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THE COLLEGE VOICE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE STUDENTS OF CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2002

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE, NEW LONDON, CT

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INSIDE:



NEWS

The updating of Connecticut College's information systems continues.



A&E

The curtain lifts on the Faculty Chamber Recital



SPORTS

Woody goes undercover as our college's beloved mascot.

Governor Proposes to Cut Aid for In-State Students

By COLEY WARD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A state plan to tighten the budget is threatening to deny Connecticut College more than half a million dollars in financial aid.

The state proposal would eliminate Connecticut Independent College Student [CICS] Grants for students at private institutions with endowments over \$100 million. Besides Connecticut College, Wesleyan, Trinity, and Yale would all be affected by the state plan. Fairfield University also has an

endowment of just over \$100 million, but the state has assured Fairfield that it will not be subject to the cuts.

Currently, 128 of the 347 Connecticut residents who attend Connecticut College receive a total of \$559,250 in CICS grants.

Connecticut College President Norman Fainstein objected strongly to the state plan, calling it "recklessly indifferent public policy."

"The state is telling students already enrolled at these fine colleges that it intends to reduce public support for their educations,"

Fainstein said. "Our position is that this is not the time for the government to be cutting funds for Connecticut students in need."

Judith B. Greiman, president of the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, will appear before the state's Education Committee on Monday, along with Connecticut College student Jay Breuer '03 and Connecticut College Director of Financial Aid Elaine Solinga to testify about the merits of the CICS grants.

Greiman explained that there are two hurdles to be cleared. First,

Greiman is seeking to entirely reverse the state's decision to reduce the \$18.6 million CICS program budget by \$2.6 million. If that fails, she will attempt to convince the legislature not to focus CICS cuts solely on those schools with endowments of over \$100 million.

"My sense of the endowment limitation is that I haven't met a legislator yet that thinks that's a good idea," said Greiman. "The real fight I think ultimately is going to be if we can restore the cut. It is difficult [to avoid budget cuts] because it is a tight budget year.

But it is maybe the worst time to cut need-based aid, because when you have an economic slowdown, you have more students with need."

Fainstein said that all the presidents in the CCIC agree that no specific colleges should be targeted.

"If there has to be a cut," Fainstein said, "it should affect all students, regardless of what college they go to."

Jay Breuer '03, who will testify along with Greiman on Monday, is

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Nassim Sultan '04 lines up to receive a cup of mead at the Beaux Arts Ball. The Ball, held every two years, celebrates the diversity of art majors and minors, and raises funds for the arts departments. This year's theme, mythology, brought out many a toga-ed camel (Ward).

State Government Considers Same Sex Marriage Bill

By MELISSA QUICK

STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of people converged on the Capitol three weeks ago for a hearing debating two bills under consideration by the Connecticut government. The two bills that the Judiciary Committee is examining involve same-sex unions: one that would allow same-sex marriage and another that would create civil unions similar to ones in Vermont, a state that legally recognizes gay couples.

Terry Lawrence and Carolyn King, who have been together for 34 years, were among the people who spoke at the hearing. Both in their seventies, the two women live together and are fully committed to one another, but they are not officially recognized as a couple by the state of Connecticut. Despite their outward expressions of love for each other, and the fact that they have been asked to serve as grandparents for their lesbian friends' five-year

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Teach for America Program Gains Momentum

By CATHY GREELEY

STAFF WRITER

Responding to President Bush's call for teachers to help solve the nation's education dilemma, the youth of America have responded in earnest. Teach For America, a national Corps that calls upon recent college graduates to commit two years to teach in urban and rural public schools, has received a record number of applications.

Many Connecticut College seniors have applied to the TFA and one, Tim Host '02, has recently been accepted and will begin working this fall with elementary school children on a Navajo reservation in New Mexico.

A CISLA scholar and a leader in many programs at the school, Host has all of the qualities that TFA looks for in its applicants. Host said

he chose Teach For America because, "I agree with their mission statement for a quality education and am motivated by the work they do and am thankful to be a part of it."

Host acknowledged that the next two years will be a challenge, but one that he happily accepts. One of his biggest reasons for becoming involved with TFA was his desire to give something to people less fortunate than he. He hopes that by teaching in New Mexico for a couple of years, he can positively influence the lives of a few children.

"I'm thankful for everything I've been given in my life," he said.

Several Program In Community Action students, including Melissa Minehan '02, have chosen to apply for the position. In uncertain economic times, many students see TFA as a post-graduate possibility.



Teach for America member Tim Host (Goldberg)

so generous to them.

Not all people are as enthusiastic about the merits of Teach For America as Host.

Prof. Michael James, head of the education department at Connecticut College, feels that though the program is well-intentioned, it does not accomplish its goal and does a disservice to students and teachers. According to James, TFA is "disrespectful of the profession of teach-

ing." He feels that if people really want to make a difference they "have to be in it for the long haul." Two years is not sufficient time to make any kind of impact and ultimately, both the students and the teachers lose because the teachers do not have a fundamental understanding of the schooling institution itself.

The current recession has created a renewed interest in the teaching profession that has in turn generated a boost for TFA. An article published in the New York Times on February 11 reported that there has been a striking increase in the number of applicants for teaching jobs. Many see this as positive for the state of schools, as a teacher shortage has been predicted for the coming years.

There is a question, however, as

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Garden Memorializes September 11 Victims

By ELIZABETH KNORR

STAFF WRITER

The tragedies of September 11 left people all over the nation grieving and searching for a way to react to an immense sense of loss. Members of the Connecticut College community were among those directly affected by the loss of family and friends. To honor the victims, a memorial garden will be added to the campus this spring.

The September 11 memorial garden will be situated between the walkways near Fanning and Bill Hall. Plans for it have been designed by arboretum horticulturist Jeff Smith and junior Daisy Small. The garden is designed as a spring garden with an emphasis on lilacs. It will feature six or seven varieties of lilacs, other spring flowers, a small patio, and several benches. The intent is that the garden will be in

full bloom around graduation time each year. A plaque of dedication will be placed in the garden.

"The idea of this is not to keep hammering in memories of September 11," said Smith, "but just to give us a subtle little reminder and a place to contemplate."

The Plans for the memorial garden were initiated by Small, whose best friend's mother was killed on September 11.

"Someone you care about is hurting and there's not much you can do," said Small, describing the feelings that led her to push for the garden. "I wanted to do something for her and for anyone else who was effected."

She first brought the idea of a garden to the Student Government Association in October. Since that time, many other constituents of the school have become involved with her in the planning. A seven-mem-

ber September 11 Memorial Garden Committee recently held their first meeting.

Catherine WoodBrooks, Dean of Student Life, and member of the Facilities and Land Planning Committee, has been instrumental in the planning process, specifically in arranging funding. The garden will be funded mainly by the Class of 1997. At the same time that the garden was being proposed and cost estimates were being made, the Class of 1997 was looking for a way to spend the remainder of their class's gift money. A member suggested that the class use it for some type of tribute to September 11 victims.

"I think it was perhaps divine intervention. It was really a lovely confluence of conversations," said WoodBrooks of the way in which she was able to join the two needs.

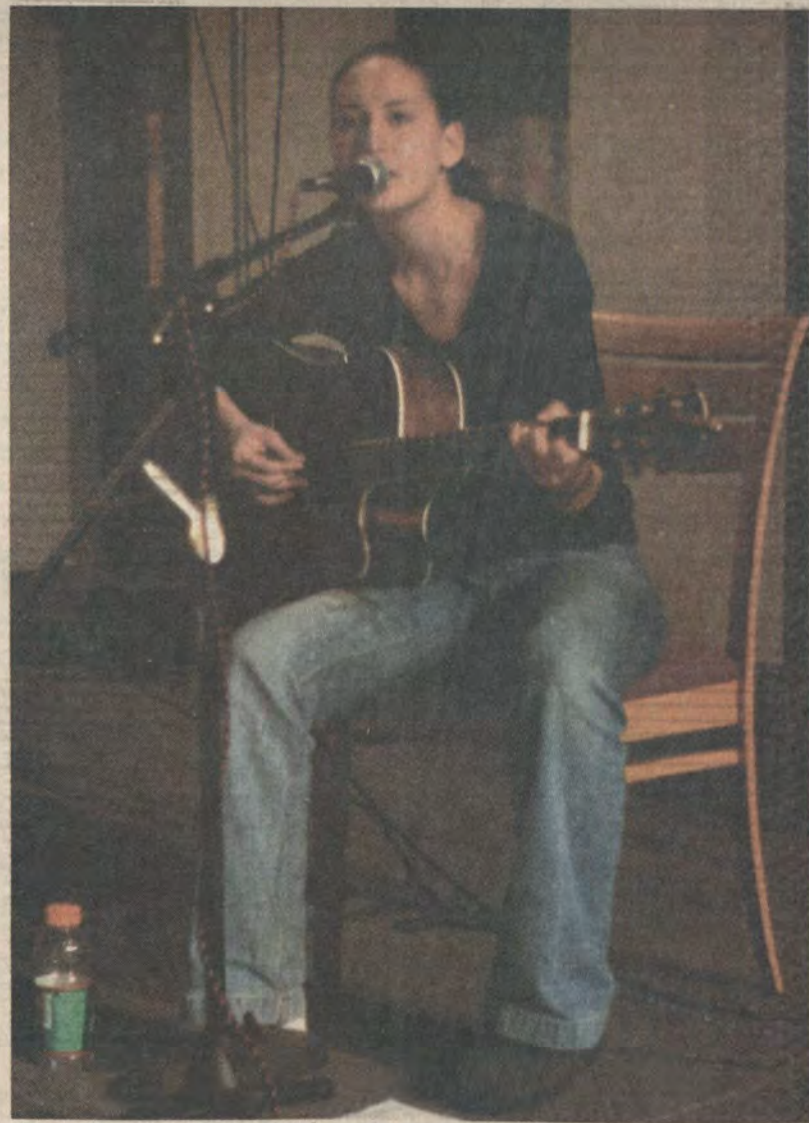
Construction of the garden

will begin sometime in April, and will hopefully be completed by the first week in May. The college and arboretum grounds crews have already volunteered to commit their time to the project.

"We'll be asking for student and staff volunteers to help with preparing the beds and planting," said Daisy.

Helpers will probably be asked to work in shifts over a couple days in April. Anyone who wishes to donate time or money can contact Daisy, who also plans to advertise the project as the time of the work approaches. A major goal of this project is to have as many people as possible involved in the creation of the garden.

"This is such a project that really captures one's emotions and hits the heart," said WoodBrooks, "so there are so many people who are interested in being a part of it."



"Music: The Universal Language" shapes this year's Intercultural Awareness Week. (Jones)

Intercultural Awareness Week Begins

By NATALIE BOLCH

STAFF WRITER

Connecticut College has dedicated this week to encouraging students to become more culturally aware. The event is called "Intercultural Awareness Week," and is being sponsored by Unity House's Intercultural Pride.

Holly Simpson, president of I-Pride, attributes the prevalence of minority members in the Intercultural Pride club to the fact that many Caucasian students and because, "a lot of students of color find support in Intercultural Pride because they find issues in it all their

lives." This week, the members hoped to acquaint the student body with these issues.

Intercultural Awareness week is a yearly tradition at Connecticut College. I-Pride's primary objective is to present the student body with representatives from a variety of cultures, providing exposure to a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Each year, the event focuses on a specific theme, in the hopes of educating students about specific aspects of a culture. This year's theme is "Music: The Universal Language: Rhythm, Beat, and Spoken Word."

Several music-related events

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

Online Registration More Pain Than Gain

With the current upgrading of Connecticut College's information network to the new iConn program, students and faculty are poised to have a wealth of new options when it comes to data storage and communication. Though it has not been officially announced, one of the advances many students are hopeful for is the advent of online course registration. Desire for this change is fueled by the knowledge that online registration will cut down on the number of classes students get shut out of. However, before clamoring for change, students should consider some problems that other schools have run into with online registration.

Ithaca College has had online registration for several years and has still not worked out all the bugs. All Ithaca students must log onto the network at eight o'clock in the morning. "In order to get into a class you have to get on early or you'll be shut out for sure," said Ithaca freshman Matt Corley. With so many students trying to log onto the system at once, the Ithaca network typically crashes somewhere along the process and students are forced to miss their first class in order to register. This happens in spite of the fact that the school has had years to refine the system.

It was only last year that Trinity College installed their online registration program and the school took steps to ensure that their data systems would not go down due to excessive traffic. At Trinity, students are divided into eight groups by class year and the first letter of their last name. Seniors get first priority while freshmen get last. The order of the last names is determined arbitrarily, and then groups are assigned specific periods during which they can register (again, early in the morning so it won't interfere with faculty traffic). As a result of this arrangement, certain students get priority based on what letter their last name begins with.

Clearly online course registration is not the seamless process some people believe it to be. No matter how advanced the system, with hundreds of students applying at the same time there is always the danger of network overload—and here at Connecticut College, with a system that has just been installed, the risk runs even higher. The current system may not be perfect, but we do have the leisure of taking as much time as we need to fill out our registration forms at our own pace. Maybe everybody does not get every class they want, but this is not a problem that will be eliminated by online registration. At the very least we can be assured that all applications are considered equally and order is not determined by some random fact. Rather than devote time and money to an upgrade with as many negative aspects as positive, we should follow the old adage: "If it ain't broke don't fix it."

