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THE

## COLLEGE VOICE

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## Chasing a Dream, Chasing a High Students Reflect on College's Drug Culture

*Nothing I did in high school can compare to how I was at Conn. At Conn, my use of cocaine, LSD, mushrooms, and marijuana skyrocketed.*

-former Connecticut College student

### ARETI SAKELLARIS '08

editor-in-chief

College changes everything. While some students experiment before coming to Connecticut College, one recalls, "Nothing I did in high school can compare to how I was at Conn. At Conn, my use of cocaine, LSD, mushrooms, and marijuana skyrocketed."

These words of a former student and the experiences of twelve other students, all of whom admitted either having a direct connection to a dealer or knowing of students who purchase drugs, have helped to put together a picture of drug use at the College. All the students requested their identities to remain confidential. Thomas Hogarty, Director of Campus Safety; an anonymous school administrator; and CC Curtiss, Director of Student Wellness & Alcohol/Drug Education provided the College's viewpoint. This is how they perceive the drug culture at Connecticut College.

*I began to have a serious addiction to cocaine and eventually left school. I continued to use cocaine alone and one day I woke up at the hospital because I had overdosed on coke. I am very lucky that my father came into my room and saw that I had blood all over my face and immediately called 911. That very day I gave up what would have been an amazing vacation to northern India to go to rehab. Looking back, it was probably the best decision of my life.*

*At Conn, I saw kids using just about everything anyone can abuse. I think their largest problem is cocaine and*

*prescription med abuse, such as Adderall or Ritalin. I also saw marijuana, LSD, MDMA, mushrooms, heroin, crack cocaine, and nitrous oxide. Just like sober or non-abusive people, drug users are all different. Some people go really crazy and they probably aren't in school anymore, others don't [go crazy]. When it comes down to it though, using at all is too often.*

With fewer than two-thousand students, Connecticut College's leading illicit drug is marijuana. Based on what the interviewees said themselves and their demographic diversity, it is true there is not a specific profile of a regular smoker.

"More people smoke pot than one would know. I just recently learned that four of my neighbors smoke!" exclaimed one senior.

Speaking against the stigma associated with smoking marijuana, one sophomore explained, "I don't like to smoke if I know I have a lot of work to do because it definitely makes me slower...A lot of people sometimes look down on people who smoke a lot because they think we're burn-outs or something. But I'm an extra curricular w---- and I smoke a few times a week some weeks...I don't really fit the stereotype in that it effects my [academic] performance."

As for cocaine, specifically coke, its use is on the rise, two students said, outright. The remaining eleven interviewed all agreed it is a problem, but just who uses coke is a tightly guarded secret. Coke is more of a "party drug." When asked how a non-user could become a user, one student described a typical experience:

They dabble in it because they have friends that use consistently but keep their friends who don't use very close and don't let them know what's going on either... When it starts to become more of a frequent thing, they may tell their friends, and some who are uncomfortable will choose to remove themselves from the situation, and others try to see their friend above the drug use. Then they may try to convince those friends that have stuck around that this is something they really need to try, that it's not a big deal, it's not addictive, and it's an amazing time. Over time, friendships begin to dissipate with a friend choosing to hang out with their user friends in many party situations over their other friends. Upon confrontation, there is generally a great deal of denial, anger, statements such as "You're being ridiculous." This is all so much an issue of maintaining a group of friends, and doing anything to stay "in the loop."

Moreover, Connecticut College coke users are either everyday users or party users. Party users may use during major social events like Floralia and Spring Formal. "However," said one senior, "it seems hard to understand what the point of the added euphoria is, when already intoxicated."

Five of the students wanted to address amphetamines, pain killers, and prescription drug use. A senior had a difficult time trying to pin-point the number of users because it seems like it is "often" and "heavy abuse around finals." Continuing, she said, "The stupid thing is people stay up all night studying on Adderall and then smoke up to fall asleep. Real smart. People on

Adderall are usually cranky, stressed, and focused. No one really likes to be around them, but people don't do it to have fun. People rely on them way too much."

However, a different senior found ADD/ADHD medications like Adderall and Ritalin, as well as oxyContin and other painkillers, as a source of pleasure. She considers it a trend for non-using students to try one of these under pressure to finish a lot of work or during exams.

