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From Addiction To Fiction

A look into the life of Professor Blanche Boyd

EMILY SILBER
CONTRIBUTOR

Blanche Boyd is the first to admit that hers is an unlikely story, from the depths of addiction to the solid stability of life as a wife, mother and college professor. But she has harnessed that journey into a life of writing and storytelling. "My life has been so wild, with such painful passages in it," she says as she sits down across from me at a booth in

the Blue Camel Café. "By telling my story I give my students permission to trust me."

Boyd, who is now the Roman and Tatiana Weller Professor of English and Writer-in-Residence at Connecticut College, was born in Charleston, South Carolina to a family of "overt racists" which inspired one of her books, *The Redneck Way of Knowledge*. Even with their discriminatory undertones, Boyd admits that they

were "kind and goodhearted people, without much respect for reason," a quality that she valued most of all. "My mother used to say, 'you're too smart for your own good' and I thought, what could that possibly mean? I sent her *The Redneck Way of Knowledge* one time and she left me a message saying that I turned out to be a better writer than she thought."

Boyd pauses and laughs a little before saying, "Although that's not the

whole quote. My mother went on to say that I have a chip on my shoulder about sex and drugs."

She began her academic journey at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where she received a C+ in English her first semester before being more or less asked to leave. "I was drunk all the time," Boyd explains, "and a trouble maker. I used to hypnotize people. I told the Dean I was going to quit school and

get married and she said, 'good.' I married a man who wouldn't put up with my drinking. He didn't even let me have a television. He told me to get serious, get a job and get my life together. I had never been able to listen to anyone before. He was a smart, stable, nice man and we loved each other."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

A Poetic Analysis of "Boyfriend"

by the illustrious wordsmith Justin Bieber

AYLA ZURAW-FRIEDLAND
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

On the surface, the song by this young "artist," if we can even call him that, may seem like simply another contribution to the inanities of today's music and the return of the "boy band" genre; however, through poetic analysis I was able to find many disturbing undertones to this deceptively innocent tune that fills the heads of so many youth as it plays perpetually over the radio.

The simple narrative of the song follows the efforts of a young fellow

as he attempts to woo a young lady with promises of his virtue and honesty, and at one point, the prospect of a melted cheese product. According to the title, his eventual goal is to become her "boyfriend" through these offerings.

The lyrics of the first verse are as follows:

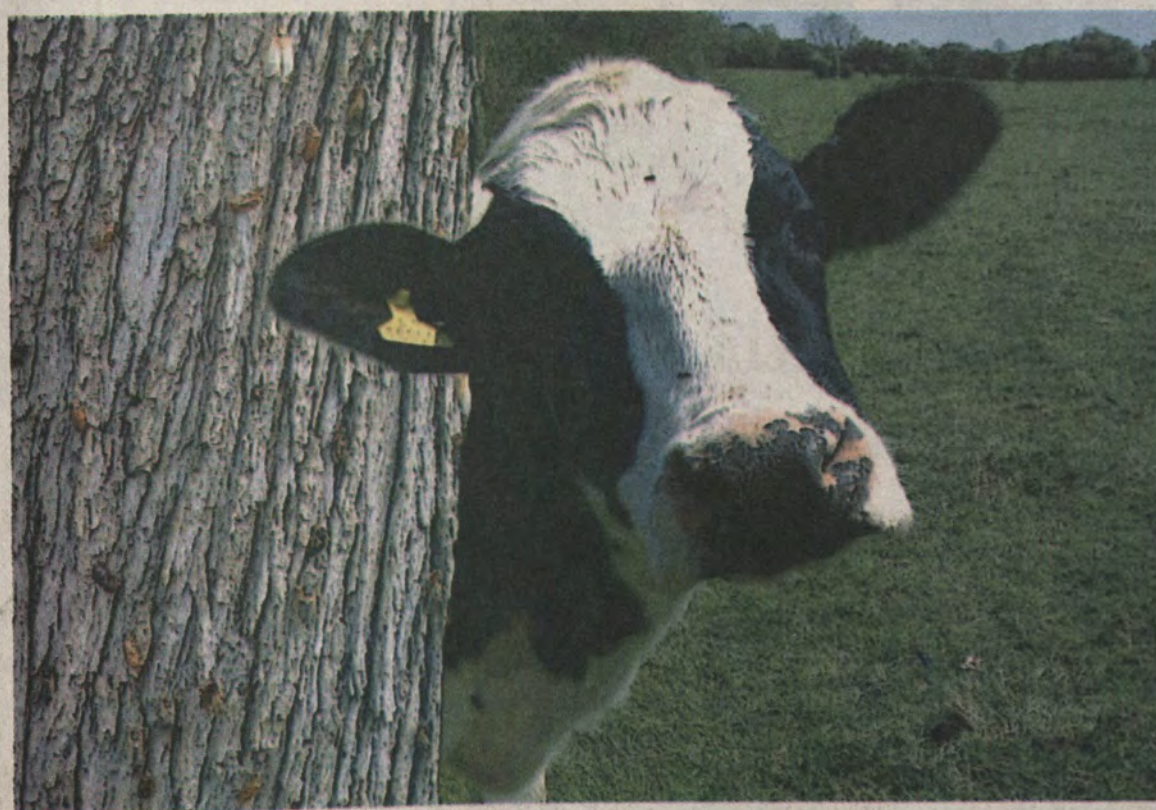
*"If I was your boyfriend, I'd never let you go
I can take you places you ain't never been before"*

*Baby take a chance or you'll never ever know
I got money in my hands that I'd really like to blow
Swag swag swag, on you
Chillin' by the fire while we eatin' fondue
I don't know about me but I know about you
So say hello to falsetto in three two swag."*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Where's the Beef?



HEATHER HOLMES
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"Pink slime." The name itself is enough to cause a stomachache. But if you eat meat—and you most likely do—then you've almost certainly eaten pink slime, too. According to ABC News, pink slime, or "lean finely textured beef" (LFTB) refers to "waste trimmings" cooked at low heat, separated by a centrifuge and "sprayed with ammonia gas to kill bacteria." Are you hungry yet? Dig in, because pink slime is an additive in roughly 70% of all American supermarket ground beef.

Food preservation has existed for thousands of years in the form of methods such as pickling and salting. Defenders of pink slime would argue that ammonia-treated beef belongs in the same benign category. It's just the wave of the future, after all. Rick Perry, accompanied by several other governors, recently took a tour of a Beef Products Inc. plant and donned a bright yellow t-shirt with an unforgettable slogan:

"Dude, it's beef!"

Governor Perry is half right—pink slime was beef at one point, but after the ammonium hydroxide process, the most generous possible description for the substance is "meat substitute." Recently, several fast food chains and supermarkets have come forth with a promise to ban meat products that contain LFTB. In the frenzy following the recent media coverage of pink slime, some products now specify that they do not contain pink slime. However, the vast majority of ground beef containing the waste trimmings goes unlabeled as such. Ammonium hydroxide gas is considered a "processing aid," according to Food Safety News—something that aids food production, but does not merit inclusion on the list of ingredients (even when it's a component of one of the main ingredients, as is the case here!)

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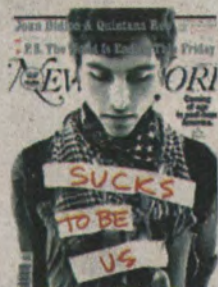
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APRIL 9, 2012

THE COLLEGE VOICE

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Editorials

On a recent weekend, a group of Conn students went to the Tiki bar at the Bulkeley House restaurant on Bank Street in New London. While the details of that night are murky, how it ended is not in question: a student was threatened with a knife by someone at the bar who was not a Conn student, and the police had to resolve the situation.

The students who were involved with the incident were left startled by the possibility of violence on a night out. From our perspective here at the Voice, what happened raises important questions about the current state of our social and drinking culture. What does this mean? Are we losing the sense of community that used to be somewhat prevalent amongst the campus community during our freshman and even sophomore year?

There is not necessarily a connection between the specificities of the bar incident and the shifting social environment at our school, but it raises the issue of the recent drive to get off campus in order to have fun on weekends. It seems that more and more students are driving or taking cabs into New London to go to bars downtown and elsewhere.

From our recollection, it seems that the eagerness to go to bars is stronger now than it was during our earlier years here. When we were underclassmen, we met many of our older friends at parties on campus, and we bonded with our own class by spending time with them in the places we lived, both during the week and on the weekend. It seems that the time for these interactions is no more. What is driving this change? Why are students now seemingly unsatisfied with the social scene on campus?

Perhaps because the social arrangements on campus are changing for the worse. Campus Safety has cracked down on floor parties and large gatherings across campus. Thursday has ceased to be a significant partying night. Traffic at the Cro Bar has increased. The Office of Residential Education and Living has lectured Abbey House residents about their sullied "reputation," while they have chided those who live in the Ridge apartments, a traditional site for large-scale partying, for hosting big gatherings.

In such an environment, no wonder that we are increasingly looking elsewhere for fun.

We are not saying that there is anything wrong with partying at New London bars. We have done so, and enjoyed it. But it should not become our only weekend option: we came to Conn for the vaunted closeness of its campus community, for the sense of home that it engenders. In other words, we didn't come to Conn for the New London social life. We think the college is in danger of eroding the sense of space that has made it great.

Whatever tightening of our social life that various parts of the college's leadership is trying to implement should be liberalized. That is in everyone's interests—we would enjoy campus life more; there would be fewer opportunities for challenging incidents such as what happened at the Tiki bar; and we would be a happier population. Furthermore, we predict that a less colorful campus social scene will mean lower matriculation for new and incoming classes at the college who are expecting to inherit an earlier model of campus living.

Avoiding that possibility is in the administration's interests.

Already, those living on campus, including us, feel a sense of alienation where before we felt a sense of community. That shouldn't be. Both the students and the administration should work to make campus life more amenable to gathering and partying. If we strike a positive balance, students will be happier and will leave less frequently, engendering the strong sense of community that Connecticut College once had.

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

World News

COMPILED BY IPEK BAKIR & MEREDITH BOYLE

THE AMERICAS

UNITED STATES— An anonymous businessman from Vietnam bought a one-person town in Wyoming. During his first visit to the US, the Vietnamese businessman went to Wyoming to purchase the one-person town for \$900,000. He bought the town after winning the auction that was between five other people. The bidding started from \$100,000, and ended with the businessman's proposal.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

PAKISTAN— A Pakistani military base in the Himalayan Mountains is still recovering from a devastating avalanche that hit earlier this weekend. Of the 135 people reported missing, none had been found as of late Saturday. Officials assume that they are trapped beneath 70 feet of snow, close to the Indian border.