Keep CICS Alive and Kicking

Connecticut Governor John Rowland's plan to eliminate the Connecticut Independent College Student (CICS) Grants is a betrayal to Connecticut private colleges, students, and to the spirit of his "You Belong In Connecticut" campaign. The plan makes no sense on either a moral or financial level and displays Rowland's lack of understanding of the importance of private education and financial aid.

The plan is first a betrayal to Connecticut's independent colleges, which award 51% of all degrees, including 61% of four-year degrees received by minority students and enrolls 37% of all students statewide. Connecticut residents make up 50% of enrolled students in these independent colleges.

No doubt, Governor Rowland assumes the four colleges affected by his plan (Yale, Wesleyan, Trinity and Connecticut College) are so wealthy that they will find a way to overcome the cuts. At Yale, that is exactly what will happen, but at Connecticut College the cuts would almost certainly force the College to offer less financial aid, reducing the College's ability to make its student population more diverse and negatively affecting the school's admission profile. Connecticut College is a rich college in terms of academic programs; however, it is not money rich. These cuts will have a far-reaching effect on the school, far greater than would be experienced at Yale, Trinity, or Wesleyan. It is not fair to categorize these four schools as being "rich schools." They are in fact very economically diverse.

Rowland's plan betrays Connecticut students by denying them the right to attend the school of their choice. In addition, many students already receiving CICS grants will be unfairly penalized for attending a successful college. They will be forced to transfer to less expensive schools, uprooting their lives and going through the hassle of the transfer process.

Finally, Rowland is betraying his own goal of encouraging Connecticut residents to attend in-state schools. His "You Belong in Connecticut" slogan will hardly ring true if students studying in-state find their funding cut and are thus encouraged to move out of state.

The only purpose that cutting CICS would serve would be to reduce the state budget, a gain that would be short lived. Upon losing their grants, Connecticut students studying at private schools may move to state schools, in which case the amount that tax payers would pay to educate each student would be in excess of the average \$3,960 CICS grant. Financially, cutting CICS doesn't make sense. Morally, it is even worse.

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

Box 4970 • Office (860) 439-2812

E-Mail: ccvoice@conncoll.edu

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

COLEY WARD

TIM STEVENS

MANAGING EDITOR

JAMIE THOMSON

BUSINESS MANAGER

MEGHAN SHERBURN

HEAD COPY EDITOR

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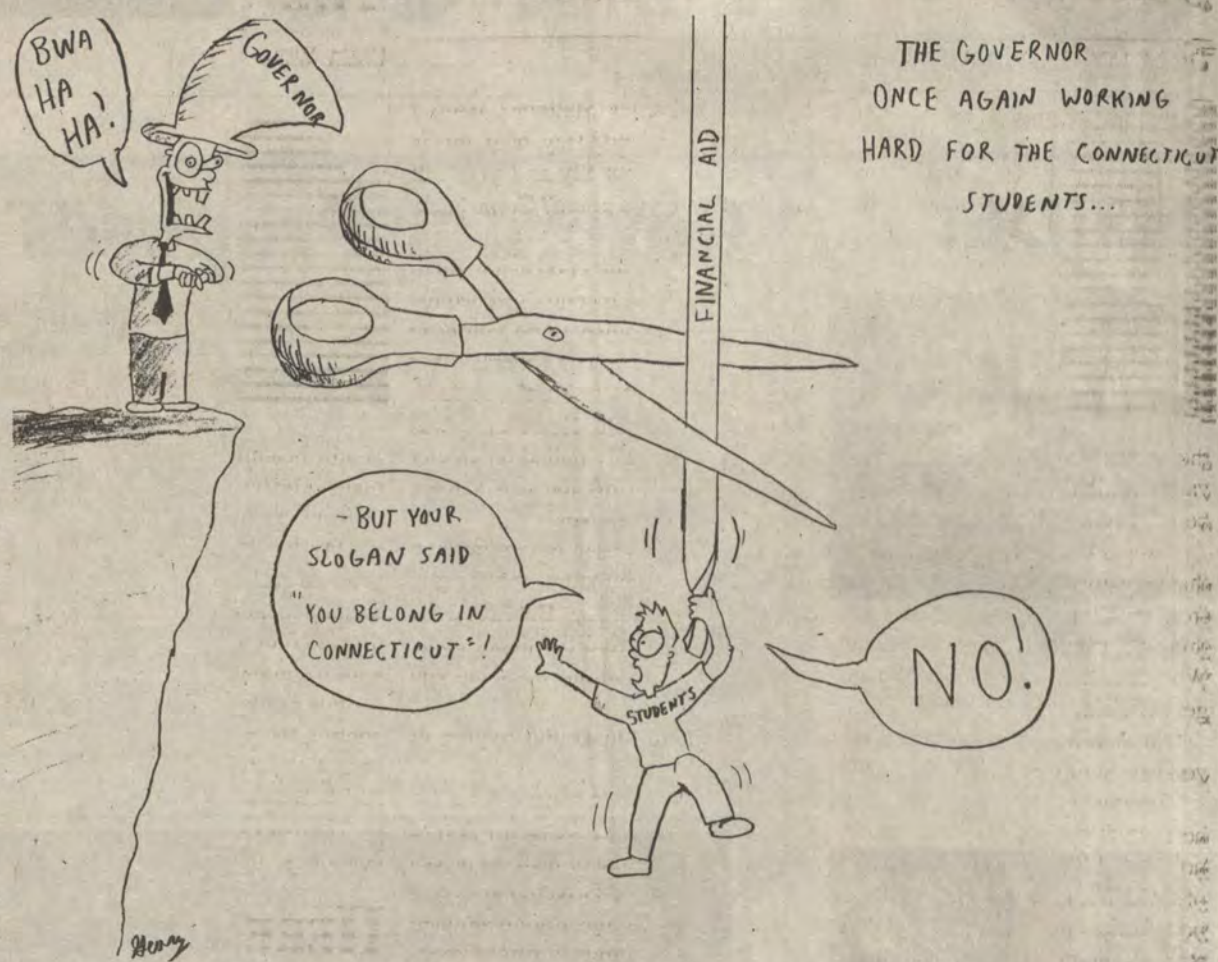
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ASSOC. PHOTO EDITOR

ANNIE TSELIKIS

LAYOUT EDITOR

DEBORAH BLOCK



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

J-Board Chair Declares Past Weekend 'Excessive'

To the editors:

I am writing after having just seen this past weekend's Campus Safety Reports. As of today, we know of 8 incidents of vandalism from this past weekend, seven of which occurred on Thursday night the 21st. Seven of these incidents will result in significant costs for the college and the dorms/halls where the damage occurred.

The incidents were as follows:

Thursday Night:

An 8 foot banquet table was found in Cro at 1:20 am broken in half

A broken window on the third floor of Freeman (the 3rd time in as many weeks)

A Pepsi machine was broken into and damaged outside of the game room

Several holes were punched in the wall directly below the keypad of Morrison's Main Street entrance

The soda machine in Marshall was damaged

An exit sign from the 3rd floor of Freeman was pulled down (at least the 6th in the past 2 weeks)

Holes were punched in the wall outside the men's bathroom on the first floor of Cro (for the second weekend in a row)

Rest of the Weekend so far:

A stop sign north of Cro was stolen

This is a DRAMATIC increase from a normal weekend. I would like to remind everyone that we had 53,925 dollars worth of vandalism last year. Think of what that money could have been better spent on. It also reflects poorly on us as students. We have prospective students on this campus nearly every day. What are they going to think as they walk past holes in the wall and broken windows?

Also, several of these incidents created safety hazards. First, the person who ripped the exit sign off of the wall could have easily electrocuted themselves, not to mention the fact that if there was a fire that produced heavy smoke, it is possible that someone not familiar with that hall would either not be able to get out, or might take longer to do so. Second, broken windows present the obvious hazard of cutting one's hand as well as the risk of others being cut by broken glass.

I want to be especially clear in the case of the stolen stop sign. When that sign was removed, a relatively simple four way stop became a 3 way stop. A person visiting campus would have no way of knowing that the stop sign should have been there, and might well have had a car accident.

This kind of behavior is childish, irresponsible, and as I have pointed out, often dangerous. There is no excuse for it. My personal favorite is people who blame incidents like this on the fact that "there is nothing else to do." Another favorite of mine is people who try to excuse or explain this type of conduct with "I was drunk." Again, unacceptable. There are plenty of people on this campus who drink who have never vandalized anything.

I would encourage whoever did what is listed above to take responsibility under the honor code and contact the relevant Housefellow, myself or Student Life as soon as possible. Also, remember that anonymous tips can be left for Campus Safety at extension 5200. I assure you that turning yourself in will result in less punishment than if you are caught. I imagine that there are people who know who is responsible for what is listed above. I'd ask you to think whether or not it is fair to let innocent people pay for the damage that your friend did.

I would also ask you all to remember that every time something gets broken there is someone with Physical Plant that has to clean or fix it. Often times Physical Plant employees get called back in the middle of the night to fix the damage. IT IS NOT THEIR JOB TO CLEAN UP AFTER DRUNKEN VANDALISM.

Again, I would reiterate the warning that I gave at the beginning of the year: vandalism will not be tolerated by the Board, and frankly, the rest of the community should not tolerate it either. I would ask everyone to consider the consequences of their actions BEFORE putting a fist through a wall or ripping down an exit sign.

-Jonathan Franks '04

Student Criticizes Column, College Voice

To the editors:

This is a reply to Coley Ward's insightful viewpoint entitled, "Hey Trustees: Read This!" In typical College Voice fashion, Coley Ward makes horrible assumptions about a topic of which he knows very little. He claims that, "Our teams are not good. At best, a few are competitive." Obviously, Ward is not an athlete, or even an informed reporter.

I do agree with Ward that many student-athletes choose other schools over Conn because of our subpar athletic facilities. Our facilities may not match Middlebury's pristine athletic center, but men's cross-country and men's basketball were both able to embarrass our Vermont counterparts.

I've heard other critics of athletics say how Conn can't compete with schools like Tufts or Williams. How do we compare against these schools academically? Athletically, Conn does much better than just compete with our NESCAC schools. Academically, however, Conn is overshadowed by our NESCAC counterparts.

This opinion piece attacks many sports teams, but none more directly than, "Our women's basketball team had a terrible season." Granted the women's basketball did not have a winning record against other NESCAC teams, but is this any reason to write a derogatory opinion piece about a team who came to the athletic center everyday, worked extremely hard, and overcame many obstacles? First, this team was missing five players for half of their season due to study abroad. Second, their captain, Kacey Kennedy, tore her ACL in the first game of the season. Finally, there were no seniors in the starting lineup or any players over six feet. Regardless, fifteen girls put on their jerseys everyday and get rewarded with this kind of publicity. Thanks College Voice.

Ward says that "Our athletes might be slow and awkward, but they're smart." Perhaps he doesn't read his own newspaper's headlines where Maura Danahy was awarded Female Athlete of the Year in the state of Connecticut. Perhaps he didn't read in the Boston Globe where Duffy Markham and Amanda Clark were named hopefuls for the U.S. Olympic team in sailing. Perhaps he didn't hear about Mizan Ayes scoring over 1,000 points in his collegiate career and being offered a position playing professional basketball in Portugal. Perhaps he didn't read about Christa Thorez being named NESCAC rookie of the year for soccer. Perhaps he didn't hear about Clancy Galgay being named a preseason All-American for men's lacrosse (for the second year in a row).

The College Voice more closely resembles the College Waste with its inaccurate representations of the school and boring subject matter. For example, last week's front page headline was about President Fainstein's dog! Is there nothing more newsworthy to report about than a man's relationship with his "best friend?" I've never been more ashamed of my college than when I saw that incredibly boring headline. I truly felt like I was reading a newspaper produced by a bunch of middle school rejects.

Bottom line, the College Voice has no right to criticize anyone. Let's just see one issue without typos in the headlines, please

-Tim Host '02

Times Has Come for New Housefellow Process

To the editors:

As a graduating Senior who has obviously experienced their influence on dorm life over the past four

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OPINION

SLY, GIVE US GUYS A BREAK

TIM STEVENS • COMPLAINT OF THE WEEK



Can we talk about Sylvester Stallone? Well, I know we can, but would you mind? Hey, wait, this is my column! Ha, we'll talk about Sly and you will damn well like it. Where are you going? Come back. Okay, I promise I'll be good.

Anyway, now that you and I are good again, on to Sly we go. It seems Mr. Stallone recently rescued his wife Jennifer Flavin (not of course to be confused with Flavia Flav), Mira Sorvino, and several other people from a stuck elevator. Now on the surface, that does not seem all that notable. However, it was

the manner in which he did it. He, and I quote, "manually pulled up an elevator...pulled off his Armani jacket and was able to lift the heavy load, before prying the doors open to release the elevator's captives."

Now, I could be wrong about this, but it has always been my impression that elevators are heavy. And not like Kubiak heavy (you know, the big guy from Parker Lewis Can't Lose), but heavy like a Buick heavy. But lifting the thing up manually was not enough for him, he also pried the doors open. Who does that with their bare hands? Well, obviously Stallone does, but you get my point.

