is regarded as having extreme importance for Serbians, because they believe that this region is the cradle of their culture. Therefore, they cannot accept an Albanian-dominated independent Kosovo. This is why attacks, such as the ones against NATO soldiers or the US Embassy, are extremely unfortunate, but not at all unexpected.

The uninterrupted presence of 16,000 NATO/U.N. soldiers in Kosovo is a strong indicator that the two ethnic groups cannot live together peacefully. Another such sign is the fact that the Serbian minority in Kosovo has continuously boycotted elections in the region, thus strictly following the directions from Belgrade to not be part of any separate Kosovar institutions. For a person familiar with the work of civil war scholars, such as Chaim Kaufmann from Lehigh University, it seems convincing that violence hardens identity notions and strengthens nationalist feelings so much that the two ethnic groups cannot peacefully inhabit the same territory and participate in the creation of common institutions. For a person with strong common sense, the fact that somebody is ready to attack NATO soldiers or to storm the US Embassy (regardless of the potential consequences) probably demonstrates the existence of strong nationalist feelings that overshadow any potential desire for a peaceful coexistence. Therefore, it seems evident that identities cannot be reformed, so that Serbians and Albanians occupy the same administrative territory in harmony and peace.

Keeping this in mind, the idea of an independent Kosovo is legitimate and support for it is reasonable. In addition, independence somehow compensates the Albanian population for the

atrocities of Milosevic that it had to undergo. Therefore, the US categorical support for the declaration of independence is a morally and politically correct act. As the official State Department Statement on Feb.18, 2008, goes "independence is the only viable option to promote stability in the region."

A closer look at the statement, however, reveals the major problem with US policy towards the future of the independent Kosovo, namely – a paradox, associated with the blind support for the creation of a "democratic and multi-ethnic Kosovo." Granted, every single supporter of peace and democracy in the world would like to see Serbians and Albanians build together a harmonious multinational state that supports equality and promotes human rights. However, the realities of the conflict between the two groups cause the idealistic "multinational" element of the picture to seem highly implausible. The strong support for the creation of a multi-ethnic state of Kosovo, in fact, seems very contradictory, having in mind that Serbia was such a state, and the US strongly supported its break-up as legitimate and necessary.

Therefore, it is time for policymakers to find resort in the only "school of thought" that includes effective solutions to virtually all problems: pragmatism. Ultimately, the goal of implementing any decision about Kosovo should not aim at supporting one group or the other, but at reducing to minimum the risks of a potential civil war from breaking out. Therefore, the support of key players on the international political scene should be oriented towards a compromise that makes violence difficult, costly, and thus undesirable, and that allows foreign military forces to eventually return to their homelands. The only such solutions seems to be the partition of Kosovo along ethnic lines, so that the Serbian minority does not feel threatened, and Serbia has no legitimate grounds for re-claiming Kosovo. In fact, such a solution was pro-

posed to the United Nations by Serbia on March 25, 2008, which indicates that the country was ready to make significant concessions from its initial claims over the entire Kosovo. Now, the international community has the challenging task of deciding whether it wants the peace in the region still to be ensured only by the presence of foreign military forces, or has the capacity to broker a compromise deal that would truly reduce the prospects of future violence in the heart of Europe.



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Wrestling Conn Apathy To What Extent Are We Responsible?

By Lilah Raptopoulos '11

opinion editor



There are a few individual aspects of Conn I've consistently seen our students take pride in: Floralia, our knack for recycling, soup and bread day at Freeman, CELS. The other day I overheard a tour guide rolling down a ten-minute list of the opportunities we have here. I then stepped around them to the post office, so I could mail my midterm transfer grades.

The list of Conn's attributes is endless. We are part of a college community that prides itself on being intellectual, respectful, friendly, clean, professional, stimulating, fun. But there is something fundamentally missing that has the potential to pull us together, to get students to go from saying "I like my school" to "I love my school," and that's school spirit. We owe it to each other to pride ourselves on being close-knit.