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA— The Easter Bunny has been replaced in Australia. Conservationists in the land down under have been trying to get the country to adopt the Easter Bilby rather than the classic Easter mascot. A bilby is a rare marsupial native to Australia, whereas rabbits are considered pests and unwanted. The largest Australian chocolate company, Darrell Lea, has already adopted the Easter Bilby and is urging others to do the same.

AFRICA

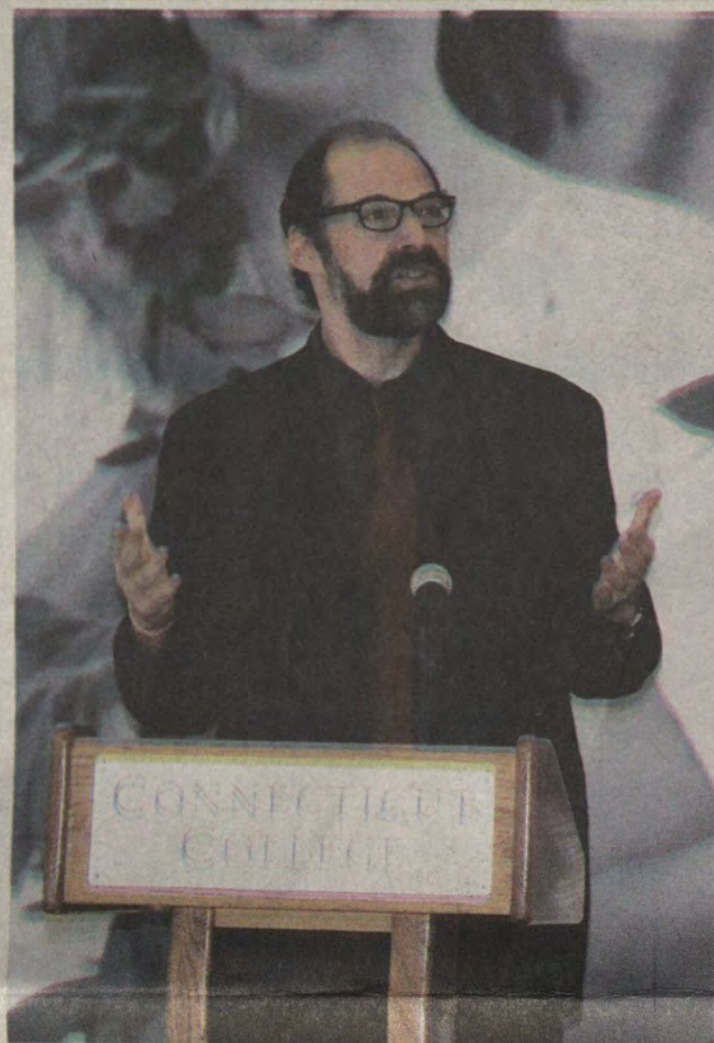
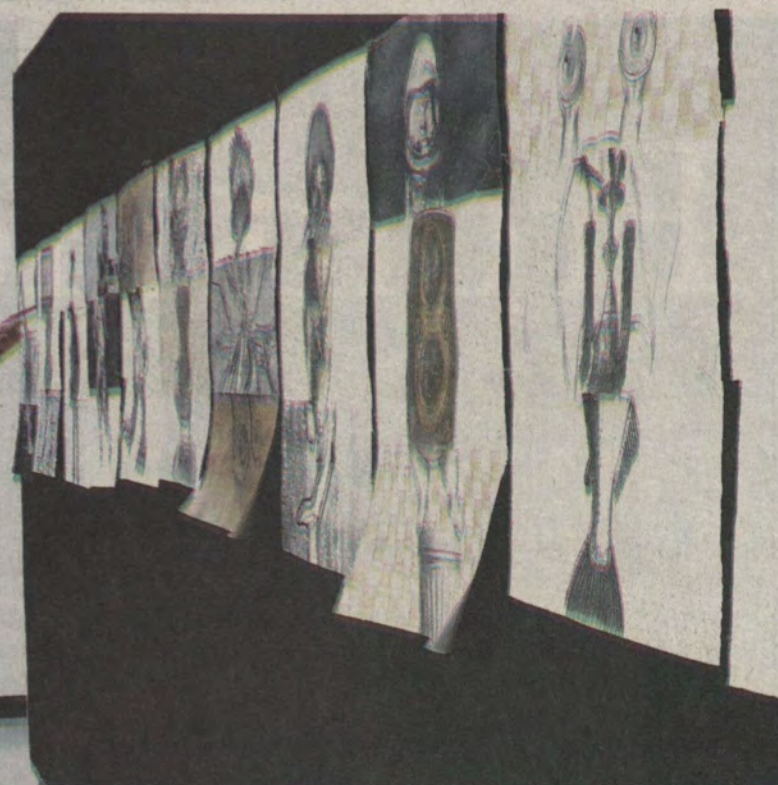
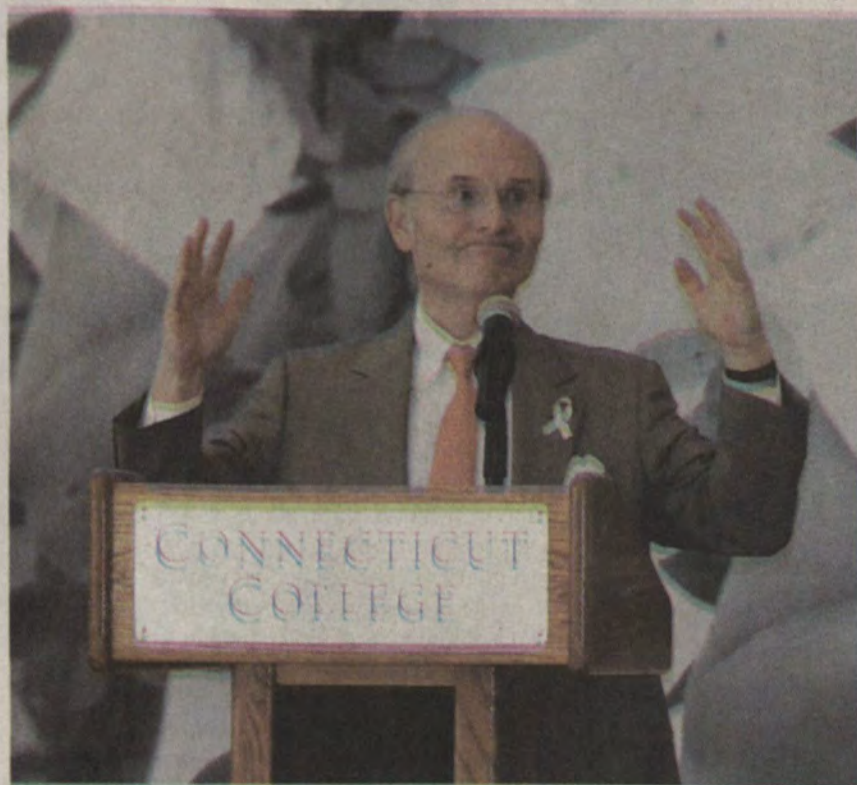
LIBYA's former dictator Gaddafi's son, Saif al-Islam, has been charged with his failure to buy a license for the camels that he owns. He was captured by the International Criminal Court of Justice in November 2011 and has been arrested with the charges of crimes against humanity. However, right now his only legal charges remain as failure to provide his camels with license and not anything related to the crimes he committed during his fathers rule.

EUROPE

SWITZERLAND— A village in the Swiss Alps just found at least a billion dollars worth gold mine. However, unlike any other potential country where this might have occurred, the Swiss are not overly celebratory about this. The villagers that live in the area were offered a share of the fortune that remains underground, but they deny letting company's mine in their land. As a result, the villagers reject to receive millions of dollars that would be given to them by the mining companies.