So therefore, it is on behalf of males everywhere I make this request of you Mr. Stallone: KNOCK IT OFF!

Seriously, this is just ridiculous. Let's just review your resume for a sec here, shall we Sly? He has written 17 films, including the Academy Award nominated Rocky, its brilliant follow up Rocky II, and one of the best pieces of Cold War propaganda, Rocky IV. True, he also wrote Driven, but everybody makes mistakes. He has directed 5 films including the aforementioned Rocky II and IV. Obviously, he has also starred in a multitude of films (somewhere in the neighborhood of 50-60). Many of them were bad, but some were quite good, most recently the low key Copland where he gained 40 pounds for the role (and lost it all before reshoots could take place...must be awful to have that metabolism). His animated parody of himself in Antz also ranks as a recent Stallone pleasure.

However, what he is best known for is his creation of two larger than life screen icons: Rocky and Rambo. They are instantly recognizable, practically gods of our generation. In the world of films, they have taken their place next to the likes of Heston's Moses and Bogart's Blaine. They are, at their essence, superheroes without costumes, which brings me back to the point of all this.

Mr. Stallone, you already are a superhero on screen. Flawless (well if you ignore Rocky V and I urge you to do so), tremendous, more legend than man. Us puny mortals down here in your shadow have a hard enough time already living up to that, and we can claim that Rocky and Rambo are fiction. When you go and do this sort of thing in the real world, what chance do the rest of us have?

So, while it is great that you being superhuman and all is that merely an act, but rather the real deal, could you just keep that under your hat? There are some of us here who just can't lift elevators yet. As soon as we can, or we all get to play superheroes in the movies, then you can show off again all you want.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH CORPORATE CULTURE

NATHAN MEE • COMMON SENSE

As the Enron debacle continues to unfold, it is looking more like the Enron Debauchery. Not only is it becoming clear that Enron engaged in highly questionable accounting practices, it is now coming to the fore that fishy numbers are only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. As described in a recent New York Times article, Enron execs made a practice of splurging on department spending accounts and slush funds and then quickly transitioning to another department before anyone wised up. OK, so they have a spending problem. So what? Well, it doesn't necessarily end there. Enron execs have now become famous for ditching their wives for their secretaries, apparently after selecting them from the "Hottie Board," electing from such nicknames as Va Voom, and other terms no doubt carrying inferences to the female mammary glands.

The question is: how did this sort of frat-boy delinquency translate to the business world? Is it just that no amount of Harvard or Wharton schooling can take the boy out of the CEO? Or is it that the still male-dominated executive world is a chaotic one of testosterone-saturated alpha male synergy? It seems that execs, often fearing reprisals for their own misdeeds, or are too timid to challenge their more alpha-like colleagues, look the other way when someone gets out of hand.

What bothers me, however, is that this group of people, so influential and important in our free-market capitalist society, seems to be indifferent to our American values. Courage, Thrift, Honesty, and Fidelity are not exactly the adjectives being used in the polemic. What sort of man who exemplified those characteristics (which is to say, a man of character) would cheat on his wife with his secretary, go on company-funded benders, and bail out in his golden parachute, leaving his employees with no pensions. I don't mean to suggest that all execs are guilty of such indiscretions, but the apparent prevalence of such activity is disturbingly high.

Enron is not the only guilty party, as the six bankers made evident when they bought five bottles of Pétus for \$48,000. The days of corporate excess are not confined to that ill-fated giant.

To those considering joining the ranks of corporate executives, such as this author, these events beg the question: who exactly are we going to work with?

THE GROUND IS CREEPING UP ON THE PLANE

COLEY WARD • VIEWPOINT



I sat down to lunch the other day with one of my favorite faculty members, who, between bites of salad, offered me a metaphor:

Connecticut College is like a plane that's entered a tailspin. Before the pilot can level the plane, he or she has to get control of it, to stop it from spinning. Only after the pilot has gained control can the trajectory be altered.

In this metaphor, Connecticut College is the plane and the pilot is Vice President of Finance Paul Maroni. As my friend explained it to me, the College is still heading towards the ground, but Maroni has gotten control of the plane. The only question is, will he be able to bring us up fast enough to keep us from crashing?

My faculty friend says yes. Give it three to four years — three to four years of real sacrifice and efficiency — and we will be back on track, ready to start spending again. I'm not so sure. Just between you and me, I think three to four years is a pretty arbitrary figure. And I think the metaphor takes a lot for granted.

For example, we've all seen the movies with the plane spinning out of control, the pilot struggling with the controls and the ground creeping closer and closer. Seldom does that scenario fail to be complicated by either a fuel leak or a fire in one of the engines.

Here at Connecticut College, we are about to have a fuel leak. The state is about to cut our Connecticut Independent College Student [CICS] fund-

HERE COME THE BRIDES

SARAH GREEN • VIEWPOINT



"Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail."
—Anonymous

* * *

The state of Connecticut is not the first state to consider recognizing same-sex marriage. Yet, this is a crucial moment for both the state and the gay rights movement. Connecticut must not squander this opportunity to do the right thing. As states begin to legally recognize same-sex partnerships, Connecticut can either step forward as a national leader in civil rights, or the state can lag behind, perpetuating discrimination.

Vermont, California, and Hawaii are so far the only states to recognize that citizens who happen to be homosexual are entitled to the same civil rights that are—theoretically—guaranteed to all citizens. Yet even these progressive states have failed to recognize gay marriage, supporting only same-sex "civil unions."

25 states have passed so-called "Defense of Marriage Acts," limiting marriage to male-female couples. And six more states have such laws pending. While these laws don't outlaw civil unions of the type recognized by Vermont, they send a message of hostile intolerance to their gay and lesbian citizens.

Connecticut is considering two bills, one supporting same-sex marriage and one supporting same-sex civil unions. While same-sex civil unions are a step in the right direction, marriage is still reserved as a higher institution. The distinction implies that same-sex unions are inferior, and smacks of the "separate-but-equal" standard applied to race in the 1890's.

THE REAL AMERICAN AIRLINES

IAN SCHIMMEL • VIEWPOINT

America is on a jetliner. We all have window seats and we're flying for free, but there's one catch: we don't know where we are going until we get there. Our narrow porthole in the fuselage, clouding up with condensation from our breath as we strain to see, only affords us a small view of what's directly below.

"Who's flying this thing? Where are we going? What's it look like up ahead?" we all want to know. But, we never really seem to find out. Instead, we are kept occupied by in-flight movies, a continuous beverage service, and perpetually cheery flight attendants offering us blankets and pillows.

This is the situation of our society today. In the wake of September 11th, our news and information have become about as pre-package as airline food. Our nation is caught up in a fervor of patriotism, heightened by mini American flags and "smart" weapon footage. "Keep America Moving!" the cars ads say, and we do; we keep going, smiling, and living. I guess that's good, except for that now we are moving on in ignorance. September 11th was supposed to be a wake-up call, but we've already taken the phone off the hook and thrown a couple pillows over our heads.

We watch press conferences on T.V. every day, but are we any more knowledgeable for it? They seem to use a lot of words but say very little. Government officials explain that "it will be a long fight," never clarifying how we are going about it or what it will take to win. We are traveling in uncharted territory concerning our response to terrorism, but those in charge act like this route is as familiar as the daily commute to work. Even if there is trouble up ahead, it will be played down so we are kept united and faithful; "Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, this is your pilot speaking. We've encountered a little turbulence, but just sit back, relax, and enjoy the view. We'll be arriving right on time."

But the worst part of this situation is that we are not trying to get

ing, which could leave the school short anywhere from \$73,000 to \$600,000 in financial aid. Even the short end of that figure, a \$73,000 hole in the budget, would severely impact the campus. Can anybody think of a department that is not already so cash strapped that it could stand to lose a few thousand dollars? Department budgets can't be scaled back any further. Something would have to get cut. Perhaps, East Asian Studies? Or maybe, once again, the tennis team?

Of course, the other option is that we could just start handing out less financial aid. Unfortunately, that would mean a less diverse campus and probably lower SAT scores and a lower admission profile.

So here we are, the plane spiraling towards the earth, fuel leaking out into the atmosphere — and the roof caves in. No, not the roof of the plane, the athletic center roof. Within the next year or so, the school will be forced to finally give in and buy a new roof for the athletic center, or it might just collapse. This is a major expense. Let's liken this financial emergency to an engine fire.

Fortunately, Paul Maroni is an old-school pilot, one of character and principles, and he no doubt intends to keep fighting until the plane levels out, or go down trying. Me, I would be groping for the "eject" button. But then again, I'm somewhat of a pessimist. It's pessimism that make me think that's it's going to be a lot longer than three years before this school is done worrying about how it's going to pay the bills. Not only will there be fuel leaks and engine fires ahead, but rough weather, jammed landing gear and hysterical passengers. The plane might get righted, but it won't be easy, and it won't be anytime soon. And it might just crash.

The Supreme Court's decision in Brown vs. Board of Education said essentially that separate-but-equal is inherently unequal. Is it such a leap to transfer that concept from race to sexual preference, and from educational institutions to the institution of marriage?

Opponents—religious right-wingers, hidebound Republicans, and timid Democrats—claim that allowing gay marriage would erode the sanctity of marriage.

"In my mind, the sanctity of marriage requires that it be confined to marriage between a man and a woman," said Jane Swift, the Republican Governor of Massachusetts, in the Boston Globe last year. Swift's stepson is gay, and has publicly criticized the governor for her opposition to same-sex marriages.

As for the sanctity-of-marriage argument, Swift is her husband's fourth wife. Now I don't speak for the Man Upstairs, but if straight couples are allowed to marry and divorce at the drop of a hat, I don't see why committed gay couples are such an affront to the institution.

And ours is a marriage-based society. Marriage carries with it civil as well as religious meanings. Married couples are guaranteed certain rights and privileges not granted to mere cohabitants, or even those joined by a civil union. The bottom line is that love is love, regardless of the chromosomes of the lovers.

This is a key moment in the gay rights movement. Connecticut is standing at the crossroads of the debate. The state possesses a unique opportunity to become the first state in the union to support gay marriage—this choice will determine whether the state is remembered as a pioneer in civil rights, or forgotten as one in a long line of prejudicial bigots.

answers. The President has enjoyed tremendous successes and has one of the highest approval ratings in history, but does this mean we should accept his every move? I feel that our ignorance post 9/11 is due in large part to the media. Where is our scrapping and "investigative" free press I hear advertised so much? What are the facts? Where is our nation going? What are our intentions and goals? These are the questions I would like to see asked and answered. Thanks, but I can get the party line from the press secretary.

No one is asking about the President's overspending of the budget, the billions he's throwing towards a nuclear missile defense system, or about pulling out of the ABM treaty with Russia, or addressing the very real possibility that in the future, we will be fighting against our own aircraft and technology that we are giving to today's allies. The President seems too popular to touch. And who wants to be the un-cool kid and question what's popular?

In rare cases, when the press does question the President, it seems to accept whatever answer is thrown back at it. A frightening example: "He didn't say that. He was reading what was given to him in a speech," (Richard Darman, director of the Office of Management and Budget and a member of President Bush's cabinet, explaining why the President wasn't following up on his campaign pledge that there would be no loss of wetlands under his administration). The worst part: the reporter said, "Thank you," for the answer and sat down after it was given to him!

When did it become un-American to ask tough questions and expect decent answers? What's the point of a free press if no one is willing to use it? Skip the extra pillow and chicken cordon blue in the plastic dish; I'd like to see what's going on in the cockpit. "Good afternoon pilot and crew, these are your passengers speaking, and we'd like to know where we're going."

Lonely? Downtrodden? Nowhere Left to Turn?
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OCCAM'S RAZOR

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Seeing the world both inside and out- the globe, the universe, the atom, energy is matter,

Matter is Energy- Chemistry and Physics.

And, didn't that blow their minds- matter is energy- Einstein- and didn't it change the way we see, know everything..... And begin to ask ourselves- what are we doing? This infernal quest to evolve- evolve to our higher nature, beginning with feeling and emotion to communication and expression- the expression of intuition and the symbols, subconscious geometry, healing, art....

Evolving higher, always, as beings. And we here- with this knowledge- from these inquiries- thousands of years of inquiries, designed to see in parts, one by one- the whole.

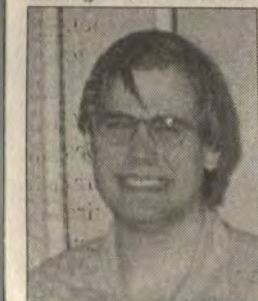
It becomes obvious the masculine/feminine expression of how and why. How in the doing, Why in the knowing, and how that we may answer the why. Seeing the picture- matter is energy- the how follows the why- the male guided by the female principle of life, the principle of intuition and care, of life and nurture, of self-sufficiency and creator- begetter of life and creation.

No longer tainted by the evil apple, so long ago- in the garden of Eden?

And disciplines merging into a discussion about spirituality- matter is energy- and the why permeates as the how dictates the allowed progression of discussion- into one cohesive view.