Unfortunately, I've heard Conn referred to as the Safety. Often students come in with low expectations, and instead of working to change what they don't like, they label the school's flaws and stereotypes and then settle, or they apply to transfer. The buzz of transferring among freshmen hangs constantly and uncomfortably in the air here, to a higher extent than its brother schools, but not for any reasons that we can't fix ourselves. External reasons vary from a lack of diversity to a feeling of on-campus isolation to the fact that it's just not fun enough. But I am convinced that everything would be worth it if we were surrounded by people who loved where they are. I don't think any of us really want to leave. People don't need to uproot just to find a place with school pride if we have the potential to cultivate it ourselves. Just as school apathy builds more school apathy, school spirit builds more school spirit.

I have seen glimpses of our potential. Last Friday, the Eclipse show brought together enough kids to make the 1962 room a fire hazard. There were rows upon rows of students standing behind each other, and sitting in aisles. The environment of the show was unpretentious and wholehearted and proud. I have never seen so many students leave an event with such unanimous excitement. That's school pride, and it's

contagious.

So now what? What could bring more than 10 spectators to the CC Dems vs. CC Republican debate, and what can get more than two students to write for the opinions section of our paper? I've heard it excused as the nature of our student body, but that's something I refuse to accept. This is a competitive school, and we are motivated students. But have we settled for apathy the way many apparently settled for Connecticut College? Because when it comes down to it, we're here for the long run. We have the sponsored events, performances, lectures, sports games, great professors, and resources. Maybe we're missing a football team? Maybe we need some CC chants? I don't know. But it's something we need to start thinking about, because in the end, our happiness is our responsibility, and we have every opportunity.



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SXSW 2008: It's All About The Music, Baby

BY CAROLYN SEBASKY '09



a&e editor

A sea of hipsters flows through the streets of Austin, Texas day in and day out as every type of music imaginable explodes from almost every "bar turned concert venue" door. With over 60 venues and the big acts playing from just 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. every night, the \$1,200 for airfare and SXSW badge (plus god only knows how much for drinks) logically just doesn't seem worth it. But SXSW is *anything* but a waste of money. South by Southwest is every indie music lover's dream: five 13-hour days of concerts given by artists who most people have never heard of (and there are bands that even you don't know).

Even if you are forced to forego seeing YACHT to see No Age (big disappointment), or if you can't make it to see Okkervil River because the venue is too far from 6th Street, the sheer volume of incredibly talented up-and-coming musicians is enough to draw fans from all over the United States, and even from overseas. There was a couple in our hotel from Australia, and about half of the eighth floor was middle-aged men from Ireland.

That's the other great thing about SXSW; the variety of age groups represented is incredible. It isn't abnormal to see a balding 50-year-old record producer bobbing along to Georgie James, or a young mother with a baby in a harness (wearing protective headphones, of course) at a Destroyer show at one o'clock in the morning. It is an incredibly pleasant change from the usual elegantly disheveled hipsters at shows who

are only there to be seen, and rarely pay attention to the music. Everyone at SXSW is there for the music, and only the music, which results in an infinitely better crowd dynamic.

The other incredible thing about SXSW is the size of the venues and what that does to the concert experience. While it is frustrating that The Parish hit capacity at about 200 people for Vampire Weekend (thank God for private parties!), Shout Out Louds, and countless other acts, the tiny size gives a much more intimate feeling to every show. It was definitely a once in a lifetime experience to see Nada Surf play an acoustic set with about 70 people in the room, or to see Kevin Devine play a hotel lobby while sitting on the carpet right in front of him.

South by Southwest was the busiest, most unique and exciting "vacation" I have ever been on. The band research begins as soon as online blogs begin to leak potential showcasing artists, and the spreadsheet planning of nightly concerts begins weeks in advance. The festival is like a tidal wave of new music knocking you over, and the riptide keeps pulling even after you leave.

You begin by checking out the hyped bands like MGMT and Yeasayer before you get to Austin to see if it is worth fitting them into your jam-packed schedule. When you return home, after sleeping for about two days, you spend hours online educating yourself about the artists whose shows you stumbled into or that people were buzzing about in taxis, like Bon Iver and Be Your Own Pet.