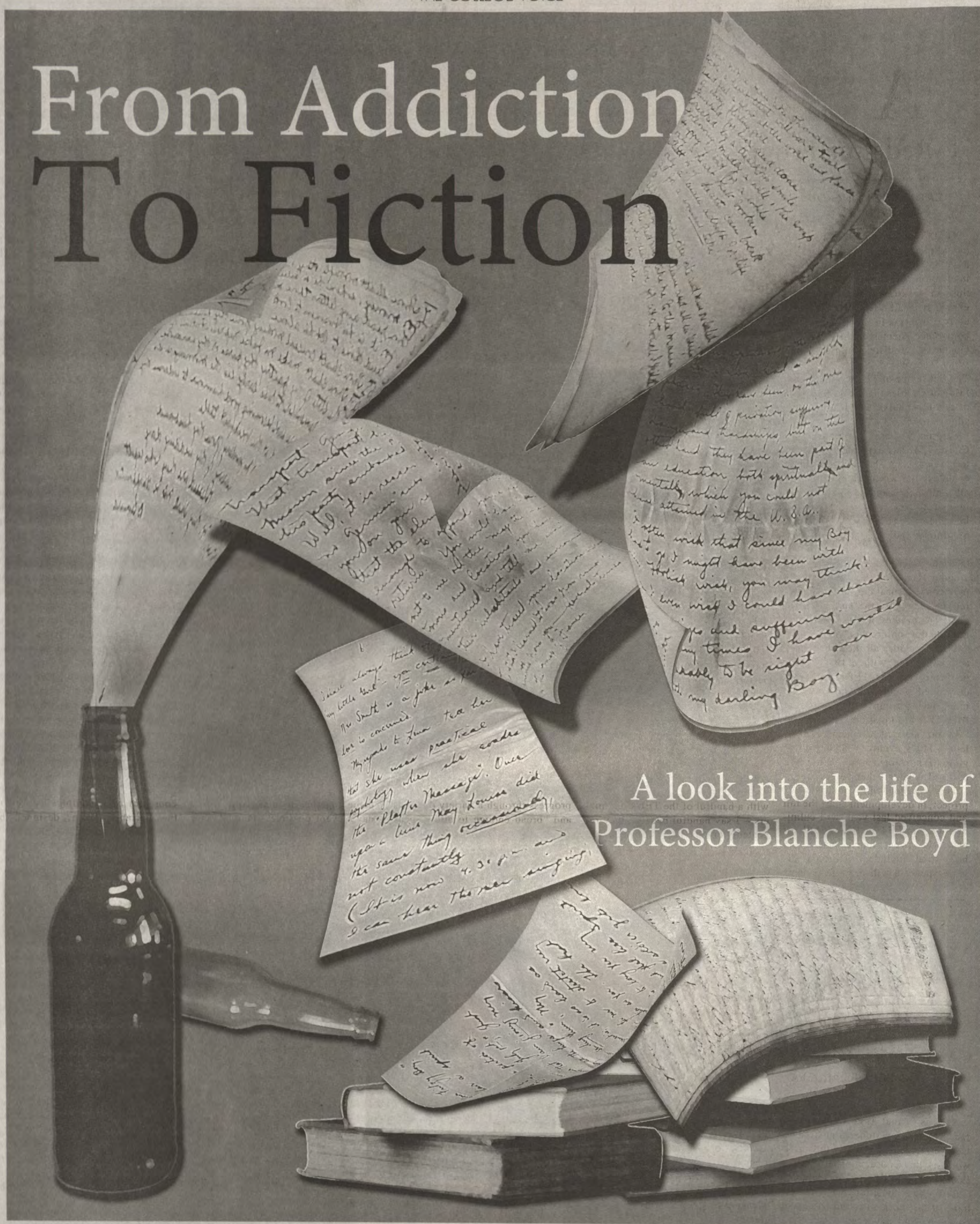
This Week in Photos

THE COLLEGE VOICE



PHOTOS BY CECILIA BROWN AND TANAHA SIMON

From Addiction To Fiction



A look into the life of
Professor Blanche Boyd

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

During the seven years she was married, Boyd attended Pomona College in Claremont, California as a "high risk student." Ironically, she graduated with high honors and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She soon received a writing grant to go to Stanford and attended the university with her husband between 1967 and 1970.

"I started doing drugs with people at the writing center, and the short version is, I discovered I was a lesbian and my alcoholism came back in full force," says Boyd. "In those years, being a radical lesbian and a radical feminist were pretty synonymous. I thought I was making a choice but years later I found out I wasn't making a choice, just recognizing myself. After that, I went through a lot of homophobia with myself. I thought if I could write a novel, everything would be beautiful and sad. So I wrote a novel and it wasn't; it didn't change anything. So I left my husband and joined the revolution."

The revolution brought Boyd to Vermont where she spent the next stage of her life protesting the war

in Vietnam while living in a commune called Mayday. "In Vermont there were a lot of so-called revolutionaries, all white of course, that thought the revolution was going to start in Vermont, which was ridiculous. This was during the time of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panther Party, and there were only like ten blacks in Vermont," Boyd explains sarcastically. "The fact that they thought something was going to happen in this backwater state was absurd, and I only stayed there for about a year and a half. I did a lot of drugs and eventually got arrested."

With only a suitcase in hand, Boyd moved to New York where she bought a mattress and a fifty-dollar refrigerator that she held together with a piece of wire. "I also had a typewriter" Boyd adds, "and set out to be a writer. During those years my drinking and drugging kind of leveled out. It was like being on an escalator that only went down. So I thought the solution was to write another novel. I did but it wasn't any different. Then I accidentally became a rock and roll critic, which was hysterical."

During this time, the second piece Boyd wrote ended up on a list of

the best books to read for rock and roll. She laughs and explains, "It was a ridiculous piece of crap and the more I said I didn't know about music the more people thought I had integrity." Her publicist spoiled her with booze and concert tickets, and on receiving a bottle of Jack Daniels, Boyd remembers she thought she had "died and gone to heaven."

After her fling with the rock and roll scene, Boyd moved back home where she fell in with a group of drug-abusing rich kids. "I finally hit bottom" Boyd says, and was only shaken out of her addiction when one of her friends, who was also an addict, shot herself with a shotgun in 1980. "I was there. I saw it happen. There were pieces of her body on the wall, and she was conscious. It was horrible. It was one of those moments where you know your life has changed but you don't know how, and I realized that she was more honest than me. We weren't cool; we were dying and I didn't know who I was or what I was doing. I think sanity is a really fragile thing, and that drugs and alcohol become easily abused." The woman who shot herself survived and has been in a nursing home since she was the age of forty.

It took Boyd six months to get completely clean during which she recalls that, "it was in a way harder to quit drugs than alcohol. At one point I remember picking up the furniture like I was the Hulk and smashing it in my apartment." On May 19, 1981, Boyd laid down drugs and alcohol and hasn't had either since, changing her life utterly.

After just two weeks of sobriety, Boyd came to Connecticut College where she had her interview for a position as a one-semester teacher. She worked part time for about three years while becoming a better and better writer. She was soon known nationally and publishing in high profile magazines.

"I believed in what I was doing, and knew I was a good teacher." It wasn't long before Boyd was promoted to a full professor in the English department and she admits, "I was astounded. I tell my students that if I'm a person in a position of authority, then anything can happen."

In the late '90s, Boyd met a woman that she "didn't screw things up with" and they've been together for fourteen years with two twelve-year old twins.

"My wife and children are the sec-

ond best thing that ever happened to me, and I have to say second because without sobriety I would have never had a family of my own. I still go to AA almost every day and owe my life and success as a person and a writer to my sobriety. I never thought I would love anybody or anything the way I love my children. All I have to do is see them to be happy."

Currently, Boyd teaches three creative writing courses: Writing the Short Story, Narrative Non-Fiction and the Seminar in Fiction, and has successfully published four novels: *Nerves*, *Mourning the Death of Magic*, *The Revolution of Little Girls*, and *Terminal Velocity*. In addition, she is working on the last book of a trilogy titled *Children of Nod*, and has many published articles and essays under her name, including *The Redneck Way of Knowledge*.

"My goal is to go to bed at night feeling like I'm part of what's good in the world. When I got clean I went in a flash from being dangerous to colorful, from being part of the problem to being part of the solution. I feel like God's final joke is that I've turned out to be such a happy functional person." •

A TEDx To-Do List

1. Redefine Progress 2. Rethink Collaboration 3. Re-Energize our Community

CATHERINE MONAHON
CONTRIBUTOR

"TED," which stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, is a global non-profit that celebrates innovation, creativity and learning through an array of talks given by experts from all walks of life. Founded in California in the 1980s, recent conference themes include Radical Openness, Rediscovering Wonder, What The World Needs Now, and The Substance of Things Not Seen – fascinating titles that house hundreds of addictive talks which are accessible online.

Originally based on the West Coast, TED has expanded to the international stage, hosting conferences across the world. Intellectuals of all trades, ages and nationalities are invited to relate their area of knowledge and specialty to the overarching theme of the conference – performing, speaking, philosophizing and engaging the audiences for eighteen minutes in an interactive, multimedia conference.

TEDx includes all the above characteristics, but with a twist: independently licensed, TEDx are events developed, planned and hosted by an independent group with permission from TED headquarters.

In the case of Connecticut College's TEDx event, the independent group responsible for the event is the college's students themselves.

This student-run collaborative project, in development since the fall and conceived last year, will culminate on April 14 in Evans Hall for an all-day event, lunch, snacks and brain-food included. Thirteen diverse speakers will draw from their

respective fields to tackle and redefine the concept of progress.

Three of the speakers are Connecticut College professors: sociology professor Afshan Jafar, who will speak on women's bodies, religious studies professor Eugene Gallagher who will lecture on American religious culture and millennialism and philosophy professor Lawrence Vogel, who will discuss the origins of modern progress.

Because progress can be viewed from many different angles, this process of re-thinking deserves an interdisciplinary approach. TEDx organizers have tracked down thirteen prestigious and unique speakers for an event teeming with intellectual possibility.

To risk overwhelming you with

this TEDx possible. Spanning across majors, college campuses, state lines and even continents, Conn's TEDx team has spent the past year networking in diverse avenues of academia, working with the college and collaborating with other student groups to bring TEDx to our campus.

The idea began when Aditya Harnal '11 met a TED founder at a conference and discovered that organizations, groups and students could put on a TED event at their own college under the auspices of the TEDx program. I was especially excited to learn that the theme, Redefining Progress, was neither the brainchild of TED nor the plan of a specific individual: when Harnal returned to Conn for the 2011-12 year, he pitched TEDx to his peers. Inter-

delusion or fantasy).

In TEDx, progress will be examined through over a dozen lenses – the more angles, the clearer the picture. The multimedia dynamic of the talks enhances this process; for instance, a performance piece called "Eco-centric" aims at "rethinking they way we connect and interact with the earth."

Seniors Savitri Arvey and Katherine Shabb emphasized the multimedia, engaging nature of TEDx. The talk is not a speech; it is not an hour-long slide show or lengthy seminar. The talks are eighteen minutes, broken up into clusters to encourage discussion and interaction with the speakers and performers. All participants are given a badge that reads, "Talk to me about ____." The blank

The inclusive, democratic process is furthered by the way the team chose speakers: the initial TEDx group compiled a speaker recommendation form for students to fill out online. Harnal explained, "It wasn't just the team choosing, it was us, professors, students, friends of friends, people in the community."

The organizing group saw TEDx as a way to "stimulate a conversation that would turn to action." Arvey points out that "there's really no forum on campus that brings people together on campus from different fields to sit down, listen discuss and be inspired." While Conn has interdisciplinary majors and centers, there isn't a place where all majors are invited to convene, even for a day, to inspire activism, create connections, and

strengthen the CC community in a discussion-based environment.

The organizers also spoke of new connections with professors, new skills they learned from their peers, and a new TEDx community as the most positive aspects of their experience of putting the conference together.

"People have volunteered their time and their skills," Harnal said, grinning as Shabb added, "Web-designers, film students, art students – this has been a collaborative process!" They mentioned one experience in particular, the communal effort in building the giant TEDx letters which have emblazoned the courtyard by Cummings as well as the Larrabee green, designed by sculpture student Rose Wall '12.

"We built those letters together!" Arvey proudly said, her peers nodding alongside her. •

x = independently organized TED event

excitement, I will simply say: a philosopher, a filmmaker, a cancer research scientist, an anthropologist, a sustainable food entrepreneur, a sustainable architect, a sociologist, a religious studies expert, an extreme sports photographer, a non-verbal performance artist, a venture-capitalist, a historian and a bioethicist will all be on the same stage.

That being said, clearly all members of the campus community, regardless of major, minor or favorite color, can benefit from engaging with this exciting event.

I had the opportunity to sit down with a handful of the TEDx organizers – I say handful because they repeatedly emphasized that there were many more college students, professors, New Londoners, out-of-towners and friends of friends who made

est grew and after a bout of brainstorming a group of students, many involved with CISLA, chose to focus on progress and modernity.