THE BATTLE HAS BEGUN

ERIC SEVERSON • ...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL



Since the early 70's, the issue of Judicial nominations by the President has become increasingly polemical and politicized. Ever since the activism of the Warren Court (Miranda and Brown v. Board of Education) and the monumentally controversial Roe v. Wade in 1973, Presidents have

faced serious challenges over what sort of federal judges they might nominate. The current administration's struggles began with the nomination of John Ashcroft, formerly the most conservative Senator in the country. This controversy subsided for the past year, but now the issue of the federal judiciary is back in the news.

The first confrontation of this battle for the federal judiciary is over the nomination of Mississippi judge Charles Pickering to an appeals-court seat. This struggle will not reach the intensity of a fight over a Supreme Court nomination, but this current controversy looks exactly like a prelude to the conflict that will occur in the event that President Bush is able to name a new Supreme Court justice.

Pickering's nomination to the federal appeals court is opposed by a wide array of liberal-leaning interest groups. Critics point to the fact that he bolted the Mississippi Democratic Party in 1964 in part because he opposed efforts to integrate the Mississippi delegation to the Democratic Convention. The National Council of Jewish Women opposes his nomination on the grounds that as a state legislator he called for a constitutional convention to ban abortion in 1978. The National Organization for Women concurs, adding that he has been a known opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment. His record on several civil rights matters has also provoked opposition from People for the American Way and the Alliance for Justice.

This struggle could be viewed as a continuation of the battle of President Clinton's judicial nominations; from 1995 to 2000, thirty-five percent of Clinton's nominees were blocked. The interest groups and senators that are bringing Charles Pickering's nomination under close scrutiny are doing exactly what their ideological

opposites did in the previous decade, as well as what our system of checks and balances requires. None of the President's nominees to the federal bench are entitled to confirmation, and it is vitally important that each nominee be questioned heavily and rejected if he or she does not appear willing to uphold our civil rights and liberties.

It is especially important that this debate be waged on the real substantive issues. Supporters of Charles Pickering's nomination have accused Democratic Senators and their supporters of trying to label Pickering as a racist and make personal attacks on his character. This is not relevant to the true issue at hand; the issue is not Pickering's personal history and character, but whether or not he will uphold the constitutional rights which the majority of Americans hold as sacred.

This controversy is important in and of itself, but it is even more monumental as a prelude to the fierce ideological battle that will certainly occur if President Bush is able to make a nomination to the United States Supreme Court. Presidents Reagan and Bush Sr. were candid about their desire to move the Court in a more conservative direction, and the current President has confirmed that he is of the same mindset. If Bush does make an appointment to the Court, it will be the third phase of a struggle that began with the nominations of Robert Bork in 1987 and Clarence Thomas in 1991. Bork was rejected by the Senate, while Thomas was confirmed by the narrowest margin in history, 52 votes to 48. The real issue of consequence with Thomas was not his personal life. What is of consequence is that he has been one of the most unabashedly conservative justices on every issue to come before the Court since his confirmation.

Regardless of where you stand on the issues of police practices, freedom of expression, gay rights, abortion, church-state separation and federalism, it is your responsibility to stay informed about the Pickering controversy and the Senate confirmation battle which will almost certainly ensue in the next few years. Once a confirmation to the Supreme Court or the federal bench is made, there is no going back. Therefore, it is in our best interest to involve ourselves in this process now before the liberties we revere are endangered.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued on page 3

years, I feel generally qualified to express my opinions about the housefellow selection process. In other words, I am not writing a blind opinion with little factual knowledge.

Over the past four years, I have noticed two things: the housefellows chosen to work in respective dorms have done a fine job (and I don't mean that to be patronizing in the least). Sadly, I have also experienced the hopefulness, desire, enthusiasm, and dreams of acquaintances wishing to hold this hallowed campus position getting shot down early in the selection process.

What I do know of the selection process is what is enumerated by the application: a candidate must develop a personal statement and list his/her contributions to campus, have a peer author, a reference, and then go before representatives of the Student Life office for a battery of interviews and role playing situations. Then, over the course of about six weeks, decisions are made that cut the final number down to 21 from between 60 to 100 hopeful applicants. What I don't know, nor understand, is what separates those who get the go ahead to the second round from those who get denied, especially after the very first interview sessions.

A good friend shared with me his denial letter after the first round of interviews. He was, to say the least, heart broken, and miffed by a paradoxical relationship with the Student Life department. Since his freshman year, he has applied for positions in earnest, and has run in election campaigns. Yet he has been continually denied the opportunity to exercise his abilities by Student Life over the years. How can he cite references to character, leadership, and responsibility if he has never been afforded even the most modest position in 3 years' time?

Meanwhile, some candidates for housefellow skate through pre-lim interviews with few concrete examples of personal qualities on their resumes. Some feel the whole appointment process is based on a person's "personality." So why interview? Just hand out a personality test and come up with 21 type "A" candidates for the job!

As a friend, I know the objective strengths and weaknesses of his "personality," but I also know the passion, sensitivity, and zeal that he has. Opinion and politics must give way to facts, traits, and personal background that cannot be spun or fluffed up for an interview.

Reflecting on my friend, his extremely emotional reaction, and the rather cold denial letter from the interview committee, I realize they made a grave mistake. This school does not advertise the daily life of this campus. Instead, they feature individuals, programs, initiatives, and events that show the "true nature" of our school: award winning professors, outstanding achievements by students, unique stories of those from international and adverse origin, and new groundbreaking programs. Accordingly, I believe this philosophy, one of celebrating uniqueness and triumph, must be considered in the housefellow selection process.

So what of my friend and his origins? It was a mystery until he finally allowed me and another CC student to visit his apartment one summer. As I stepped off the train at the NYC stop, he met us and we walked along towards his place. A couple of blocks later, we found ourselves in a housing project, built on federally subsidized affordable housing grants. We walked into a lobby devoid of carpet or lavish decorations; instead I was greeted with white brick, heavy electric security doors, simple mailboxes, and locals flipping quarters. His mother greeted us with broken English. We threw our gear into a small bedroom that was used by my friend's brother. For the weekend, six were to share one bathroom and a space about the size of the Harris lobby.

Despite the simple conditions, we were the guests, and my friend's father greeted us with a gentle smile, asking names and making conversation through my friend and his brother who acted as translators.

His father and mother came to this country with little money back in the 80s, as his mother wanted to escape political strife and poverty. They settled in the same apartment, he, working as an elevator operator, and she, as a waitress. My friend and his brother grew up there, gazing out the window of their subsidized housing at the skyscrapers, glitz, and glamour of the city. As his years at one of the nation's finest magnet schools came to a close, he applied to Connecticut College and arrived amongst us Connecticuters and Suburbanites of Boston sporting North Face, A&E, Gap, J. Crew, and the like. Throughout the years at Conn, he worked with freshmen, Information Services, was elected to SGA, and took on several other responsibilities, including his current position in the Peer Educator Pilot Program. A dedicated student, he maintains a solid average and has interned in New York City with two well known international companies. His life's wisdom and experiences are incredible: he is living the American dream. Believe it or not, of the hundreds of kids that live on his apartment complex block, he and his brother are two of the very few who have made it to college, let alone to a NESCAC school.

I have seen prose similar to what I wrote above in most of our college's publications as a "selling point." If we are indeed about personal triumph, wisdom, life experience, and diversity; this person alone makes up for me and every other student who came from middle class origins without having to worry about the problems of being a minority in the big city. I believe wholeheartedly that his denial is not only a foolish mistake but is the most hypocritical, ill-informed, and air-headed decision that our Student Life Office has ever made.

I believe the selection process should be more long-term, to prove to the committee that the candidate is willing, sincere, and able. Six weeks of interviews and role-playing games are more appropriate for selecting actors than leaders who will come to bear immense responsibility and power. My suggestion is simple: start the evaluation process early in the junior year. Interviews should begin in September of the year, with decisions rendered in April, so as to allow a maximal evaluation time. This seven-month period will truly show which candidates stand the test of time. Along the way, periodic meetings, assignments, activities, and duties similar to those of a housefellow could be given to prospective candidates. The completion of such duties would bode well for their application. Further, prospective candidates might also pick weekend shifts and shadow a campus safety officer or current housefellow, or volunteer hours in the Student Life office to experience the true nature of the job and its extensive duties. Additionally, a free, but mandatory CPR course could be taught. Finally, any J-Board convictions or other transgressions committed during the trial period would immediately dismiss them from the selection process. This alternative process is most fair, since there are many worthy candidates in the student body who have little or no relationship with Student Life, while some practically live in the office. A longer evaluation period would establish solid ground for a solid and well-informed relationship between the committee and the candidate.

As for my friend, I don't know if a longer evaluation period would have changed the result, but I hope that his story has brought thought to the minds of our decision makers who, as often as they do wonderful things for our college, also manage to shoot themselves in the foot.

-Name Withhold Upon Request

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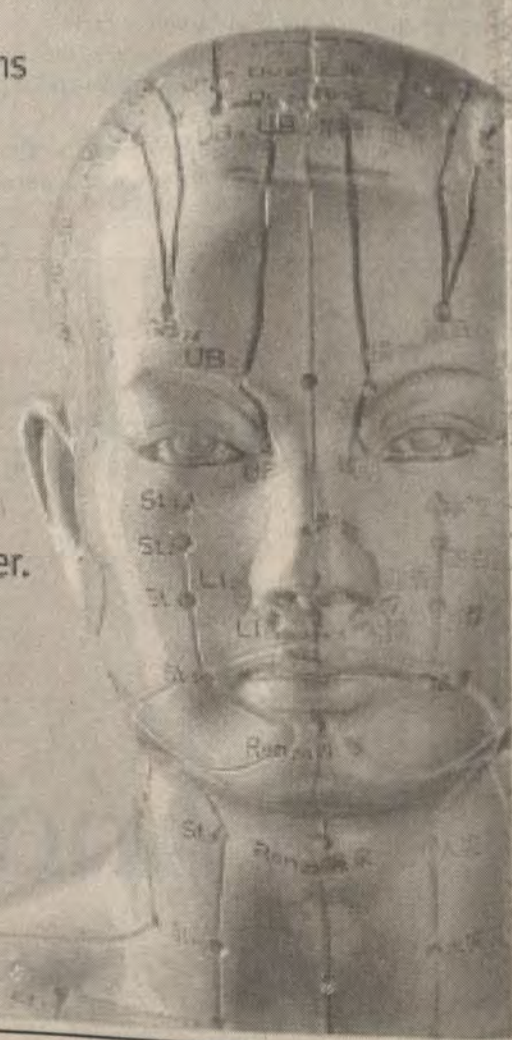
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Committee Works Towards a New Digital Connecticut College

By USMAN SHEIKH
STAFF WRITER

Up-to-date department websites, online syllabi before pre-registration, electronic voting for SGA and J-Board—sounds too far-fetched, amidst all the budget cuts? Well, think again because it is already here and will soon go live once testing is complete!

"Information and Media Access" is only one of this year's three issues project committees of the SGA Assembly, the other two being the Honor Code review committee and CC Pride. The committee consists of Hassan Mamun, Usman Khosa, Daisy Small, and Chris Hensman, and Colin Fleming as the chair, all of whom are "committed to the goal of using the internet and technology to connect students and provide useful services."

The committee has worked closely with Information Services to provide student input for the CamelWeb, Connecticut College's

intranet, which IS claims to be "the insider's source of information for all Camels." In order to derive maximum benefit from this customizable website, one option is to put all campus clubs and organizations online. "There is no single place where you can get all the information you need about the clubs we have on campus right now," explained Mamun. "Once everything is online, students will have access to the info they are looking for, while it will be much easier for these clubs to publicize their events."

The committee also plans to encourage the departments who have websites to update and standardize them, and to urge those who don't to create websites. The committee is also working towards adding syllabi for all courses to websites so that it is easier for students to find out the specifics of any course before pre-registration. Not all courses have webpages right now, and even after putting every-

thing online, it will be a tremendous amount of work to constantly update the information as courses change.

But the highlight of Information and Media Access Committee's agenda this year is the introduction of the e-Voting system. The students have wanted, for some time, to switch to online voting to elect their representatives as the faculty members do, to avoid the hassle of going down to the College Center to manually cast their votes. This new system, devised by Laurie Lilienthal and Michael Friscia of Information services, will make use of the CamelWeb; students will log in using their existing accounts and will make their selections just like filling out any other online form. Moreover, they would only have access to the categories that they are eligible to vote for.

"I am excited about the possibility of having elections online," commented Khosa. "It will save time, paper, and the pain of hand-counting." He added that, "This will only



Students get a preview of Conn's latest technology upgrade (Schwartz).

be a success if a lot of students participate." To maximize student participation, the SGA plans to have computer terminals set up in Cro so students can vote there.

But that's not all. In coming years, the Information and Media

Access Committee is planning to launch Connecticut College's own campus television channel. It will broadcast programs, ranging from daily news to live coverage of on-campus addresses, conferences and sports matches, and much more.

"This is a long-term project. The whole system is already set up," Khosa pointed out, "We need to purchase the software, but we don't have the money for that right now."

Rowland Proposes Cuts to CICS Program

continued from page 1

a Connecticut resident who receives financial aid. Breuer said that the plan would affect younger students the most.

"It doesn't affect me as much since I am a junior," Breuer said, "but, if I were younger, I would lose \$4,000 that Conn would not be able to provide through financial aid. It would be devastating to have to transfer because of legislation."