For \$1,200 I'd say I made out pretty well, and the wake of the wave is still rocking me.

"This is my Body, This is my Software"

BY ARETI A. SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief



Pressures on the body to look and perform a certain way are not new, but last week Connecticut College welcomed Orlan, who challenged the audience to rethink the body.

Orlan specializes in "carnal art," which she feels does not immediately imply pain. Her work is both intimate and social, weaving her personal history with Western and non-Western history to appropriate and de-code the pressures on the body from institutions like the Judeo-Christian tradition.

The *Carnal Art Manifesto* states that the body is a ready-made, carnal art does not redeem, it resists Christian art and the denial of pleasure, and transforms the body into language to assert the artists' independence. While she now works with digital photography and non-Western influences to re-create photographs of herself as pre-Columbian specimens, she is known for using surgery as her mode of expression. The literal work of altering her body was her piece of work. She uses this performance space to express the violence rendered onto the body.

No, that does not mean she undergoes surgery to change her look in the same vein as cosmetic surgery. Orlan brings the camera and props into the operating room. There was a live simulcast of her *Omnipresence* surgery at New York's Sandra Gering Gallery to the Center Georges Pompidou in Paris and the McLuhan Center in Toronto. Orlan's face was transformed into a hybrid of facial features derived from notable pieces of Western art by masters like DaVinci, Botticelli, Gerard, and others.

Aiming to investigate possible images of what could represent herself,

Orlan says, "I am never what I have." Perhaps many of us can sympathize with the disconnection and/or frustration with our bodies in this social climate of intense physical scrutiny. Orlan envisions her art and performance-as-art as a vehicle to conflate external and internal "incarnations" of the self.

This interplay of the natural and the unnatural comes to the forefront through her surgeries. While going under the knife may seem like a decidedly passive method to alter the body—as opposed to a strict diet regime—Orlan is known to read theoretical texts and draw portraits until she cannot control her faculties any longer. Moreover, in the constant quest to dominate the body, Orlan seems to be one of the most radical in trying to deconstruct the reasoning that goes into body-image and the accompanying power struggle.

That's not to say her lecture entirely makes sense and that no idiosyncrasies exist. However, the ultimate goal of her surgeries, and now the digital imaging, is to demonstrate the diverging and converging points of identity. Her face is the most readily used canvas because it is in the face that identity is so strongly rooted and recognized.

At the fruit and vegetable market she pinned photographs of her body parts for sale to a clotheslines as to highlight the fragmentation of the body and its exploitation. Her presentation, and her physical presence with black and white Cruella de-Ville hair, temple implants coated with glitter, black-frame circle glasses, sneakers and black nylon skater-pants with neon patches, indicate that Orlan is a master of self-fashioning.

Some critics and casual observers deem her mentally unstable, but to maintain radical politics and create such art, she is more courageous than anything else.

The iPod Shuffle - Areti Sakellaris, Editor-in-Chief

Orange Juice "Falling and Laughing"

M.I.A. "Bucky Done Gun"

Death Cab For Cutie "Gridlock Caravans"

Simian Mobile Disco "I Believe"

Wilco "Comment"

Elliott Smith "Whatever (Folk Song In C)"

Goldfrapp "Happiness"

The Hold Steady "The Swish"

Sia "Natale's Song"

The Raveonettes "With My Eyes Closed"



April 10-12**Show A, Thurs. 7:30, Sat. 7:30****Show B, Fri. 7:30, Sat. 2:00**

Choreography by the Connecticut College Senior Dance Majors 2008

The Shift to Parallel

With guest artist Nicholas Leichter '93
and Paul Taylor's Aureole, re-staged by Andy LeBeau

Palmer Auditorium
\$12, \$6 students 860 439 ARTS

Design by Julia Griffin, photo by Kate Eisman

The Reconstruction of Aureole choreographed by Paul Taylor was made possible by American Masterpieces: Dance, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, which is administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts with Dance/USA.