Harnal explained how "Visiting Professor [and CISLA fellow] Nauman Naqvi in particular inspired us to question the idea of progress." Naqvi emphasized in their class how progress implicitly drives individuals; progress is our ever-constant (and ever-unreachable) goal, yet we have taken the definition and the perspectives on progress for granted."

The students decided that the topic was "relevant enough to question progress through a variety of fields" and "broad enough to allow speakers to play around with it." Sustainability, another focus of TEDx, is undeniably intertwined with progress (though some still declare it is a

can be filled by an interest, a person, a historical event, or a specific field. These badges inspire discussion, and spark much more conversation than the standard "Hello My Name Is Yolanda."

"It's creative, it's witty, it's visual, it's engaging," Shabb explains. "Those badges create connection."

In addition to the intellectual connections at the actual event, TEDx has created a team and community of its own.

When I asked about the evolution of TEDx at Conn, Harnal, Arvey and Shabb emphasized how many people came together to make this Saturday's event possible. People eager to attend, help and participate include students from neighboring colleges, New Londoners, high school students and professors.

Weaving the Safety Net

Potential budget cuts threaten on-campus sexual violence awareness programs

AMBER VILLANUEVA
STAFF WRITER

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—a fact which many students at Connecticut College know thanks primarily to Darcie Folsom's work as the Coordinator of Sexual Violence Education and Advocacy on campus.

Before this position had existed at Conn, most of the work surrounding sexual violence education and advocacy was left to Director of Student Wellness CC Curtiss, who educates students on drug and alcohol consumption. Curtiss had limited time and resources but was still able to host Take Back the Night and work with students for their needs concerning issues of sexual violence.

However, nearly three years ago the college received an almost \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women that enabled the school to temporarily fund the position of coordinator for sexual violence education and advocacy. The result has been a change in the discourse at Connecticut College about sexual education and awareness of issues like sexual violence.

Thanks to the grant, Folsom has been able to instate the highly successful and growing Green Dot program, SafetyNet and the Think S.A.F.E. program. These programs promote proactive prevention, education and raising awareness in the Conn community.

Folsom believes that making these difficult subjects more approachable, helping students feel comfortable about them and raising awareness encourages students to be more likely to disclose their experiences and file reports. Furthermore, the programs empower students through the Green Dot workshop and by allowing them to create their own programming as a Think S.A.F.E. intern, causing more students to become proactive in preventing violence.

Folsom explains that many students have admitted to her that they did not realize they were in an unhealthy relationship until some form of Think SAFE Project programming (the over-

arching program which includes Green Dot and SafetyNet) along with informal conversations with Folsom helped them address those problems in their life. Her goal is to increase education, reduce stigma and to create an atmosphere of students openly talking about these issues.

According to Folsom, the Green Dot program began a year and a half ago and although there were only nine students in the first training, now there are almost 200 students who have undergone the six-hour program.

The first Green Dot participants at Conn were members of SGA, floor governors and members of Safety Net, but now it includes people from different clubs, sports and organizations on campus. The number of people in attendance at the sessions continues to grow as students become interested in learning how to be proactive in preventing domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Folsom expressed the hope that when new students get involved with Safety Net, more entertaining and creative approaches to the issues will emerge. As an example, Folsom mentioned the discussion by Shannon Keating '13 on domestic violence and stalking in *Twilight* which timed perfectly with the movie release, making it a very well-attended and informative event.

Because of Folsom's support "students feel inspired to create their own thing. I value their input and let them run with their ideas." Having an open environment allows for creativity, and along with the suggestions from someone with experience they are able to host a successful and educational event.

Moreover, students are reaching out to Folsom in order to raise awareness themselves. According to Folsom, "A lot of people thought I was the one to approach the hockey team for the Green Dot game, but the captain came to talk to me—they were the ones to take initiative. They were able to gather a lot of awareness from groups who might not have previously been informed."

As part of the grant, Folsom has gone with

different members of the campus community, ranging from deans to campus safety officers, to technical trainings every six months. She has been on the committee to change Conn's policy for dealing with issues of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. This past year she was part of a stalking policy review committee and participated in creating a specific stalking policy – since stalking had previously fallen under a broader sexual harassment policy.

The technical trainings required for the grant have helped revise the schools policies and procedures, and even demonstrated how ahead progressive Conn's policies are as compared to those at other schools.

However, the position of Coordinator of Sexual Violence Education and Advocacy is not fixed—it is supported by a three-year grant that will end in October. The college has reapplied for the grant and will find out in the fall if they will receive it again. Because the grant is not permanent, many people have advocated to the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee for the coordinator position to be made permanent, a proposal currently being discussed by the Committee.

The Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee (PPBC) advises the President of the college on how to spend the Above Current Level (money left over after paying the college expenses), and is composed of three faculty members, three students, two staff members and representatives of the Senior administrators.

Professor Catherine Stock, the faculty adviser to the men's hockey team and the chair of the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee explained the process.

"First, Paul Maroni, the Vice President of Finance, evaluates the budget expenses tells us how much surplus there will be in the current year left over to allocate to anything that is brought to the committee. They are the advisory to the president of the college on how to allocate funds from the current Above Current Level (ACL). The ACL is the money left after

all expenses. Anyone in the community can put in a request, but it is harder to fund a recurring request like fixing Darcie's position. However, those requests are also most important because they affect the college in a permanent way."

"Darcie's position is one of the many requests we've seen go through the ACL process," Stock says. "From what I've heard, there is a broad consensus on people's views that the position is important to the college."

Stock emphasized that all deliberations of the committee remain confidential.

Students who have worked with Folsom recognize her work as an indispensable addition to the Conn community.

Alia Roth '14 feels that "throughout my year as an intern [working with Folsom], people have become much more aware and supportive of our work. The events have become more popular and these issues are finally being talked about in a constructive way that really impacts our campus. Darcie has brought awareness, education and support to our community regarding these issues in ways that no one else can. She is a friendly face to all, never passing a judgment on anyone which allows students to feel comfortable working with her, and confiding in her... Darcie is an activist, an educator and a friend to all; she has easily become one of the most influential people in my time at Connecticut College thus far."

Keating expressed that her "experience at Connecticut College would not have been the same without Darcie. Even though she deals with one of the toughest and most horrible subjects, she brightens campus every day with her wonderful attitude and spirit. I look at the world differently because of her knowledge, passion and kindness. Her work in challenging sexual assault on this campus, head on, is indispensable."

Many other students, as well as faculty and staff, who understand how the Think S.A.F.E. Program and Folsom's personal work have affected the college hope that the PPBC can find a way to make her position permanent. •

Where's the Beef?

Is pink slime safe?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Proponents of pink slime argue that the filler is not only safe to consume, but also an economic necessity: less expensive meat is more accessible to the general public, and if companies like Beef Products Inc. did not use cow scraps in their products, tons and tons of meat product would go to waste. However, the reality is so simple that the argument feels tired: this cheap "beef" is a short-term solution that causes long-term problems. Pink slime is symptomatic of the bigger issue that is American factory farming and the way it depletes the earth of biodiversity and natural resources, and is a breeding ground for disease and pollution.

Pink slime is outlawed in Canada and the UK, but it seems that Americans either don't know about it or are willing to ingest it because it's much cheaper than organic, grass-fed beef, even when such a choice can lead to major health repercussions. According to The Gothamist, ammonium hydroxide isn't the only chemical in most supermarket meats—chlorine dioxide, calcium hypochlorite and hypobromous acid are also additives found in these products.

There are also quite a few sanitation problems associated with processing the pink slime. First of all, the pink slime process uses the parts of the cow that are closest to the hide, which are often contami-

nated with E. coli, salmonella, and/or other bacteria from exposure to feces. This contamination is especially dangerous in a factory farming environment, where cows quite literally stand around in shit. Up until now, this meat has usually been ren-

This is horrifying. This stuff sounds like a seventh-grade science project gone wrong, and it's being upheld as "nutritious," "lean," and even "resourceful." I'll also clarify that though you may be ingesting pink slime, it's not really your fault

meat or vegetarian diet have been slammed for sounding bourgeois and naïve, since apparently not everyone can afford such a diet. However, as the price of meat steadily climbs and health care becomes unavailable for many Americans, eating cheap meat

eat a mostly vegetarian diet punctuated by small amounts of grass-fed meat products. For those who still find this classist, I would urge you to think of meat and clothing in the same way. Buy higher-quality, slightly more expensive products in-

frequently instead of low-quality, cheap products on a regular basis. In the end, the investment will probably save you money; in the case of meat, it will almost certainly be healthier.

Those who argue on behalf of pink slime—which they would prefer to call LFTB—harken back to a time when it was noble to consume or otherwise use every part of the animal after it had been killed. I do not advocate wastefulness, but the only reason some consumers don't take issue with consuming pink slime is because many Americans are accustomed to eating beef at least once or twice a day. This kind of consumption is not sustainable, but if Americans want cheap meat, they will be deluded into thinking that the production and consumption of meat scraps is part of the American tradition of resourcefulness.

We need to reduce the amount of meat we eat. Vegetarianism isn't even necessary if we can manage to eat beef only once or twice a week. Until then, we will continue to deplete natural resources in the name of one-dollar hamburgers. Is it worth it? •

PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

dered for use in dog food—it's not designed for human consumption. After the ammonia treatment, Beef Products Inc. was so sure of the effectiveness of the process that it neglected to test for contamination. Yet much of the pink slime produced was found to contain E. coli and salmonella even after the chemical bath!

at all. This is another prime example of our nation's obsession with the cheapest possible product, whether it's technology, clothing or the substances we put in our bodies.

So, is an anti-slime stance all that radical? I'd say no. Still, on online forums, some commenters who have advocated on behalf of a reduced-

products no longer seems worth it—it's a danger the price tag on ground beef doesn't take into account. At the end of the day, certain vegetarian staples like rice and beans will always be among the cheapest and most nourishing products in the aisles.

Realistically, my suggestion is this:

The Entitlement Generation

MELANIE THIBEAULT
ARTS EDITOR

This past weekend, I was asked by my Relay for Life team leader to volunteer with a group at a fundraiser to try and raise more money before the walk this Friday. The concept: play Rebecca Black's atrocious song "Friday" non-stop for two hours or until we raised \$100. It sounded relatively easy. I thought if enough people were annoyed (like I was) they would willingly throw dollars our way. I wanted it to rain money, but as with every dream I have, roadblocks presented themselves.