The elimination of the CICS grants would be a serious hit to the already cash strapped Connecticut College. Fainstein said that if ever the \$2.6 million cut in CICS was allocated to all of the private institutions in the state, the resulting \$73,000 loss would be serious. If the cuts to CICS are absorbed by only

the four schools with endowments over \$100 million, the nearly \$600,000 cut in Connecticut College's grants would be disastrous, he said.

"The potential exposure of \$600,000 would put a substantial hole in our budget," Fainstein said. If there is a hole in revenue this late in the budget process it will be a serious issue for the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee."

Because the state might not set its budget for next year until May, the College might not know the status of its budget until after it makes decisions on acceptances for the class of 2006.

"They [the state] think they're doing this for next year," Fainstein said, "but the fact of the matter is

that we have already accepted early decision students and given funding for next year."

Despite budget challenges, Connecticut College has remained committed to growing financial aid. This year, the College gave out a total of \$14.3 million in aid. Next year, recommendations have been made to grow financial aid by half a million dollars.

If Connecticut College loses its CICS funding it will be forced to make some tough budget decisions and may have to reconsider the amount it provides to students in financial aid. A smaller reliance on financial aid could negatively affect the school's admissions profile, forcing the College to either cut spending on valuable programs by

an amount equivalent to the CICS cut, accept fewer Connecticut residents with financial need, or accept more full-pay students. The number of minority students and students from urban areas could also decline.

"Economic diversity is vital in our academic institution," said Solinga.

Statewide, 847 students who receive aid would not receive under the state plan. Nearly 20 percent of Connecticut College's student body, 347 students, are from Connecticut. Roughly 7.5 percent of Connecticut College students (128 students) receive CICS grants. The average CICS award to a Connecticut College student is \$4,290.

I-Week Focuses on Music as Language All Can Understand

continued from page 1

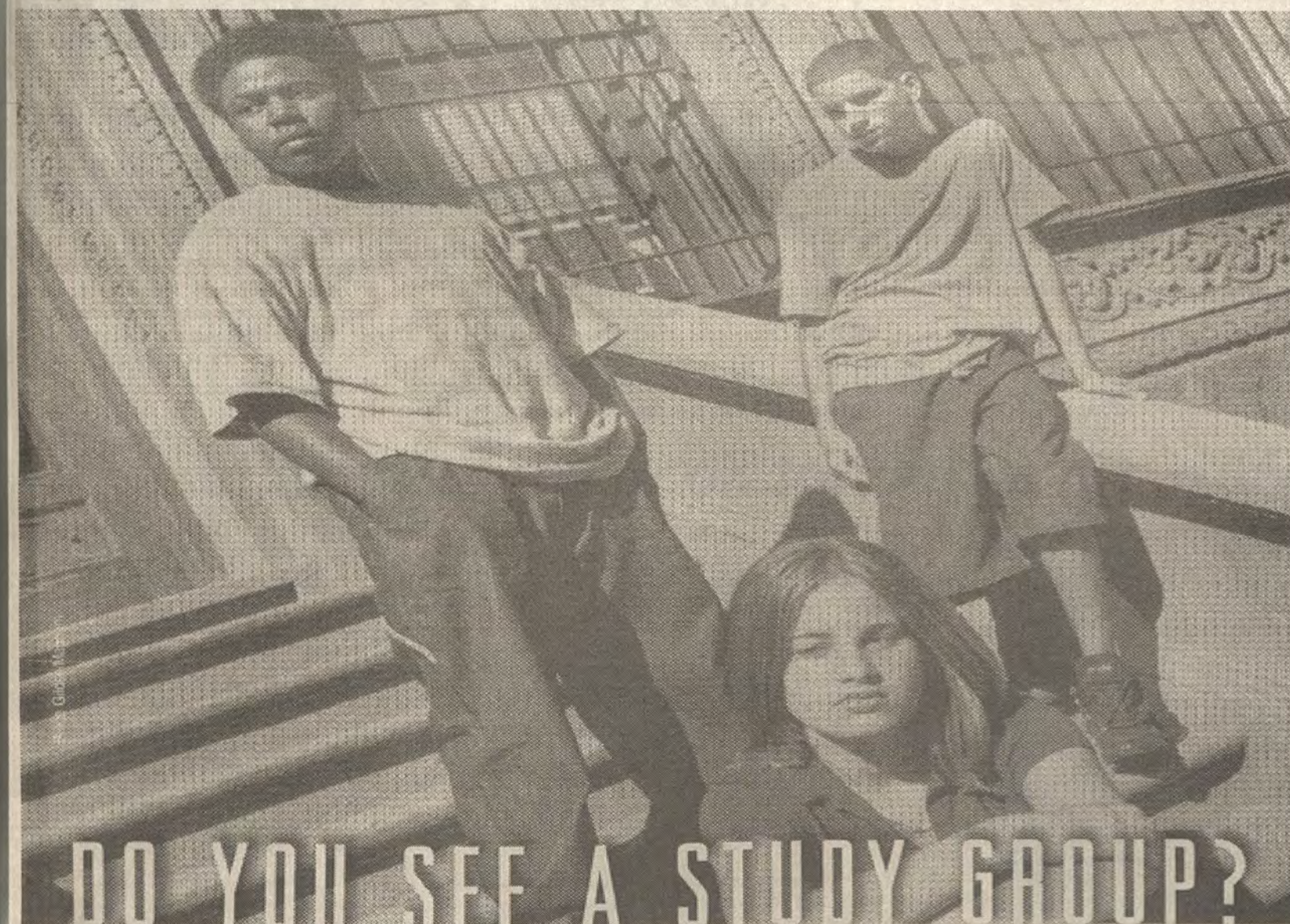
took place on campus throughout the week, including a visit by two Arab musicians. In discussing the music of various cultures, a guest speaker stated, "Music is not about the person who plays it, but rather about where it comes from." They concluded that while many types of music can be heard throughout the world, each originates in a specific culture and is expressive of the interactions among people of that culture. Therefore, becoming familiar with a culture's music is essential to understanding the way the people of that culture cooperate and live.

According to Simpson, the theme was chosen because Unity House was "interested in the fact

that every culture has a type of rhythm and music that makes it unique." She, along with the other members of Intercultural Pride, wanted to stress the diversity of music on our campus as well as in the world.

Simpson first became involved in I-Pride as a freshman. After developing a strong interest in intercultural relations in high school, Simpson's friend introduced her to the club.

She believes it is the most unifying club at Unity House and hopes that, through Intercultural Awareness Week, the entire Connecticut College population can be brought together.



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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Dance Concert Showcases Eclectic Choreography

By CHRISTINE DiCOMO

STAFF WRITER

Men in kilts, giant lines of "cocaine," plastic baby dolls, and, oh yes, some pretty impressive dancing, were just a few of the surprises awaiting audience members at the Conn College Dance Ensemble's performance last weekend. The performance, held in Myers Studio last Friday and Saturday, featured four works from the Dance Ensemble's repertoire and highlighted the talents of selected Connecticut College students. The show included choreography by CCDE Artistic Director J.M. Rebudal, Seán Curran, a dancer and choreographer who is currently director of the Seán Curran Company, and Dan Wagoner, a renowned American choreographer and Distinguished Guest Artist with Connecticut College's Dance Department.

The show opened with Wagoner's piece, "I Just Want To Dance With You." This fun and energetic dance, choreographed to the music of George Strait, was a wonderful way to open the show. Wagoner's brilliant choreography and the dancers' energy and pres-



Conn students perform original choreography last Friday and Saturday night.

ence left me smiling throughout the piece; I only wished it had been longer.

The second piece, "Sarung Banggi (One Evening)," was solo choreographed and performed by Artistic Director J.M. Rebudal, who is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance at Conn. This piece effectively combined sharp, quick movement

with softly undulating arms and hands. Together, the dramatic lighting and the music by Kabayao, gave this dance a more somber feel than the previous piece.

The third dance, "Past (the Third)," was also choreographed by Rebudal and was performed by the entire company. When the piece began, there was a line of white

powder stretched from the front of the stage to the back, which got kicked up and spread out over the stage as the performers danced through it. Clocking in at about twenty minutes long, the piece could easily have gotten boring, but it didn't. It gradually built in intensity as the movements became more and more fast-paced and dynamic, and it

managed to be engaging and to hold my attention the whole way through. The piece included a lot of strong ensemble work, but it also showcased the individual talents of the company members, most notably of soloist Sara Wilkinson '03.

After a brief intermission, the entire company returned for the final piece, "Folk Dance for the Future." This piece was choreographed in 1997 by Seán Curran, and was a gift from Mr. Curran to CCDE. It was reconstructed for the Dance Ensemble by Rebudal and Heather Waldon-Arnold. "Folk Dance," which was performed to traditional Irish mouth music, is a tongue-in-cheek parody of the type of Irish step-dancing that has been so popularized in recent years by "Riverdance" and "Lord of the Dance." It combined traditional circle dances and other folk dance forms with postmodern choreography, and provided a hilarious twist on traditional Irish dancing. One particularly funny section featured three couples, one all-male couple, one all-female couple, and one "traditional" male-female couple, dancing with and fawning over three

plastic baby dolls. "Folk Dance" highlighted the strong stage presence and theatrical ability of the twelve student performers, as well as their strength and talent as dancers. All in all, the performance was very entertaining, and the range of works that were performed emphasized the ensemble's versatility.

CCDE was established last year with a grant from the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy. The Ensemble tours and performs a repertoire of works by Conn College faculty and outside guest artists. Since its start in 2001, CCDE has performed and conducted outreach programs at the Garde Arts Institute, Rosemary-Choate School, Magnet School, and Cutler Middle School. The ensemble also performed with the French company Ballet Preljocaj last year in Palmer Auditorium. And if this weekend's performance was any indication, the Dance Ensemble will continue to succeed in bringing high-quality dance to the Connecticut College community.

Faculty Chamber Recital Proves to be a Pleasure

By HEATHER DE BARI

STAFF WRITER

A Faculty Chamber Recital was held in Evans Hall of Cummings Art Center on Friday, February 22 at 8 P.M. On the violin, cello, clarinet, and piano, Charles Sherba, Daniel Harp, Thomas Labadorf, and Gary Chapman enthusiastically performed twelve brief pieces, the first four from "Gimpel the Fool" (1982/1985, David Schiff) and the remaining eight from "Quartet for the End of Time" (1940, Olivier Messiaen). Charles Sherba, Heidi and Chester Kirk Concertmaster Chair of Rhode Island Philharmonic, has performed for the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Aspen Festival Orchestra, and others, and teaches at Connecticut College, Brown University, and at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth. Daniel Harp is a cello instructor at Brown University, has played for the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, and Cincinnati Ballet Orchestra, and has been the cellist of the Charleston String Quartet since 1983. Thomas Labadorf, a member of the US Coast Guard Band, is on the faculty at Connecticut College as a member of the

Connecticut College Chamber Ensemble, and also at Central Connecticut State University, and is a main clarinetist in the New Britain and Waterbury Symphony Orchestras. Gary Chapman tours with Elite Syncopation, a ragtime and jazz group, is the Sylvia Pasternack Marx Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music at Connecticut College, and has performed with the New Haven, Connecticut, New World Concert, Manchester, Waterbury, Eastern Connecticut, and Hartford Symphony Orchestras. It was a pleasure as well as an honor to experience the professional ability of these four musicians.

The songs played from "Gimpel the Fool" were characterized by long series of repetitious sounds. In the "Pantomime and Bread Song", all the instruments had parts, but each had its own repeating tune. The end of the last song, "Jester's Song and Mazel Tov" was just as erratic as the beginning of the first song, "Overture and the Rabbi's Advice;" they were both discordant, loud, and abrupt. All the songs in between had a different, but pleasing sound to them. "Gimpel the Fool," an opera, is based on a story (in Yiddish, "Gimpl tam") in which a young man lives a life bound by the acceptance of the vicissitudes of life and

his faith in human goodness. Although his wife, who has passed away, confessed her unfaithfulness to him, Gimpel does not seek revenge. Instead, he leaves his family, becomes a storyteller, and waits for death. At the beginning, the young man was a fool, and is represented by loud noise, but in the middle of his life, which is depicted by softer musical combinations, he gains knowledge. Gimpel, however, is not fooled by death, and awaits its coming. This restlessness can be seen as the cause of the loud noise again at the end of the last song.

The following eight songs were inspired by Messiaen's detailed image of an angel who descended to earth saying, "There shall be time no longer, but at the day of the trumpet of the seventh angel the mystery of God shall be consummated.- Revelation X." "Quartet for the End of Time" was previously played in January of 1941, and has a somewhat spiritual musical language. The writer intended to infuse feelings of time and space throughout the small pieces, and I definitely got that message in listening to the performance of "Quartet for the End of Time." During "Vocalise, pour L'Ange qui annonce la fin du temps," the piano was played in a strong, jarring manner with repetitious taps. During the third song, "Abîme



Faculty musicians showcase their talents at last Friday's performance of the chamber ensemble.

des oiseaux," I began to wonder how the clarinetist breathed at all during the solo. The long, drawn sounds followed by brief loud ones could easily be compared to a bird's chirping. The remainder of the songs were conglomerates of well-synchronized pieces, but unlike "Divertimento," they

included solos or, as in "Fouillis d'arcs-enciel, pour l'Ange qui annonce la fin du temps," piano/cello and piano/violin duets. Each song corresponded to an image of an event that led to the end of time, and ultimately expressed praise of God.