DANCE/USA



Dance Department Senior Dancer Concerts

NEW LONDON, Conn. - The Department of Dance will present two programs featuring senior dance majors, titled: "The Shift to Parallel" April 10th-12th. The concerts will present original choreography by eleven senior dance majors, a premier work by visiting guest artist Nicholas Leichter '94 and Paul Taylor's Aureole, re-staged by Andy LeBeau.

This year's senior dance majors are Halee Beucler, Jacqueline Cousineau, Becca Elias, Ali-Hollowell, Zenas Hutcheson, Dasha Lavrennikov, Cyan Maroney, Kaitlin Morse, Jenna Petok, Lindsey Rose, and Lisa Rothstein.

The senior thesis work is the last component of a year-long creative process and a requirement of all graduating dance majors. The process began with an advanced composition course in the fall semester taught by Department Chair and William Meredith Associate Professor of Dance, David Dorfman. Dorfman and this class of graduating seniors share a special connection; Dorfman's first year as a full time faculty member was also the graduating seniors' first year at Connecticut College. "It's been great to have watched this class grow over the past four years we've been here together," Dorfman said.

The process of creating the works and planning the concerts began in late January in a seminar including

discussions of artistic processes, sharing of ideas and planning of the logistical aspects of the show. Lan-Lan Wang, Professor of Dance, has led the seminar, assisted with the planning of the shows and most importantly, helped the students to develop their works, a process she has enjoyed immensely: "This is a very strong class of seniors, I have been anticipating this moment since they came to Conn. It has been a great pleasure watching them grow through the years, I am very pleased with their works and I look forward to seeing their fruition on stage with all the finishing touches."

The senior concerts, in addition to featuring the thesis works choreographed by the dance majors, has traditionally featured one or two works by professional guest artists. This year the concert will feature a new work by CC alum, choreographer Nicholas Leichter, and the re-staging of Paul Taylor's Aureole.

Aureole, widely considered one of Taylor's finest works and a masterpiece in its own right had its world premier at Connecticut College in Palmer Auditorium as part of the 1962 American Dance Festival. The reconstruction of Aureole was made possible by American Masterpieces: Dance, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, which is administered by the New England Foundation for the Arts with Dance/USA. The 20 minutes piece will be performed by four differ-

ent casts—one for each concert, an ambitious undertaking but one that underscores the dance department's commitment to student development. Professor Lan-Lan Wang stated: "It is very exciting to have our students learn a great piece by one of the greatest living dance makers—Paul Taylor."

The senior dance majors are honored to present their choreography alongside the work of such respected guest artists. Halee Beucler, a senior dance major stated: "I am thrilled about the concert. It's the culmination of a lot of hard work and it's been a great experience planning and preparing for these concerts with my fellow majors."

Concerts will be performed at the Palmer Auditorium:

Program A: April 10 & 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Program B: April 11 at 7:30 p.m. and April 12 at 2:00 p.m.

A pre-performance talk on Aureole will be held on Saturday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Palmer 202, including veteran Paul Taylor dancers Patrick Corbin and Andy LeBeau.

For tickets call (860) 439-ARTS: \$5 students and senior citizens; \$8 faculty and community

WEEKLY CALENDAR

April 9 - April 15

WEDNESDAY

ON-GOING

The Ubiquitous Chapbook, all day, Shain

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition, all day, Cummings

EVENT

Mirch Masala Indian Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Cro

Camel Knitters, 12:00 p.m., Oasis Snack Shop

Relaxation and Meditation, 3:30 p.m., Chapel Library

SPORTS

Tennis vs. Trinity, 3:30 p.m.