While a good number of people filtering in and out of Cro that evening stopped to donate money or laugh and sing along with the song, there were a few people who expressed, what I would term, disrespect for our event. Now, I understand that playing any song on repeat is infuriating to listen to, and that hearing "Friday" for two hours without stop is probably the equivalent of getting a root canal (without Novocain). But I don't think this event, which was approved by the necessary heads of event planning, warranted the negativity that it did. I don't think it was necessary to yell at us to "turn the music off" without first bothering to see what our cause was. I don't think it was respectful or productive to unplug our speakers in the middle of our fundraiser because the music was disrupting the "quiet" Thursday evening at Oasis.

Since it was a Thursday night, I'm willing to bet that some alcohol or other substances may have been involved in the antics. But upon further thought, I realized that this behavior may be the result of a greater problem that exists among members of our age group. I think our generation has developed a toxic sense of entitlement and an undeserving expectation for instant gratification. If an annoying song started playing on your iPod, you could always hit "next" and listen to something else. Back when your parents or grandparents sat around and listened to the radio and Rebecca Black started playing, they would just suffer through it and wait for the next song to come on—hopefully something by the Biebs. But seriously, in a world where we can watch TV on our computers, send emails from our phones and turn on our car's heater with an app, we can't handle waiting more than five minutes for our food at Oasis or stand in line

for any amount of time without complaining or getting visibly annoyed at the hardworking employees.

We've been dubbed the Millennials, the

become spoiled.

It doesn't help that our generation has been taught that we can do anything. While it's a wonderful sentiment echoed by our parents,

HELLO
my name is

The Best

iGeneration, the YouTube Generation and so on, because of our technology-driven lifestyles. We've grown up with computers and cell phones, things that our parents and grandparents didn't have. We Facebook, tweet, G-chat, Tumble, text and all sorts of other verbs that didn't exist twenty years ago. We're con-

stantly connected to the world around us via these devices. It's impossible to walk into Harris and not see people playing with their phones or computers. It wouldn't surprise me if we were all diagnosed with ADD in ten years; I've discovered that my attention span while reading books has decreased since the creation of Twitter and the 140 character limit. We're addicted to technology, whether we'd like to admit it or not, and because of the instant gratification it provides us with, we've

teachers and coaches, it's instilled an exaggerated sense of self-worth and confidence that may actually be hindering our progress rather than helping us. A lot of pressure has been put on us to receive excellent marks in school, score high on the SAT or ACT, get into top-notch universities and be the best athlete, musician, activist, writer, thespian, or whatever, we can possibly be. So much pressure has been placed on us to succeed, to go forth and

change the world, to be the leaders of tomorrow. No wonder we have large egos: we've been told our whole lives that we can do anything we want, while the reality is, we can't.

America's in an economic recession and it's not that easy to find jobs right now. It's not impossible, but it's not going to be effortless, which is what a lot of people expect nowa-

days: to do things effortlessly, to be good at anything they set their minds to, to have anything they want at the snap of a finger and to never have to be in an annoying or uncomfortable situation for longer than five minutes.

Back in January, Daniel Radcliffe hosted an episode of *SNL* and starred in a sketch entitled "You Can Do Anything," which poked fun at our generation's inflated sense of self-worth. As Vanessa Bayer's character called it: "The only show that celebrates the incredibly high self-esteem of the YouTube Generation." On the show, Taran Killam's character threw ten bowling pins into the air to try and "juggle" when he had never before juggled in his life, and exclaimed, "I juggled" when they all came crashing down around him. Bill Hader's character, co-host of the show, told Killam that he could now say he was a juggler, to which Killam replied, "Because I have no shame or self-awareness." Touché, *SNL*.

This sketch sought to point out the disillusioned attitude that many of our generation possess. We pick up a guitar, play a few chords and suddenly we can add singer-songwriter to our resumes. We pick up some bowling pins, throw them in the air and we're a juggler. Maybe this idea stems from the practice of writing everything we ever did in our lives on our resumes for college applications. "I played the recorder once in fourth grade" does not translate to "I'm a musical prodigy," just like attending math camp for a week doesn't make you a mathematical genius. These thoughts are delusional, and need to stop before we poison future generations with this "do everything, excel at everything" attitude.

Maybe we need to stop pressuring kids by telling them that they can all be the next President of the United States; maybe they need a dose of reality every now and then to keep them grounded. In a society where we value connections over hard work to launch us into careers, it's no wonder our generation has some kind of superiority-complex. We're told to market ourselves, to make ourselves look the best we can possibly be. Naturally, we start to think we're hot shots when in reality, most of us are just average people, trying to make it in the world. And that's not really so bad, is it? •

A Jew's Lament on the Commercialization of Passover

SPENCER FRANCUS
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes when I think about Passover I get frustrated. Like many holidays observed by the world's popular religions, Passover has become prone to the powers of widespread commercialization. What was meant to be a week-long remembrance of the Hebrews' exodus from slavery in ancient Egypt has transformed into a competition whose focus lies on finding the best kosher-for-Passover treats. As you can already guess, my qualms with Passover begin with the evasion we call "keeping kosher-for-Passover," and the frenzy of media and commercial outlets appealing to, and profiting off of, this ritual tradition. Historically, keeping kosher-for-Passover meant not eating breads and other foods that have been leavened, or had time to rise in the oven. As the story from

the Old Testament tells us, the Hebrews did not have enough time to wait for their bread to rise when leaving Egypt. So because the Hebrews did not wait for their bread to rise, Jews today keep the tradition of not eating bread and other leavened foods to pay spiritual tribute to our enslaved forefathers.

However, what frustrates me about this tradition is the wide availability of kosher-for-Passover breads, cookies, cakes and other treats that, for all intents and purposes, are plain leavened foods. It seems the secret to keeping Passover isn't about substituting your bread for matzoh, but about keeping up your normal eating habits by finding evasive ways of substituting standard leavened products with the commercialized kosher-for-Passover version. Companies like Manischewitz undoubtedly widen their belts around the Passover season, simply because of how many Jews look to their kosher-

for-Passover options to alleviate the burden of cutting out leavened carbohydrates from their diets. Rather than use regular leavening agents like baking soda, baking powder or yeast, kosher-for-Passover foods rise from the proteins in egg whites, carbonation from seltzers, and other alternative leavening ingredients to provide the cakey, fluffy consistency that matzoh leaves us craving.

But it seems this craving is what we are sacrificing by cutting out all leavened breads from our diets during the observance of Passover. When we say that all we're sacrificing for our enslaved ancestors is the satisfaction of leavened carbohydrates it certainly doesn't seem like much. This week-long sacrifice we Jews make, in fact, is the least we could do to pay respect to our shackled forefathers. So why do we find ways to evade our responsibility rather than embrace it? On the one hand, Passover

is a holiday to remember our past, where we came from and our family traditions. On the other hand, if your family's Passover celebrations have unraveled into feasting on decadent kosher-for-Passover cupcakes with cream cheese frosting and chocolate chips, what are you to do? Do you reject your family's tradition of eating elaborate alternatively-leavened food options, or indulge in something your enslaved ancestors certainly would not have waited to let bake when quickly running from their Egyptian overlords?

I don't have the exact answer, and I wouldn't trust anyone who says he does. But what I hope to communicate is that oftentimes we forget why we do what we do. In arenas as influential and dogmatic as religion, the meaning of tradition becomes lost in arbitrary rhetoric the moment we start to blindly follow laws and orders without asking the pivotal question of why. •

The End of Times (As We Know It)

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The New York Times
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ETHAN HARFENIST
OPINIONS EDITOR

The *Times* has decided to further refine its online subscription protocol: instead of twenty free articles per month, we (the internet-surfing, information-hording public) are now only entitled to ten. To this I say: whatever. I know how to break the paywall and I can always access articles from third party websites such as Twitter and Facebook and not have it affect my monthly count. But what does this mean for other people who are mildly ethical? Or for people who read eleven articles per month? The *Times*' paywall experiment has officially entered its second phase as of April 1, and no, they aren't messing with you.

We have been hearing about the demise of print journalism for quite some time now. With the advent of the iPhone and the iPad (with honorable mention to Galaxies and Androids), it seems that nobody wants to read a bulky newspaper anymore.

Why would they? Why constantly fold pages and hide your entire midsection and head when you can read articles on a sleek tablet and watch videos to accompany your news? The answer is, put simply, you wouldn't. If you own an iPad and still read the print edition of the *New York Times* or any other newspaper, I have to assume a) you're doing it ironically, b) you are in love with the nostalgia and the concept of reading the morning paper or c) your fingers don't generate enough heat to operate a touch screen.

Print journalism is dying, though it's experiencing a slow and painful death, akin to the victim who shudders on the noose after the floor drops out from under him or her for upwards of five minutes. Soon, all of our "news-papers" will be on digital screens, the glowing hue of our computers and tablets destroying our retinas as we read about President Santorum bombing Iran. For now, we have to deal with the duality of our favorite periodicals trying to balance the traditional with

the new: maintaining a printed product while attempting to bolster its online presence and generate enough revenue to survive in a world where information is considered a god-given right rather than a privilege to be paid for. The *Times* is presently in a unique position: it is constantly trying to prove to its readers that it is worth paying for; that the quality of journalism it provides is of the highest caliber and that those other free websites are simply off-shoots of it and second-rate.

The *New York Times*, despite putting up its easily maneuverable paywall, still attracts thirty million visitors to its website per month. One receives full access to the website if he or she is subscribed to the print edition or pays a reasonable monthly fee. Why the change from twenty to ten articles, though? According to the *Times*' website:

We think 10 articles a month, plus free access to our home page, strikes a better balance between visiting and subscribing. Most of our readers will

continue to enjoy their Times experience without interruption. At the same time, the change provides us with an opportunity to convince another segment of our audience that what The Times has to offer is worth paying for.

It appears as if the *Times* is attempting to do what NPR has been doing of late: providing free access to what it considers the general public (i.e. those who visit the website infrequently and most likely wouldn't surpass ten articles per month) while convincing the diehard readers to donate to the cause in order to keep the paper up and running. So is this ten-article limit really necessary?

I believe the shift toward less free content is more symbolic than anything else. Nobody who reads the *Times* in any form is going to be truly up in arms about this reduction of free monthly articles. Rather, this lessening serves as a call to those who use the website frequently and aren't contributing (like myself). Never before in human history has information been

considered a right rather than an entitlement. According to *Times* columnist Brian Stelter, we are living in an age that will be viewed as an anomaly in the future—"remember that time when all news on the Internet was free?" If reliable and time-honored papers such as the *New York Times* are going to survive the test of digitalization (and so far, they are doing better than most every other newspaper), seasoned patrons are going to need to keep it afloat.