Hart's War Fails to Measure Up to Its Not So Great Expectations

Hart's War



Rated: R

Length: 2 hours 5 minutes

Starring: Bruce Willis, Colin Farrell

Directed by: Gregory Hoblit

Summary: A WWII drama that forgets to be a drama or about war.

By MARISSA ZANETTI

STAFF WRITER

Hart's War follows the travels of young Lieutenant Thomas Hart from the war offices to a German POW camp, Stalag 6. Colin Farrell portrays the young Lt. Hart who has seen no real action during the war. Because of a misfortunate driving



accident, Lt. Hart is shipped off to a POW camp under the direction of Col. Werner Visser. At the camp, Lt. Hart finds himself slighted by the commanding officer Col. McNamara played by Bruce Willis. As events unfold, a murder committed and a Court Marshal trial held, the movie loses any hope of becoming

anything close to being worth \$8.50.

Many times movies try too hard to turn a decent idea into an award-winning film. This movie is at fault for committing such a grievous error. The movie begins to fall apart when two African-American fighter pilots are introduced into the POW

camp. Needless to say, they aren't met with the kindest welcome. After one of the pilots is set up by fellow American soldiers and then executed by German soldiers, it becomes evident that the film's purpose is to compare the German treatment of Jews to the American attitude toward the integration of African Americans into our society. Col. McNamara claims not to make "such distinctions." Of course, throughout the film he realizes he is wrong but has just enough time to amend his mistake. This subject becomes the center of attention when an American soldier is found murdered and the remaining African American fighter pilot, Lt. Scott (Terrence Howard) is seen standing over the body. Col. McNamara demands that the soldier receive fair treatment, in this case, a fair trial. Enter Lt. Hart who conveniently studied law at Yale and is ordered to defend Lt. Scott, already doomed to be executed due to the prejudice of

every other soldier in the camp, excepting the magnificent Lt. Hart. The trial takes place under the watchful eye of Col. Werner Visser (Marcel Iures). Witnesses are called, arguments ensue, and an emotional speech by Lt. Scott, lamenting the prejudice that faces African American soldiers in the United States Army, fills about an hour and a half of the movie, until we discover that the entire trial is just a distraction while 32 men are digging a tunnel beneath the camp in order to escape and destroy a nearby German ammunition factory.

The major question that circles around this movie is: what is it about? It begins following Lt. Hart who we are supposed to feel sorry for because his father is a senator in the States and wants to ensure his son's safety, preventing him from actually fighting. This is Lt. Hart's excuse for surrendering vital information to the Germans after three days of questioning. It is also apparently his excuse for ruining one of the better scenes in the film. Hart, in a conversation with Lt. Scott, searches for pity explaining that because his family is so rich and powerful in the US, he has been kept from actually participating in real combat. This is sure to make a man who has suffered prejudice in America, participated in battle, watched his friend die at the hands of American soldiers and who is convinced he will be executed for a crime he didn't commit, feel much, much better. Lt. Scott didn't kill Sgt. Bedford, contrary to the beliefs of everyone else in the camp, but has to suffer under the incompetent abil-

ities of Lt. Hart. The courtroom scenes are predictable and it is painful to watch Lt. Hart attempt to defend Lt. Scott.

So while the audience is involved in the trial, we suddenly learn that it is just a cover-up to distract the Germans while the Americans try to dig their way to freedom. Now Lt. Hart gets to play detective as well as lawyer and soldier and uncovers this plot to escape. Suddenly, the movie tries to address the ideas of honor, duty, and heroism and ends with an explosion of sappy patriotism.

Any acting ability the actors possess is completely wasted and lost in this film. The characters are underdeveloped and just fumble around with the horrible script. Bruce Willis is underused, spitting out empty dialogue and saluting anything remotely American. Terrence Howard, who plays Lt. Scott, is the only character who is given a chance to really act. The characters are unlikeable with the exception of Lt. Scott and Col. Werner Visser, the German captain.

The biggest problem with Hart's War is that it tries to accomplish too many things without properly addressing even one aspect of its jumbled storyline. German brutality, American prejudice, the definition of honor and duty: all of these topics are introduced but never resolved. There are too many stories and not enough good dialogue or action. This is not an action/war movie but is slow and drawn out. To call this movie a WWII drama is a far cry from what it should be referred to as, a waste of money.

Jordan Geary



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Experiencing Culture Through Festival



Music and dance were part of the celebration that brought a close to Black History Month

BY NANCY DINSMORE

ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

On Friday, February 23, the Cro's Nest was alive with the sounds of music and dancing as Umoja presented their final event for Black History Month, a traditional

Garifuna Fedu. The Garifuna, or Garinagu, are an Afro-Carib people who reside in the Caribbean. Fedu is a celebration in which Garifuna sing and dance to Punta and Paranda music that is played on drums, maracas, and on a conch shell. The performance also featured dancers. The

evening included both good food and good music, which made for an enjoyable atmosphere.

James Lovell performed along with master drummers Bodoma and Lazaro. The group wore colorful outfits in the traditional style, and the performance was very lively. Lovell did an excellent job of involving the audience in the performance, which made it much more entertaining and enjoyable for all those who attended. He explained some of the history behind the Garifuna, who trace their roots to three different nations and emerged from the intermingling. The music was sung in the "call and response" style and made use of all of the different instruments. The rhythms that they produced complemented each other well. All of the musicians and the dancers clearly enjoyed the music and were very into their performance. An engaging speaker, Lovell got the audience very involved, saying that he wanted to "garifunize" the audience for the night. He taught the audience words so that we could respond to his questions. Lovell also invited the audience to get up and "do some shaking" to the enchanting music of the drums. In fact, the audience could not help but get into the beats of the music—people were even moving to the music in their seats. When Lovell first asked the audience to get up and dance, everyone was a little shy, but then the dancers demonstrated how to dance to the music and people became more willing to participate. By the end of the show, almost everyone was out of their seat dancing and many people actually went up on stage. The show was very interactive and the atmosphere

in the Cro's Nest was casual and fun.

All of the songs that the group played had different meanings, which Lovell explained to the audience before it played the song. The song "Africa" was a lament where the singer cried out to go back to his roots and asked his family to come with him. He says in the song that there are people who have forgotten their roots, and urges people to remember their heritage through his music and dance. The combination of sounds during this song was explosive at times and the tempo was very fast. For most of the performance, the women were the primary dancers while the men played the instruments, but occasionally the men took turns getting in front of the musicians and dancing. They were all very energetic, jumping and moving to the fast rhythm of the pounding drums. At one point, Lovell tried to get the audience to participate in singing and taught us the words to a song. The group performed another song that was composed by James Lovell himself. It asked three different questions: who is going to be his wife, what is he going to eat, and what is his medicine going to be? The song urged people to go back to the simple things in life, such as fishing and farming.

The enthusiasm of the performers was infectious, making it an enjoyable, integrative performance. All of the musicians and dancers were talented and engaging. The audience participated in many different aspects of the show, from singing to dancing, so it was a night of fun for everyone.

Bassist Emerges From Led Zeppelin Shadow

BY ANDREA LODICO

ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

John Paul Jones was the quiet one in the back of the stage. The unassuming bass virtuoso of Led Zeppelin, John Paul Jones, provided the heart to the band's bombastic rhythm section along with drummer John Bonham. As Led Zeppelin's excesses overtook them near the end of the band's career, it was Jones who held them together and took a dominant role in writing and producing the band's final studio album, *In Through the Out Door*. By far the most underrated member of the rock monster, John Paul Jones's post-Zeppelin work has proved to be the most original and most daring of his fellow Zeppelin bandmates. In early February, Jones released his sophomore solo album and follow-up to his 1999 instrumental release, *Zooma*. The *Thunderthief* captures Jones's musical versatility; he contributes on bass, guitar, mandolin and even vocals on a few tracks. This new release gives us an ever-evolving Jones, an aging musician not afraid to put his rock star days behind him.

The album's opening track "Leafy Meadows" displays Jones' talent and proficiency, which was so often overshadowed in Zeppelin. A pure, unadulterated rock song, "Leafy Meadows" is Jones at his best, providing an innovative, musical bass line to battle with guitarist Robert Fripp's thrashing riffs. The *Thunderthief* offers up the most Zeppelin-esque tune with "Hoediddle," a blues-rock track with a searing three-minute call and answer introduction between two guitars. What begins as a raw rock song, "Hoediddle" fades out with an acoustic Irish-sounding jig. An idea that would fail miserably in the hands of a less experienced and talented producer, Jones fashions "Hoediddle" into one of the most daring tracks on the album. The quiet fade-out of "Hoediddle" transitions nicely into "Ice Fishing at Night," the first track where Jones shows off his vocal talents. Jones' voice is quiet and unforced as he tells the unlikely story of fish swimming to their fate, accompanied by a simple piano arrangement. Not what you would expect from any member of Led Zeppelin, "Ice Fishing"



reveals a mellower Jones, content with the simple life.

Jones displays his vocals again in "Angry Angry," a middle-aged attempt at punk rock. "Angry Angry" is the only time on the album that Jones falters. His vocals lack the strength and force needed to evoke more intense or fiercer emotions to back the three-chord punk song. It calls to mind an image of my father attempting to sing along to the Sex Pistols, an interesting picture, but one that does not really ring true. Jones closes up with "Freedom Song," the most daring song on the album and one that takes a few listens to get used to. Easily the most eclectic track, "Freedom Song" depicts a tranquil Jones, singing about going on a vacation with his family.

"Freedom Song" lays in stark contrast to Jones's earlier work on the sonic chaos of *Zooma* and presents perhaps a new avenue for Jones, reminiscent of Zeppelin's acoustic work on *Led Zeppelin III*.

The *Thunderthief* is not an easy listen. It is not radio friendly and may not even be Zeppelin fan friendly, but for Jones it is just another step in his progressing musical career. With *The Thunderthief*, John Paul Jones displays his production wizardry, musical versatility, and his growth even from his previous solo release. The *Thunderthief* is a testament to the fact that aging rock stars are not always looking to recapture their golden years. For Jones, those years may still be ahead of him.

Thought For Food: A Pizzeria You Could Love

BY JESS DESANTA

HEAD COPY EDITOR

In the wake of the Morse Dynasty, the only other thing I can think of worth dedicating a column to, after video rentals, of course, is food. So for the duration of this gig, I will write in the hopes that my legacy leaves Conn's consistently unsatisfied Harris-goers with palate-pleasing alternatives to standard dining hall fare. But I provide one disclaimer: If I gain ten pounds, you will have to love me just the same; I do this all for the sake of my fellow gluttons.

Since I know most of you frequent the local pizza joints (Dominos, Dominos, and occasionally.... Dominos), I am left with this assumption: 1. that you like pizza, and 2. that you are probably seeking other pizza. So I figured, what better place to review than Pizze Cucina in East Lyme? On Valentine's Day, my food-loving friend Chrissy and I ditched the chocolate and candy hearts for an hour and a half of what turned out to be unadulterated culinary bliss. As with most of the greats, Pizze Cucina is your quintessential hole-in-the-wall, completely unassuming save for its sign with the big red tomato and the scent of that elusive combination of ingredients that only Italian grandparents know the secret to. The latter was particularly enticing throughout our forty-minute wait; though at the time the smells wafting through the air served as the ultimate culinary foreplay, I refused to let anyone hug me for the rest of the night as my hair and clothes were organic reviews of the fine establishment.

The minute we entered I was struck by the authenticity of it all....the hostess was Sophia Loren meets southeastern Connecticut, and the other restaurant personnel-right off the boat. We were seated in a very lower-east-side, Little Italyesque room and promptly served crisp bread and salad. The bread was an unexpected alternative to the predicted Italian bread and olive oil; is that a New England thing? I don't pretend to know what was in the salad dressing, but it was definitely balsamic vinaigrette-based and had the consistency of melted butter. Those of us with less than ideal relationships with our greens know that salad dressing is everything, and this was among my favorites yet. Between that and the sundried tomato/portabella mushroom/spinach appetizer that Chrissy was compelled to order, my veggie consumption that night would have made my mom proud.

Next came the entrees: penne with vodka sauce for me, and ravioli with spinach cream sauce for Chrissy. Now, stick two college girls who are each other's Valentine's Day date together on Feb. 14 and there is bound to be some pretty intense guy/love/relationship-related debate. Of course, the true test was whether or not the only thing capable of stopping such madness—the aforementioned pasta choices—would indeed curb the banter. And while my mom's own raviolis couldn't have silenced us completely, there was a marked decline in conversation once our meals were brought out.

Italians, the good ones anyway, are known to treat cooking as an art, and Pizze Cucina is no exception. Everything about our meals was deliberate, from the pasta itself, whose "al dente" texture was refreshing after weeks of Harris mush, to the fresh gorgonzola sprinkled decoratively on top (I've decided that gorgonzola with vodka sauce is the mark of a chef truly in tune with his medium). Had the cheese been a few days older or the sauce any thicker, the balance would have been thrown off completely.