EVENT

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition Reception, 4:00 p.m., Cummings

Interfaith Dinner and Dialogue, 5:30 p.m., Chapel Library

SPORTS

Water Polo vs. Queens College, 7:30 p.m., Lott Natatorium

FRIDAY (continued)

New Superconducting Detectors for Astronomy, 3:30 p.m., Olin 111

EVENT

Shabbat Dinner, 6:00 p.m., Freeman Dining Hall

Senior Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., Palmer Auditorium

Kumi Ogano in Concert, 8:00 p.m., Evans Hall, Cummings

EXHIBIT

"Well-Hung: Anything on Paper," 8:00 p.m., Coffee Grounds

SATURDAY

ON-GOING

The Ubiquitous Chapbook, all day, Shain

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition, all day, Cummings

Watercolors Through Eastern and Western Eyes: Paintings by Chiang Chien-fei, all day, Chu Room, Shain

David Dorfman Dance Residency, all day

EVENT

Mamacoke Mysteries: A Spring Hike with with Beverly Chomiak, 9:00 a.m., RR tracks on Benham Ave.

SPORTS

Men's Lacrosse vs. Nichols College, 1:00 p.m.

EVENT

Senior Dance Concert, 2:00 p.m., Palmer Auditorium

Roman Catholic Vigil Mass, 5:00 p.m., Chapel

Senior Dance Concert Pre-Performance Talk, 6:30 p.m., Palmer, 202

Senior Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., Palmer Auditorium

SUNDAY

ON-GOING

The Ubiquitous Chapbook, all day, Shain

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition, all day, Cummings

David Dorfman Dance Residency, all day

SPORTS

Water Polo vs. Utica College, 10:30 a.m., Lott Natatorium

EVENT

Katie Buesing '08, Senior Voice Recital, 3:00 p.m., Chapel

EVENT

Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry, 6:00 p.m., Chapel

MONDAY

ON-GOING

The Ubiquitous Chapbook, all day, Shain

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition, all day, Cummings

Watercolors Through Eastern and Western Eyes: Paintings by Chiang Chien-fei, all day, Chu Room, Shain

David Dorfman Dance Residency, all day

FITNESS

Personal Trainer, 12:00 p.m., Fitness Center

LECTURE

"Finding the Deep River Within: The Art of Slowing Down in a 24/7 World," by Abby Seixas, 1:00 p.m., Olin 014

SPORTS

Tennis vs. Brandeis University, 3:30 p.m.

EVENT

Women's Center Programming Committee, 4:00 p.m., Women's Center

Research Careers Forum, 4:30 p.m., Bill 106

Habitat for Humanity, 10:15 p.m., Larrabee Common Room

TUESDAY

ON-GOING

The Ubiquitous Chapbook, all day, Shain

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition, all day, Cummings

Watercolors Through Eastern and Western Eyes: Paintings by Chiang Chien-fei, all day, Chu Room, Shain

David Dorfman Dance Residency, all day

EVENT

Latino/a Heritage Month Planning Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Pepsi Room, Unity House

SPORTS

Men's Lacrosse vs. Wheaton College, 4:30 p.m.

LECTURE

Chemistry Seminar, 4:30 p.m., Brown, Hale Lab

FITNESS

Personal Trainer, 5:00 p.m., Cro's Nest

Community Yoga Class, 5:30 p.m., 1941 Room

EVENT

Sex & Excess: Surviving the Party, 7:30 p.m., Cro's Nest

THURSDAY

EXHIBIT

The Ubiquitous Chapbook, all day, Shain

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition, all day, Cummings

Personal Trainer, 12:00 p.m., Fitness Center

LECTURE

"Le Goutte Choreographique" with Brigitte Dumez, 4:15 p.m., Blaustein 210

EVENT

Gallery talk and painting demonstration by Chiang Chien-fei, 4:30 PM

FITNESS

Personal Trainer, 5:00 p.m., Fitness Center and Cro's Nest

SPORTS

Water Polo vs. Harvard University, 7:30 p.m., Lott Natatorium

EVENT

Senior Dance Concert, 7:30 p.m., Palmer Auditorium

FRIDAY

ON-GOING

The Ubiquitous Chapbook, all day, Shain

All Student Art Show and Art Minor Exhibition, all day, Cummings

LECTURE

Common Hour: "Speaking Out About Being Out," 11:45 a.m., Blaustein 210