Perhaps sometime in the near future, when I have my own money to spend and don't feel a rush from cyberstealing and crushing paywalls, I will gladly give my money to the *New York Times*. To me, the paper represents an American institution that has helped open up our society. By publishing things such as the Pentagon Papers in 1971 or even the Wikileaks diplomatic cables in 2010, the *Times* remains on the cutting-edge of news in America. Until then, though, I will soak in all of the free content I can. •

No Fun Raised

JERELL MAYS
OPINIONS EDITOR

I should start this by saying that I sympathize with the people who set up tables in Cro and Harris in order to promote events, sell things, run fundraisers, etc. We've all probably been in charge of a table at some point in our lives, and I'm well acquainted with the tense air that an "unsuccessful" booth can emanate. After all, it is somewhat awkward to see dozens of people in Cro shuffling around a cookie sale without anybody actually buying anything, especially when the vendors are probably people you know. I'm totally guilty of this myself; I can't even recall how many times I've briskly approached a booth only to realize I either have no money or interest in the product or promotion. Then I have to look into the anticipating eyes of whoever's sitting there and conjure up some ridiculous excuse like "Oh I left my wallet in my room, otherwise I would," or, "The event is Saturday at 6 PM? I've got something scheduled then, sorry!"

Why the heck are we so afraid to just say no? Why is it so rude to say, "No, I don't wish to donate money at this time, regardless of how awesome the cause is," or "Yes, I know you guys are putting a lot of work

into this, but I'm not interested." Because our communication-saturated culture grows more capable of accessing massive audiences each day, I believe that some general confusion has formed in regards to how being a part of a cause authorizes one to behave. Yes, you are allowed to advertise your cause and fight for it all you want; I'm all for that. However, gathering donations does not give you the right to:

A. Send everybody who doesn't empty his or her pockets off on a guilt trip.

B. Use coercive and/or disruptive methods in a public space (or any space at all, for that matter) in order to garner more money.

What did he say about causes?! He doesn't support causes? Causes get things done! Calm down, invisible dissenter. This article isn't about the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of your cause; it's about the loss of certain social courtesies in the face of fervent activism. For example, I don't care how much you desire to love and protect animals—if you throw a bucket of cow's blood on somebody, they aren't going to change their minds and agree with you. Instead, they're going to associate your cause with being annoyed and/or humiliated and retreat deeper into their own possibly

misguided beliefs, and in the long run that does more harm than good.

I'm not accusing anybody here of doing anything half as traumatic as what PETA sometimes dreams up, and the obvious solution for most people is simply to avoid tables or booths that don't appeal to them. Despite this mentality, I still somehow managed to clash with the Relay for Life table at Cro last Thursday.

Now, I'm a reasonable guy, which means I obviously had no intention of antagonizing a group of people who are fighting cancer. I don't like cancer; nothing about fighting it irritates me. What WAS irksome was the fact that an iPod dock was obnoxiously blasting Rebecca Black's "Friday" at a relatively high volume. I use the word "relatively" because it wasn't so loud that people couldn't hear (unless you were standing in front of the table, of course), but it was certainly loud enough that everybody in the area had to put up with it.

First of all, I'm sick of "Friday"—it went viral, it was funny, it got annoying and then we all moved on. Now, here I was in Cro and the song was everywhere, bouncing off the walls and digging its way back into my eardrums, settling inside the comfortable groove that it had once occupied roughly a year ago. It's no secret that

the song makes people want to leap off of things, and this was key to the strategy of the people at the booth. Several signs had been set up proclaiming things like, "Black Friday!" as well as another, which stated that the song "Friday" would be played repeatedly until a donation goal of \$100 was met. When I arrived, they had about \$40. They didn't look happy, which was totally understandable, since they had all listened to "Friday" no less than sixty times without a break.

I remember standing in front of the booth and feeling baffled. If the goal was to retrieve donations quickly and efficiently, why would they try to achieve this end by *annoying as many people at once as possible*, inevitably driving them away from the booth and Cro altogether?

I considered the music to be a distraction and, being with a couple of friends who felt the same way, we approached the booth and asked them if they could possibly turn the music down. An onlooker told us, flatly, "no," and suggested that if we didn't like the music then we could either donate, or leave.

No. I don't think so. I don't care if getting to \$100 means the cure will materialize out of thin air—you aren't allowed to coerce people into

giving you money. This certainly wasn't coercion in the traditional sense; there was no threat of physical violence and we weren't yelled at or treated (particularly) rudely, but the point is that my friends and I had to leave Cro once the music became too much. We should never have had to do that, and nobody else should have had to put up with it either. I understand that the people running the booth had the best intentions—I'm sure they thought playing the song would be hilarious—and conceptually, it is a rather funny, clever idea to get people to give money. But the reality is genuinely upsetting.

I'm trying my best not to sound like the quintessential over-privileged Conn kid who would rather people died of cancer than put up with Rebecca Black a few more times, so I don't want people misinterpreting what I mean. Here's what I mean: this isn't a huge school. We have to share the space we have. Disrupting the lives of others, regardless of the cause, is wrong. Refusing to cooperate with others who try to negotiate a compromise during squabbles over public space is wrong. It does nothing other than arbitrarily ostracize people based on their personal decisions and beliefs, and it isn't fair to anybody who attends this school. •



A Poetic Analysis of "Boyfriend," by the Illustrious Wordsmith Justin Bieber

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, by closer analysis, we see the beginning of a chronicle written by a very disturbed youth. The use of the conditional "if" throughout implies that he will only be kind to her if she bends to his will — not an auspicious beginning. He also promises to take her places "you ain't never been before." Obviously this blatant affront to the rules of basic grammar and sentence structure is being used as a tool to lower his threat level to his mate: who can be seen in a serious light if he lacks the ability to form the most basic of statements? Alas, this serves as a lure to "take her places she ain't never been." Most likely, the dark silence of a forest where he may delve deeper into his dia-

bolical plan. However, the next lines that include the words "Swag swag swag, on you" cause much confusion. The dictionary definition of the term "swag" is as follows: "a suspended wreath, garland, drapery or the like, fastened up at or near each end and hanging down in the middle; festoon." Another definition is to "move heavily or unsteadily from side to side." I surmise that he intends to throw foliage upon her in the form of an attack.

The chorus of this so-called song offers no redeeming qualities to his character.

"If I was your boyfriend, never let you go

Keep you on my arm girl, you'd never be alone

I can be a gentleman, anything you want

If I was your boyfriend I'd never let you go..."

As of now our disturbed youth is threatening this young lady, in the middle of the forest, to be with him forever, never out of his sight. Throughout the song he becomes more and more controlling. One can almost picture the desperation of the poor young lass! The second verse becomes nearly incomprehensible:

"Tell me what you like yeah tell me what you don't

I could be your Buzz Lightyear fly across the globe

I don't never wanna fight yeah, you already know

Imma make you shine bright like you're laying in the snow

Burr

Girlfriend, girlfriend, you could

be my girlfriend

You could be my girlfriend until the upper world ends

Make you dance do a spin and a twirl and

Voice goin' crazy on this hook like a whirlwind

Swaggie."

It's clear that our friend Mr. Bieber is out of his right mind because his heightened sexual state has caused a certain amount of heat that is too much for his Canadian structure to handle. The problem of his Canadian-hood is evident again in the lines "Imma make you shine bright like you're laying in the snow....Burr." There are not many who are familiar with the sight of someone lying in the snow, dying of hypothermia; however, Mr. Bieber's Canadian background has evidently given him

the insight to know that they emit a certain glow. The last few lines give the distinct feeling of losing control with his "voice goin' crazy on this hook like a whirlwind." As he does this, an echo from the beginning of the song returns with a form of "swag." It is likely that he has proceeded in draping her in foliage for some unknown, disturbing Canadian ritual.

This song is only one of the many examples of how close reading can forever change the meaning of a piece of art. Now the innocence of juvenile girls dancing and declaring their undying love to the haunting lyrics that are the result of this disturbed young man's mental fantasy seems misplaced and horrific. This can only be another sad example of the pressures of fame causing mental instability in a young star. •

Wrong Direction?



PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Can the latest British boy band One Direction reach *NSYNC status?

FRANCESCA VOLPE
STAFF WRITER

What do you get when you add together five pretty guys, sappy lyrics and the simplest possible beats? You get a boy band. Just when we all thought the days of *NSYNC, Backstreet Boys and 98 Degrees were over, One Direction makes their debut.

The English/Irish boy band was formed in the seventh season of *The X Factor*, a televised British music competition. Members Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik and Harry Styles all applied as single contestants for the show but didn't qualify for the "Boys" grouping. The five were formed into a band, as suggested by judge Nicole Scherzinger, and then qualified for the "Groups" category. The band came in third place and their

song, "Forever Young" was leaked onto the Internet. After the show, the group (now dubbed One Direction) signed a two-million pound (about three-million dollar) contract with Syco Records. They released their debut single, "What Makes You Beautiful," on September 11, 2011. It displayed on the UK Singles Chart at number one with over one hundred thousand sales within the first week. The band released their second single, "Gotta Be You," in November 2011, which peaked at number three. The second single was followed by One Direction's first studio album *Up All Night*, which debuted at number two on the UK Albums Chart. In September 2011, the band announced their UK tour, the *Up All Night Tour*, which sold out in a matter of minutes. One Direction also revealed that they would be touring the U.S. After another

single, "One Thing," One Direction signed a record deal with Columbia Records in the U.S. The band is still going strong with performances on the *Today Show* and *The Kids' Choice Awards*. They are also set to appear on *Saturday Night Live* and an episode of *iCarly*.

In America there is a huge demand for this kind of music. One Direction is in the first stages of its career where every song compliments a girl. Like all boy bands, One Direction is mass-produced. They perform and make appearances in coordinated outfits. Their hair is artfully moussed into a messy mop of bedhead. Their sound is like fluffy pop music with some electronic beats thrown in for an edge. They meet the major boy band requirement of having boyish good looks with their bright eyes and straight, white smiles.

Despite the group's recent successes and meeting all the boy band standards, I don't believe that they're capable of creating the mass spectacle that the boy bands of the '90s generated. Fueled by the overexposure of acts such as Madonna and Duran Duran, the early '90s turned to more bitter genres such as grunge, gangsta rap and alternative. With the arrival of *NSYNC and Backstreet Boys, a new wave of teeny boppers was born. The bubble gum stylings and songs about puppy love and heartbreak made thirteen-year-old girls and advertisers across the world scream in joy.