If my dinner was excellent, Chrissy's was exceptional; her wide-eyed expression and occasional sighs were all you needed to know this was as good as it gets. It was homemade pasta at its finest. It was cream sauce in all its glory. It was a reminder that no matter who comes in and out of our lives, there will always be really good food.

Next time your family is in town and you are seeking a slightly classier alternative to the usual options, road-trip it to East Lyme and look for the red tomato. With the recommendations of a DeSANTA and a DiComo, you can't go wrong.

I dedicate this debut column to Chrissy, who was a lovely date.

MOVIE TIMES

Hoyts Waterford 9

Dragonfly (PG-13) Fri-Thu (12:30 3:50) 6:55 9:45 Queen of the Damned (R) Fri-Thu (11:55 2:20 4:45) 7:20 9:50 Return to Never Land (G) Fri-Th (12:10 2:25 4:40) 7:00 9:10 Hart's War (R) Fri-Thu 12:30 3:35 6:50 9:35 Crossroads (PG-13) Fri-Thu (11:50 2:10 4:30) 7:10 9:30 Big Fat Liar (PG-13) Fri-Thu (11:45 2:00 4:15) 6:45 9:15 I am Sam (PG-13) Fri-Thu (12:00 3:10) 6:30 9:25 The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13) Fri-Thu (3:15) 9:00 A Walk to Remember (PG) Fri-Thu (12:40) 6:35 Black Hawk Down (R) Fri-Thu (12:05 3:25) 6:40 9:40

Hoyts Groton 6

John Q (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:00) 7:00 9:40, Sat-Sun (12:15 3:00) 7:00 9:40 Rollerball (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:35) 6:50 9:20, Sat-Sun (12:00 2:20 4:35) 6:50 9:20 Super Troopers (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:00) 6:40 9:10, Sat-Sun (1:00 4:00) 6:40 9:10 Collateral Damage (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:15) 7:20 9:50, Sat-Sun (12:45 3:15) 7:20 9:50 The Mothman Prophecies (R) Fri-Thu 7:10 9:45 Snow Dogs (PG) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:45), Sat-Sun (12:10 2:30 4:45) The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:45) 7:45, Sat-Sun (12:20 3:45) 7:45

Hoyts Mystic 3

A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:30) 6:35 9:30, Sat-Sun (12:30 3:30) 6:35 9:30 Godsford Park (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:15) 6:25 9:20, Sat-Sun (12:15 3:15) 6:25 9:20 In The Bedroom (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:45) 6:50 9:35, Sat (12:45 3:45) 9:35, Sun (12:45 3:45) 6:50 9:35 40 Days and 40 Nights (R) Sneak Preview Sat 7:30

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3/2—Edwin McCain with Chuck Carrier of Marathon, doors 8:00
3/8—Tesla, doors 8:00
3/10—Jeffery Gaines, doors 7:00

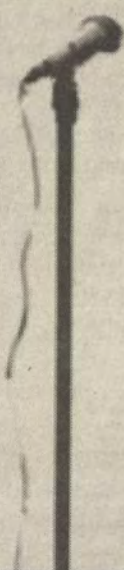
Lupos Heartbreak
Hotel (Providence)

3/1—Strangefolk, doors 8:00
3/2—Buddy Guy with James Mathus and his Knockdown Society, doors 8:00
3/9—The Bouncing Souls, doors 7:30
3/10—Beatlejam, doors 8:00

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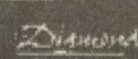
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Swimming Takes On NESCACs

continued from page 10

for the Camels. The rest of the team followed loyally: freshman Danielle Bix-Rayback finished twenty-first in the 50-yard breaststroke, and Kristina Lewis and Helb claimed fifteenth and sixteenth, respectively, in the 50-yard butterfly. These swims lead up to the 500-yard freestyle, a big event for Connecticut College, where Pelczar swam an excellent race, finishing 19th overall. Bartels finished twenty-fifth, Martin thirtieth, freshman Lauren Engst thirty-sixth, junior Cat Servant forty-first, freshman Kristin McBride forty seventh, and junior Keri Ouellette in forty-ninth place.

This meet was a big meet for the Camel freshman class. Kathy Batley contributed an excellent performance in the 100-yard individual medley finishing twenty-fourth overall in the event, and the consistently spectacular Kate Kovenock swept the 50 freestyle with an NCAA Division III Championship A-qualifying time. The 50-yard freestyle was also a winning event for many CC swimmers. Helb swam well, finishing twenty-fourth

alongside great swims by Beem, Miles, and junior Kate Machemer. If only I had the entire issue of The Voice to devote to these great swimmers, I would mention every single other race and swimmer because these ladies deserve it. But alas, I have but one article, so we must fast forward to other extreme high points of this meet.

Pelczar was ninth in the 1000-yard freestyle, one of the highest overall placements of the meet for the Camels. The divers put in their best effort, as Heidi Freeman and Ali McDonald, solid performers all season, finished tenth and eleventh respectively on the 1 meter with Freeman finishing eighth in the 3 meter. In the 100-yard freestyle, Kovenock earned another trip to the NCAA Division III Championship competition, swimming a national "A" time, and finishing first overall.

Though many women swam at the NESCAC Championships, none swam as well as these mighty Camels. As they walked from the pool, they held their heads high, satisfied in knowing that they swam their best and were their own champions.

Camel Country's Chief Exposed

continued from page 10

ing line. I looked official. Who was gonna' stop me?

A few key high-fives and ass-slaps later, and I headed back to the sidelines where I took full advantage of my cloak. I high-fived everyone there too. I mussed-up peoples hair. I knocked hats off of peoples' heads. And not knowing who I was, one of my freshman advisees even hugged me. With the suit on people assumed that I couldn't hear or see their reactions... and we all know what happens when you assume, the results are not fit for print in a fine newspaper such as The College Voice.

I was playing through the sweat, smell, and stiffness. A little over halfway through the first half I heard opportunity knocking. Timeout was called on the floor and the cheerleaders were not showing any signs of peppy-ness. I marched out to the half-court line and proceeded to put my Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Bartlett, to shame. To get the crowd going I began spelling out C-A-M-E-L-S with my body, and as soon as

the 'C' went up, I realized I was making my letters backwards. If I had meditated and fulfilled the necessary pre-game ritual, I would not have suffered such a brain cramp. I persevered, however. I continued to spell the word backwards, and luckily for me as well as the admissions process here at Conn, the Camel-faithful hung with me, compensating for my error. And like the wily, Camel-Costume veteran that I wasn't, I bounced back, learning from my mistakes, spelling out what would become my calling card in the proper direction four or five more times before the game ended.

I was a hit, but I was hot. Too hot. At the half I contemplated an early escape but couldn't find my "friends" who were holding my car keys and street clothes. An average camel can supposedly go 3 days without water, but this cotton-mouthed Camel struggled through twenty minutes.

The second half was more of the same: heat, handshakes and hand signals. And then it happened: 7 minutes left in the second half, the game slowly slipping away, I headed

to the bathroom to cool down. As I walked across the practice courts, I passed three girls who were smiling and looking behind me. I turned, fully expecting (and perhaps hoping) to see someone about to steal my head or harass me. Instead I saw two girls of elementary school age freeze in their tracks as my large plastic eyes caught theirs. Their jaws dropped and their eyes got as wide as regulation hoops when they realized I saw them coming. I waved my hoof-mitten energetically and they slowly crept closer.

"Mr. Camel... Can we have a hug?" the taller, and presumable older, of the two girls asked. As Mr. Camel, I decided I had better not speak, so I squatted to their level and opened my arms. Their hugs nearly knocked me over, and when they let go, their smiles carried them back across the field house to where their parents were waiting to take them home. My night as Mr. Camel was complete. It was worth it, but, nonetheless, I am forever hanging up my hooves.

State Considers Single Sex Marriages

continued from page 1

old son, they are considered legal strangers in the eyes of Connecticut's government.

During the hearing, other couples shared deeply personal stories. One man recalled being excluded when his partner had a medical emergency.

The Office of Legislative Research discovered over 300 laws that address marital status. While some are minor, there are many important laws that exclude same-sex couples from the rights afforded legally married couples.

Gay rights activists view marriage as a milestone on the road to full equality. Marriage allows gay partners to receive tax, inheritance, and property benefits and gives them the right to make medical decisions on behalf of one another, as well as many other significant privileges. In the minds of many activists, in addition to the legal benefits, marriage also signifies greater social acceptance of homosexuality and same-sex couples. Thus, the issue of legalizing same-sex marriages is not only about individuals being legally recognized as married, but about gay couples having the same equal rights

as straight married couples do.

"It's really a civil rights matter," explained Lawrence, in reference to her inability to be legally recognized as married to King.

Indeed, the debate on same-sex marriages is being called the next civil rights movement. It follows movements like those that gave blacks the right to marry, permitted interracial marriages, and gave women more rights in marriage.

Those who are against same-sex marriages claim that granting gays the right to marry would be the first step on the "slippery slope" to moral decline.

"We need to look beyond the wants of special interest groups and focus on the bigger issue: what is best for a healthy society," said Janice Hunter of Cheshire. Opponents claim that same-sex marriages and civil unions undermine the institution of marriage.

Religious groups also play a large part in the same-sex marriage battle. Roman Catholics and Orthodox Jews argue that God has clearly defined marriage as a union between a man and woman.

Daniel Greer, an Orthodox rabbi and dean of the New Haven Yeshiva, said, "The bill would be a further,

perhaps fatal, assault on the institute of marriage."

However, supporters of same-sex marriages assure religious groups that they would force no one to bless their marriages.

In December 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples were being unconstitutionally denied the rights, benefits, and responsibilities of marriage. As a result, Vermont's state government changed its laws and granted gay couples the right to join together in civil unions.

Vermont couples qualify for certain tax advantages conferred on married couples, the ability to make medical decisions on behalf of a partner who is now viewed as a spouse under the law, and roughly 300 other benefits.

In Connecticut, the struggle for gay marriage rights continues.

"We're well beyond the point of asking whether we want to have same-sex couples in the state," said Rep. Michael Lawlor, co-chairman of the powerful judiciary committee and a supporter of gay marriage. "They're here. Now the time has come for the legislature to start establishing rules."

Track Stars Tune Up for Spring

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New England Division III and Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) championship meets. In addition, Jesse Efron '04 ran extremely well in the 1500-meter event, showing drastic improvement as the season progressed. Reflecting on the season, Fitzgerald remarked, "I was very impressed with the performance of Jesse Efron this winter. After coming off a broken rib, and therefore very limited training, Jesse ran some great races."

I was also impressed with Luca DiGregorio '05 this winter. Luca received the team's "Rookie of the Year" award for the Cross-Country season and was certainly one of the freshmen who made the biggest impact on the men's team this winter. Luca ran extremely well at MIT in both the 1500 and the 800. As for the upcoming outdoor season ... performances this winter are just the tip of the iceberg."

This year was arguably the best season in the history of Connecticut College Track and Field for the women's distance runners. As Maura Danahy '04 stated, "I think a lot of people surprised themselves by what they could accomplish this indoor season." Almost every athlete ran a personal best time in at least one event, and school records were broken in the 4 x 800 meter relay, the distance medley relay

(DMR), the 5000-meter race, and the 800-meter race. The 4 x 800 team, comprised of Danahy, Bellavance, Erin Walworth '02, and Kirsti Fitzgerald '03, ran a record time of 9:37.55, erasing the previous mark of 9:49.04. In addition to breaking the school record, the DMR team comprised of Walworth, Amanda Navaroli '02, Danahy, and Fitzgerald, ran a provisional national qualifying time of 12:12.80 at the New England Division III Indoor Championship at Southern Maine.

At that same meet, Danahy set the school record and automatically qualified for Nationals in the 5000-meters by placing second overall with a time of 17:20. Commenting on Danahy's success, Minehan stated, "I've just never been around such talent before. Just running on the same track with her makes me feel faster."

Danahy was not the only individual to break a school record this winter, as Walworth broke the record in the 800-meters with a time of 2:25.57, only to be re-broken by Fitzgerald, who ran a time of 2:23.28. Having switched from sprinting to middle distance this season, Fitzgerald seems to have found her event.

The sprinters, who were coached by William Wuyke, made great strides in their season as well. Highlights of the sprinting season include

Navaroli's 61.91 and Ryan Williamson's 52.75 in 400-meter times. Lori Kessel ran the 55 meters in 7.91, and Chichi Nwogu '02 ran the same distance in 7.95. In addition, the sprinters broke Conn records in the women's 4 x 200 relay. The team, comprised of Navaroli, Nwogu, Kessel, and Lena Eckhoff '04, broke the previous school record with a time of 1:51.29.

As Bellavance exclaimed, "In one season, the women broke 3 of the 4 possible relay records." The tremendous feats by many of the athletes have not been individual endeavors. As Elinor Pisano '04 stated, "This team has wonderful camaraderie. We all work really hard together. We all cheer for each other."

Nyaku agreed, "We all encourage each other, whether runner, sprinter, jumper or thrower."

"The coaches have also done their parts to encourage the athletes," Minehan added. "They've been a vital part of the team's success."

Navaroli best summarized the season when she stated, "This season has been outstanding across the boards. Our team has seen individual success with so many PRs and school records, but also high success in our relays, which shows depth. Everyone had a great season and I'm really proud of how well we have all done."



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Men's Basketball Exceeds Expectations

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1998, Ramage became the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Eastern Division Coach of the Year while coaching East Stroudsburg University.

For many teams, the loss of six seniors might prove a devastating blow, but the returning Camels are already looking forward to next year. "The expectations are there," said junior guard Kevin Herrington, who will look to assume a starting position next season. "I think we will definitely have a shot at contending, we have a good nucleus coming back, and hopefully we'll have some good recruits."

"Each of us is going to get an increased role," added Reid. "It's time for us to move more from the role players into being leaders of the team. It's a challenge that each basketball player looks forward to. I am definitely excited about it."

Teach For America Expands Throughout Country

continued from page 1

to whether or not TFA teachers will stay, or if they will search alternative employment once the economy rebounds.

A question has also been raised about the quality of TFA's preparatory programs. At the heart of the debate lies the idea that the preparation given to new teachers is not an adequate replacement for the education certification one earns through three or four years of college work.

Before they are sent out to work in schools, TFA corps members undergo a rigorous 5-week summer training program in New York City or Houston. There they are taught approaches to

dealing with low-income students as well as basic teaching skills. These sessions are supplemented by student teaching in a summer school program.

Despite these concerns, the program has attracted many applicants from around the country including a large number of students from Connecticut College, partially as a result of the economic downturn, as well as TFA's promotional efforts. Furthermore, the increased social awareness that has followed September 11 has peaked many young people's interest in helping others. Many students have begun to look towards the teaching profession as an outlet for their interest in helping those less advantaged than they are, as well as their desire to make a difference in the

world.

Teach for America (TFA) currently recruits from colleges and universities all across the United States. It searches primarily for students who have not necessarily had a great deal of experience in teaching, but who have demonstrated motivational and leadership ability and a genuine interest in aiding the disadvantaged children of the country.

TFA sends its members to areas that are known to have significant educational problems. Locations include New York City, Houston, the Mississippi Delta, Rural Louisiana, and Baton Rouge.

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SPORTS

Camel Country's Chief Exposed

If you are under the age of ten, or still believe that our school's mascot is actually a live animal that was shipped to Camel Country from the deserts of Africa, specifically to live in the basement of the Luce Field House and only come out on the nights of big games, then stop reading here. It isn't.

If you didn't stop reading where you were supposed to, I'm sorry to break it to you, but our Camel mascot is not a real camel. Believe it or



RYAN WOODWARD
Reading the Book

not, it is actually a person in costume. And for one night (and looking back, one night only), I was that lucky person.

Like everyone else with a Conn College account, I

received an e-mail Monday afternoon telling me there was a big play-off basketball game versus Wesleyan and that tickets would be on sale at the Athletic Center. There was a number you could call if you had any additional questions.

My question definitely fell into the additional category: "Yea, how exactly would I go about obtaining the Camel costume for the big game?" So, I pulled strings like a true Rhode Islander, and, within an hour from my initial contact, I was making plans to pick up my new get-up in the shadows of south lot under a false name.

Well, actually, I just had to go down to the equipment room. It was a fairly simple process. There was no screening; I didn't need to show Conn ID, I didn't need references, and I didn't even need to prove my school spirit. I simply showed and picked it up.

Six hours until tip-off, and the suit was waiting in the back of my SUV. I forwent all of the stretching and meditation exercises that one should endure before donning such a powerful article of clothing, and opted to attend my English class and play some Frisbee on the green. I did, however, have an energizing, Wade Boggs-like pre-game meal of grilled chicken and pasta at Harri's Diner in North Campus.

My body felt good; I was physically ready for my challenge. About 45 minutes shy of the jump ball, I read the warning label inside the mask and slid the suit on over my mesh shorts and sleeveless tee (thus answering the question of, "what exactly does one wear under such a thing?").

It took me at least 20 minutes to adjust, but I immediately understood why they warned against operating heavy machinery. Although this suit was supposedly new, its insides smelled like the Marshall bathrooms on a Sunday morning. The suit could have used Charles and Marge's magic touches. It also could have used some eyeholes. Or at least eyeholes that were in the right place. The three-inch space that I had to look through was about two inches too low (five or six inches too low if you figure in the fact that I had to look up at every guy on the court and a ten-foot tall hoop). My neck and shoulders are still sore from trying to shrug that little window up to where it should have been.

Nothing, however, could stop me on this night, because I was the Camel. It was like Harry Potter's invisibility cloak; very few people knew who the man behind the mask was, and though I was not invincible, I was certainly free to go just about anywhere I wanted. They announced the starting line-ups, and I saw my first window of opportunity open. I strutted my hump right out onto the court to be part of the players receiving

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Track Stars Enjoy Strong Winter, Tune Up for Spring

By MATT PRESTON

SPORTS EDITOR

Although the majority of Connecticut College students are unaware that the track and field team has been competing throughout the winter season, lack of support has not stifled these running, sprinting, jumping, and throwing Camels. While the season was a short one, consisting of merely five regulation meets, and the runners faced many obstacles (injuries and sickness plagued the team all through the winter), members improved dramatically throughout the season as a result of hard work and dedication.

Even though the practices were either on the outdoor track or at the Coast Guard Academy's indoor track, depending on the weather, the athletes remained serious about their training. The results of many hours of practice were witnessed throughout the season; as many team members set personal records in multiple events, and numerous school records were broken. As Kim Bellavance '03 remarked, "Indoor track is a nice transition to the outdoor season... For such a short season every member of the team made a lot of progress in a small period of time."



Looking to build upon the strengths of last year and move beyond the weakness, Conn College runners are ready for the spring season.

Tri-captain Melissa Minehan '02 added, "Everyone worked hard no matter if they were breaking school records or not. The improvement goes from top to bottom. The individual achievements have trickled down and made the entire team a lot

stronger."

The field athletes were extremely successful, and it should not go unnoted that many of their successes came without formal coaching. As Mawuli Nyaku '02, who broke the school record for men's triple

jump by covering a distance of 46'06.75" explained, "we basically don't have any jump coaches, so we have to train ourselves." Despite their lack of guidance, the jumpers managed to set personal bests, and two jumpers, Nyaku and Rachel

Lamson '05, qualified for the New England Division III Championship Meet.

Sharing the jumpers' frustration at the team's lack of a coach, the throwers on the team got a late start, as they did not have a coach until almost halfway through the short season. However, the throwers remained positive, focusing their training primarily on the outdoor season. As shot-putter Joe Baccash '04 stated, "We aren't looking at it like we got off to a late start for the indoor season. We are looking at it as we got an early start for outdoor."

We wanted to set benchmarks to build upon for outdoor, and we were successful in doing that." The distance runners did not lack coaching in any respect, as cross-country coaches Ned Bishop and Jim Butler guided them throughout the indoor season. Coming off of a successful cross-country season, most of the distance runners were in excellent shape and were ready to run in circles. Adam Fitzgerald '03 led the men distance runners this winter, setting personal records throughout the season. His fourth place finish with a time of 15:32 in the 5000-meter race at Tufts University qualified him for both the

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Men's Basketball Exceeds Everyone's Expectations

By DAVID BYRD

STAFF WRITER

Nobody expected them to compete. Nobody expected them to challenge for the NESCAC title. Nobody. Except for them. The Connecticut College Men's Basketball team shocked everyone but themselves when they secured the number three seed in the NESCAC tournament a few weeks ago. "We definitely were over-achievers in other people's eyes," said senior forward Leland McKenna, "but we didn't over-achieve in our eyes because we knew we had the talent."

Injuries, roster changes, tantalizingly close defeats. All this would have demoralized a normal team and put them into a tailspin towards an uneventful season. And it looked that way for the Camels during the first half of the year as wins against quality teams were hard to come by, and they struggled to win on their home court. But when the second half of the season rolled around, and fans returned from winter break to cheer on the Camels, Connecticut College saw a new team on the court. This new team played solid defense, hit more free throws, and scored at will.

The return of junior guard Joe Tremblay helped give the men a dangerous inside-outside game, which improved the play of both the guards and the big men inside. Tremblay, according to several teammates, also helped bolster the attitude of the team with his relaxed and loose personality. The bench players also stepped up during the months of January and February.

The Camels entered January

with a record of 5-4 and ended the season with a record of 16-9, including wins in nine of their final thirteen games. They swept the final three games of NESCAC play and felt as if they were peaking at just the right time.

However, the first round of the NESCAC tournament found the Camels hosting rival Wesleyan, an ever-difficult opponent, last Tuesday, February 19th. The first half of the game highlighted the Camels' defensive intensity, and they headed to the locker room with a 29-27 lead. The second half was a different story. The Cardinals quickly established the tempo with an 11-4 run to open up the second period, and the rest was history. Wesleyan went on to hand the Camels a 61-75 defeat.

This loss ended Connecticut College's hopes for a run at the title and left the players with something to think about during the off-season. According to junior forward Travis Reid, "I think we accomplished a lot, but I think that a lot more could have been accomplished. I am disappointed, but looking forward to next year. Next year at this time I want to still be playing."

For some other players, it was the last shot they had to play in front of their home crowd in a meaningful postseason game. "It was a little bit disappointing in the end," said McKenna. "We played a poor game against Wesleyan." Along with McKenna, guard Mizan Ayers, forward Rich Futia, guard Vaidas Nutautus, guard Pete Nash, and forward Dave Brown ended their Connecticut College careers that night.

For Ayers, it was another suc-



Despite bowing out of the NESCAC Tournament early, Conn achieved unexpected success.

cessful season, personally, as he earned more individual awards to add to his collection. On Wednesday, Ayers was named to the First Team All-NESCAC for the second time in his career, as well as earning Defensive Player of the Year for the NESCAC after leading the league in steals.

Third-year coach Lynn Ramage

was named Coach of the Year on Wednesday. In his three years, the Camels have an impressive record of 53-21, a .716 winning percentage, and are 18-9 in the NESCAC over that same time period. It is also the second time in his career that Ramage has won the award. In

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IM Hockey Kicks Off New Season

By TYLER VOLPE

STAFF WRITER

Men's intramural floor hockey has begun its 2002 schedule with four teams in the field: these four teams being Fred's Team, R2D2, The Quaker Hill Rum-Runners, and Inappropriate Male Touching (the intramural department is not responsible for these odd names). These teams include some of the top floor hockey players Connecticut College has to offer. Top players include names such as former floor hockey gold medalists Matt Levinson, Andy Shopeck, and Ben Corchesne, all playing for R2D2.

The Quaker Hill team, composed of the club hockey players, has been showing some incredible skills. Their captain, Will Tollefsen, is one example of the team's star players. The team has a great offense, but their defense is weak in some areas.

For players, such as Kippy Bolz, it is their first time playing floor hockey. This could possibly allow another team to win the leagues title, although, it is very nice to see some rookies on the court.

The Inappropriate Male Touching team also has a great defense. Their goalie, Ted Connolly, has been making some incredible saves. He could possibly carry his team into the finals.

This concludes the men's intramural floor hockey update. Next week read to find out the leagues MVP and to find out what team is in first this season.

Women's Swimming and Diving Teams Take on the NESCACs



In NESCAC's second year, Conn continues to improve.

By NORA MIRICK

STAFF WRITER

It is the pinnacle, the summit, the apex of months and months of practice, hard work and dedication: the NESCAC Swimming and Diving

Championships.

This past weekend, the crème de la crème of the swimming and diving world within the NESCAC gathered at Williams College to test themselves and push their bodies to the limit as they reach for their best

performance of the season and the culmination of four months of discipline. Although team scores are tallied and there is a trophy for the winners, this meet has little to do with team point totals. This meet determines who's who within the NESCAC: whose season will continue past February in NCAA Division III competition and who goes home.

When it comes down to it, the races aren't about first, second or even last place, it's about going in, swimming one's personal best, and seeing how much time can be shaved off the clock in the ultimate race of the season. There is no room for error and no chance for second thoughts.

All stops were pulled in this attempt at perfection; the Conn Women's Swimming and Diving Team entered the competition men-

tally focused, physically tapered, and virtually hairless. They wore special swimsuits and performed "rituals" of preparation, all in the hopes of pulling off that magical swim, the ideal race, and finishing with their fastest time ever.

The NESCAC competition, the descendant from previous New England Championships that included many more schools, is just two years old. The 2002 women's swimming and diving team was posed to do well, a proper end to their best season in history. After a commendable finish last year, all hoped to build on that performance this time around. It looked as if it may have been in the cards for these fine ladies as they headed to Williams with their game faces on.

Friday, February 22nd has long since passed. The brave women stood up on those blocks, faced all

their fears, and won. They have all become champions, though each in her own way, with her own style, and in her own time. Though they came in eighth place out of the eleven teams in the NESCAC, their placement really doesn't do justice to the admirable performances put forth by these spectacular athletes.

This meet was their last collegiate competition, and the pressure was on as seniors Jenna Beam, Carrie Martin, Abbi Miles, and Corrie Pelczar raced their final swims hoping they would last an eternity. Well, they always say, lead by example, and these seniors did not disappoint. Beam and Martin were two of the four members of the 200-yard freestyle relay, who, along with sophomores Krissy Helb and Lisa Bartels, dove (literally) into this meet head first to get things started

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