To most companies, boy bands equal dollar signs. Corporations like Pepsi and Nickelodeon flocked towards these groups to help them sell their products, and these boy bands generated a lot of merchandising power. The '90s was also a time

when channels like MTV and VH1 actually played music. *TRL* was in its heyday and had its finger on the pulse of the pop culture industry.

The music industry is not dependent on television anymore. Today, everything is produced quickly to keep up with the fast-paced society in which we live. Everyone wants to become rich and famous quickly. Becoming a "celebrity" today is as easy as clicking *upload*. Send a video to MTV of a person acting stupidly and chances are that that person will appear on the next season of *Jersey Shore*. I'm not saying that the members of One Direction are idiots, but they are a perfect example of the phrase "overnight sensation." Yes, the band members may be cute. Yes, their music may be catchy. However, catchy is not synonymous with timeless. •

The Latest Endangered Species

How the rise of online music sites has affected CD sales

MARK FERREIRA
STAFF WRITER

As I stepped through the door, I saw a multitude of escalators carrying excited and eager customers toward their destination. Above me hung several large posters with pop culture references and events printed on them. On my visit to New York City in 2008, the Virgin Megastore in Times Square exemplified the ability for a music store to make an impact on consumers and tourists. Amidst all the large video screens and flashing lights, the red logo of the Virgin Megastore seemed to have an intrinsic value on the landscape surrounding 42nd Street. The next time I visited the store a year later, it was having a going-out-of-business sale. No posters hung from the ceiling, and the aisles that once were full of records and CDs appeared vacant.

Compact disks, like vinyl records before them, are on the steady path to extinction as consumption of music

moves into the digital realm. In 2011, digital music sales surpassed physical media for the first time. Digital sales accounted for 50.3% of all music purchases, leaving 49.7% to physical media. Furthermore, digital sales rose by 8.4% while physical sales fell by 5%. While digital media surpassed physical by only a margin of 0.3%, the shift in physical sales points to a significant trend.

Small and large CD and record stores continue to face difficulties trying to combat the shift to digital music. World Entertainment Corp., the company that owns the FYE (For Your Entertainment) chain of music stores, claimed they would close fifty-two stores after another holiday season with falling sales. Even more startling: over 3,000 independent record stores have closed in the United States over the past decade.

The issue of Internet piracy also aids in the decline of music sales. Although the U.S. courts shut down the P2P (peer to peer) service LimeWire,

software like Bit Torrent and sites like *The Pirate Bay* provide easy access to illegal music downloads. In response, many free-streaming services have been created in order to provide a legal means for consumers to listen and enjoy free music. Pandora, Spotify and Last.fm all enable people to control what they listen to

Compact disks, like vinyl records before them, are on the steady path to extinction as consumption of music moves into the digital realm

for free. Unlike other Internet radio stations that cycle through random songs limited to similar artists or genres, Spotify, the newest streaming service, works almost like an online version of iTunes. This platform provides listeners with a wide array of complete albums and artists to enjoy.

As more emphasis is put on criteria such as the iTunes top ten-download-

ed list or the amount of YouTube hits a song gathers, people lose interest in buying complete albums and collect singles instead. For example, LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" currently has 414,350,064 views, making it the second most viewed music video in 2011. "Party Rock Anthem" also came in second for overall digital sales in 2011.

This year Billboard decided to consider the download of ten digital tracks as an album. This classification showed that for the first time since 2004 album sales increased. Surprisingly, vinyl record sales increased as well by 36.3%. In order to promote the growth of smaller artists, the music industry needs the profits generated by well-known artists to lessen the risk associated with signing a new band. Hopefully, the increase in music sales continues throughout 2012 and helps restore some of the physical sales of CDs. If vinyl and CD sales can increase, maybe the record store can be saved from extinction.

A survey of a few Conn students reveals the different feelings that people have toward the music industry today. One Conn student said that he only buys CDs made by his favorite band. For the rest of his music, he uses illegal downloading sites or borrows CDs from his friends. Another student said that he buys music from iTunes in order to support a band he thinks needs the money. However, if the band is popular, he does not buy their music. One student usually tries to buy most of his music in the CD format because he feels that the artists deserve to be paid for their work and dedication.

Luckily, the market for music is not disappearing; it is just shifting from one platform to another. Just like tape cassettes and vinyl, the CD might slowly fade out without completely disappearing. A few persistent record and CD stores will linger to provide their services to those who seek a little-known artist or album. •

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This Week in Athletics

THE COLLEGE VOICE



PHOTOS BY AMY DEGANARO (RUGBY), JOHN LYONS (LACROSSE), AND HOITT MCALLISTER (TRACK)

Fenway Park Turns 100

A Reflection on "America's Most Beloved Ballpark"

AMANDA NADILE
SPORTS EDITOR

For the past two years, Connecticut College has been busy preparing for and celebrating the centennial year. Since most of Conn's students are from the New England area, there is another centennial birthday that must be applauded: Fenway Park. Home to the Boston Red Sox, Fenway Park has served as the home ballpark for the team since it opened in 1912.

Whether or not you are a Red Sox fan, you know that there is something special about this well-decorated stadium. Coined "America's Most Beloved Ballpark," it is also one of the most well-known sports venues in the world. Fenway is currently the oldest venue being used by a sports team, and it is also just one of two "classic" ballparks in use, next to the Chicago Cubs' Wrigley Field.

As baseball has expanded and as the Red Sox have gained popularity, there have been many talks about moving the stadium out of the densely-populated Kenmore area. Fans did not take this news whole-heartedly, as demolishing Fenway would be like demolishing some type of holy land. However, instead of replacing history, the organization decided to simply renovate. In 2011, after \$285 million worth of improvements, team President Larry Lucchino announced that all renovations were complete.

With forty to fifty years left in its structure, Fenway Park has a long future ahead. While it is exciting to think about what is next, the centennial year prompts us to commemorate where it all began. Ground broke in Boston's Fenway neighborhood in September 1911, right around the time Conn was opening its doors to a league of women. Created by owner John I. Taylor, the park was partially created by filling in marshlands, or "fens," an early indication of its namesake. Built on an asymmetrical block, the field was consequently designed with asymmetrical dimensions, with the short right field dimensions making Fenway a well-known "hitter's ballpark."

The first game was played April 20, 1912, with John F. Kennedy's grandfather, John F. Fitzgerald, throwing out the

first pitch. The Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders (renamed the Yankees the following year) in what was probably the win that started the unprecedented rival that still exists today. Unfortunately, the opening day did not get much coverage because the Titanic had sunk a few days prior. De-

scoreboard is still manually updated through innings. Most people might remember this for that time Manny Ramirez casually went inside of the so called Green Monster during an inning to use the bathroom, only to realize the inning had resumed without him.

Another well-known area is "The Triangle" out in center field, with the top of the triangle being the deepest point in the park. The triangle is known for producing some horrible ricochets that end up in left-field and completely out of the reach of Jacoby Ellsbury-- that is, if he hasn't laid out to make the catch. Pesky's pole, the right field foul line, is another important venue landmark. Despite popular belief, homeruns in this area are relatively rare. The pole was named after one-time shortstop and coach Johnny Pesky, who still graciously attends all home games.

For many Red Sox fans, Fenway Park has grown to become a favorite place. There is something about the atmosphere that just puts you in a good mood-- and as long as the Sox win, that mood usually resonates.

Even if you root for some other team, Fenway Park is definitely a place to watch a summer baseball game. The park has sold out a record-setting 631 consecutive games: even if the Sox aren't winning, there is reason to visit this amazing place. On March 7, 2012, Fenway was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Despite the uncertainty of the success the Red Sox will find this year, there is reason to celebrate. On April 20, 2012, I will sit in the stands of Fenway Park, 100 years after something amazing began. I am expecting Jerry Remy and Don Orsillo to be more nostalgic than ever, Sweet Caroline to be sang more loudly than ever and Red Sox Nation to be more proud than ever. Tune in April

20th to say "Cheers to 100 Years" to another great establishment. And for everyone who lives right outside of Boston, the birthday of Fenway Park is even more of a reason to say "Boston, You're My Home."



spite the lack of press, the team survived.

When you think of Fenway Park, there are many features that come to mind. Part of the original construction of the ballpark in 1912, the original wood wall was covered in concrete when the scoreboard was added in 1934. To date, the

Conn College Sailing:

A Breeze Ahead

JEFF BELING
SPORTS EDITOR

You see and hear about it around campus. A mention on a tour, a t-shirt of a popular beer brand modified to include the words "CAMEL SAILING" emblazoned on the front. Yet in spite of this apparent knowledge across campus that our incredibly impressive competitive women's and co-ed sailing teams exist, very little is known about the sport, how it works, who does it, and what it's like, and, frankly how good our team at Connecticut College truly has been over the years and hopefully into the future.

Last week I was down by Dawley field in the pouring rain, and as I ran past our section of Thames-side waterfront, I noticed that there was a wide variety of vans from schools up and down the East Coast. Teams like Yale, Brown, the US Naval Academy and Roger Williams, all flocked to the regatta being held right in front of the athletic center. I was impressed, and from that point on I realized that sailing at the collegiate level is no joke, especially when you have a team as good as Conn's. I also realized that although we know that we have a great team; many members of the student body have no clue, myself included, how it works at all.

There are two types of boats that the sailing teams use, the FJ and the 420, the latter being named for the length in centimeters of the vessel. Each boat is crewed by two people: the skipper, who steers the boat and operates the main sail, and the crew member, who operates the jib, the smaller sail. The skipper sits in the back of the boat in order to steer while the crew member sits farther forward in order to operate the jib. The two must work in harmony in order to complete the race, which is very simple in nature: get to the finish line the fastest.

Connecticut College has two teams: a women's team and a co-ed team. The women's team goes to women's regattas across the country, and this squad consists of the top four women sailors, along with two alternates for the team. The co-ed team enters in co-ed regattas of varying levels of competition. Each weekend there are events on all levels of competition.

The courses for the regattas can be circular or can be races from one point to another. The first place boat scores one point, the second place boat two points, and so on. Sailing is scored much like cross-country running and golf, where the low score wins. However, there are many races throughout

the regatta, and the point totals are only counted at the end of the regatta by an officiating body known as the race committee. The uncertainty can lead to exciting finishes and race strategy. Each team can only be represented by one boat, but the team crewing that boat may change throughout the course of the regatta. Strong teams may go towards the beginning or at the end, depending on how many points the team needs as the regatta progresses.

The race courses themselves are often set up on a windward/leeward angle, where the boats start off upwind to a certain point, turn around that marker, sail downwind back towards the start, turn around another point, and make that lap a few times, depending on the regatta and course. As simple as this may sound to someone like me, a non-sailor, it is much more difficult than one might think. Wind is not always uniform, and with a number of boats all heading for the same point in the water, there are puffs of wind that only certain boats are able to catch. A skipper must read the water and the wind to be able to catch these bursts of wind early enough in the race to stay ahead of the pack of boats behind them. Whole portions of the race course could have no wind at all, so the foresight that the skipper displays throughout the race is inherently important to the overall position of the boat.

Luckily for the Connecticut College teams, there are plenty of able skippers and crew members to propel the Camel fleet to the top of the pack. Last week, the women's team consisting of All-American Atlantic Brugman '13, Liz Wilsterman '12, Bitsy Whipple '12, and Kim Bolick '15, came in 4th in an inter-sectional at Brown University. The co-ed team found its strength in Kevin Martland '14 and Peter Miller '13 along with Ben Bainbridge '12, Grace Medley '15, Marina Gluckman '12, and Katie Andril '13.

These teams at Connecticut College are filled with hard-working, skilled athletes that put time and love into a sport that re-

ceives very little attention on campus. Conn's athletic program is buoyed by the continued success of the sailing program. Next time that there is a regatta hosted by Conn, plot a course down to the boathouse to watch some of the best teams in the country do battle with Conn's best sailors.



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Senior Doug Wright Ready for Championship Season

JEFF BELING
SPORTS EDITOR

Douglas Wright, a senior distance runner from the vaunted distance running community of Darien, Connecticut, leads the Camel men's distance team in more ways than one. Wright, a multiple All-NESCAC Track and Field Athlete in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter disciplines, is committed to taking his season as far as it can go. Last week, Wright stopped the clock in the 5000m at 15 minutes and 10 seconds, a season best performance. This time qualifies Wright to the New England Division III Track and Field Championships, which will take place on May 5th at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Not only did Wright qualify for a Division III championship meet, but he also came in second in a field of well-known and accomplished Division I, II and III runners, as well as a few international athletes.

From the starting gun, Wright sat in a pack of ten runners, holding a consistent pace, running his first mile in 4:57 and closing his last full mile in 4:52. In order to make headway into second place Wright steadily picked off runners that had broken off from the pack in order to make a go at the lead. As these runners struggled and slowed down, Wright only sped up. In an effort to catch the University of Vermont runner that eventually won the race, Wright closed his last 200 meters in 31 seconds, which is equivalent to 4:08 per mile pace. This impressive display of finishing speed demonstrates that Wright has what it takes to go the distance this outdoor season.

Wright's time comes after a struggle with the distance during the indoor season, where the race is spread over twenty-five laps. After this race, Wright is confident and looks at this time less as a season best performance and more of a stepping stone for more races leading into the championship portion of the season:

"It felt pretty good, better than my previous efforts at the distance. I hope to continue my season through my race this weekend. I'm trying to qualify for as many meets as I can in the championship season, and run under fifteen minutes in the 5,000 and as close to 31 minutes as possible in the 10,000."

sible in the 10,000."

Wright's personal best in the 5,000 meters came almost one year ago at the 2011 Division III New England Championships. At a meet sidelined multiple times by rain and lightning delays, Wright remained cool under pressure. After having to warm up multiple times for a race that was eventually pushed back a few hours, Wright surpassed some of the best competition in the region and the nation to run 15 minutes even.

To attain his goals, Wright is running close to ninety miles a week, hoping to increase his distance base until the tail end of the season. Along with the massive amount of miles, Wright is running two quality workouts a week, one of which usually being a long interval at approximately 85% effort.

"My favorite workout is definitely the 8K tempo; it feels easy," said Wright.

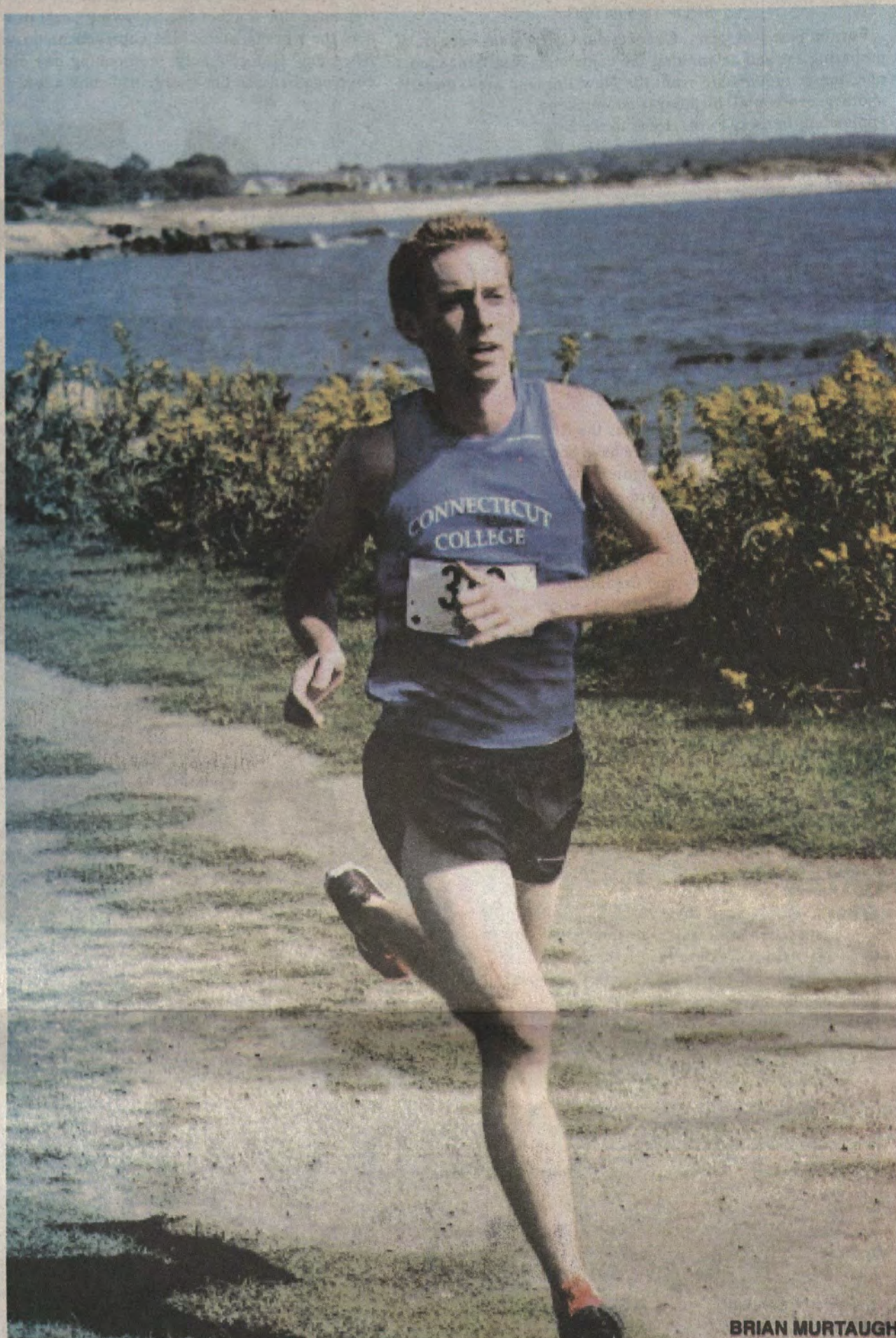
Last week, Wright ran an 8,000 meter tempo in just over twenty-six minutes, proving that he is in great shape for longer races, including the 10,000 meter. Often considered one of the most difficult events in track and field, the 10,000 meter is equal to 6.2 miles, or 25 laps of the outdoor track. Wright's personal best is 31:18.

This year, with NESCACs on the horizon, he hopes to put his 10,000 meter prowess to the test. That will mean running back to back 5,000 meters in 15 minutes and 30 seconds, a feat that many runners cannot even fathom. At the NESCAC championships, Wright is confident he can perform.

"I think that I can run into the low thirty one minute range, because it will be a tactical race and I'll likely negative split," he said.

A tactical race means that the runners will pack up at the beginning, trading off the lead to try to tempt one another into running hard alone in the front, burning more energy than necessary. A negative split would mean that Wright is able to run faster in the second half than the first, a feat that is not easily accomplished in a 10-kilometer footrace.

Wright's senior year means that the stakes are high, and he is willing to rise to the occasion. •



BRIAN MURTAUGH

NESCAC POWER RANKINGS

COMPILED BY THE COLLEGE VOICE



This is the first installment of the NESCAC Power Ranking. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on lacrosse and tennis, the two most prevalent sports across the NESCAC. This week marks strong performances for Amherst, Bowdoin and Colby, which currently hold the top three spots in the conference.

SCHOOL	MEN'S LACROSSE	WOMEN'S LACROSSE	MEN'S TENNIS	WOMEN'S TENNIS	AVERAGE	RANKING
AMHERST	3	5	1	1	2.5	1
BOWDOIN	5	4	3	3	3.75	2
COLBY	6	3	4	4	4.25	3
TRINITY	2	2	8	8	5	4
BATES	9	8	2	2	5.25	5
MIDDLEBURY	10	1	7	7	6.25	6
TUFTS	1	6	9	9	6.25	7
HAMILTON	7	7	6	6	6.5	8
CONN	8	9	5	5	6.75	9
WESLEYAN	4	10	10	10	8.5	10
WILLIAMS	11	11	11	11	11	11

The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editors, Amanda Nadile and Jeff Beling ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were averaged to create a composite overall ranking for each school.

DESIGNED BY STEVEN SMITH/TUFTS DAILY

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Saturday, April 7th
Men's Lacrosse
vs. Kean University
Win 12-3

Thursday, April 5th
Women's Water Polo
vs. Brown
Win 27-10

Saturday, April 5
Women's Lacrosse
Vs. Manhattanville
Win 18-2

Friday, April 6th
Men's Tennis
vs. Middlebury College
Loss 9-0

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

April 10th
Men's Lacrosse at Keene State College
Time TBA

April 10th
Women's Lacrosse at Amherst College
7PM, Amherst College

April 13th
Women's Water Polo
Grove City College at Utica, 8:30 Pm

April 14th
Men's and Women's Rowing
WPI and Williams College at Lake Quinsigamond
All Day, Worcester, MA

April 14th
Men and Women's Track and Field
Stonehill College Invitational
All Day, Easton MA