*One of the most prominent reasons for using drugs is depression. It's really a horrible cycle of being depressed, using drugs, and then getting more depressed because you're using drugs. Some people are just born prone to addiction, especially people with parents that were users or alcoholics. Besides depression, I think curiosity is another big reason for using. I can't tell you how many people ask me what it was like to trip on acid or to use cocaine. On a minute level there are always some people just trying to "fit in."*

All interviewed students indicated using themselves or knowing students that do as a way to self-medicate, experiment, relax, increase concentration, and socialize. Smoking or drinking alters someone's behavior, said one senior. "You build a profile of the kind of person you want to be, and it's hard to break out of that mold once it's been established," she said.

Furthermore, another senior cited peer influence—not peer pressure—as

### SEE CONN'S DRUG CULTURE

*continued on page four*



**NEWS:**  
BEAUTY MYTH p. 3  
SPEECH NIGHT p. 3  
TENURE p. 5



**A&E:**  
SHIFT TO PARALLEL p. 6  
SENIORS p. 7  
FLORALIA BAND p. 14



**SPORTS:**  
MEN'S LAX IN PLAYOFFS p. 8  
PLAYER OF WEEK p. 9  
MEN'S TENNIS p. 9

## Letter from the Editor

Before we finish up the year, our last issue of *The Voice* is an example of how great Connecticut College's newspaper can be. Our editors worked hard to fill their sections with student portraits, team highlights, and reports on both academic and social facets of life at the College. As editor-in-chief, I could not be more satisfied with this as the last issue of *The Voice*.

I started working on *The Voice* from the beginning of my freshman year, and it is the one activity that remained with me over the years. For a college the size of Connecticut College, it is truly remarkable that we print a weekly paper, and this is because of a diligent staff striving to better our layout, increase our readability, and deliver a paper that reflects the Connecticut College community.

In the last months, we were able to offer co-sponsorship to SAC for this year's Floralia. We made this move to reach out to the College and show another side to our organization. Like the students here, *The Voice* is a multi-dimensional entity and can do more than print some stuff on paper.

Reflecting, there are things I or our staff could have done differently, but this is who we are: we are students like everyone else trying to make something special. While sometimes our voice is lost like a whisper in a crowd, it can also strongly resonate across campus and engage students.

To everyone at the College who went above and beyond to help *The Voice* this year, especially Student Life, College Relations, and President Higdon, I extend the gratitude of our staff when I say thank you.

Everyone serving throughout the year as writers, photographers, and copy editors, we couldn't pull it together without you. Phil and Daniel, it was crucial to welcome you to our staff in the last few weeks to drastically increase the visual appeal of our newspaper. Claire Dowd, Dasha, Chris, Brooke, and Lilah, I am glad we had the opportunity to work together in the limited time we had. Gozde, Sasha, Jason, Gabby, Arielle, Carolyn, and Zach, your efforts this year are outstanding. I leave you with this quotation from Woodrow Wilson's first inaugural address to best capture my sentiments: "This is not a day of triumph; it is a day of dedication." You leave me speechless to the point that I needed to dig up that old quotation.

Ben and Claire Gould, it's all yours and you'll be great. Get lots of coffee.

—Areti

### This Week's Sources:

Pressing Issues Around the World: New York Times, AP News, BBC Worldwide

Successful Season Ran Not Over Yet: [www.usatf.org/events/2008/](http://www.usatf.org/events/2008/)

Olympic Trials-TF/entry/qualifyingStandards.asp; <http://aspen.conncoll.edu/news/4324.cfm>

The Playoffs Are Here Indefinitely: <http://sports.espn.go.com/nba/playoffs>, <http://>

[sports.espn.go.com/nhl/playoffs](http://sports.espn.go.com/nhl/playoffs), [www.basketball-reference.com/](http://www.basketball-reference.com/)

The Nitty-Gritty of Emergency Contraception: The Emergency Contraception Website: Your Website for the "Morning After. Office of Population Research, Princeton University, 11 April 2008. <<http://ec.princeton.edu/>>

### FLORALIA 2008 Event Policies & Safety Guidelines

#### Wristbands and Identification

1. All individuals attending Floralia will be issued a wristband which must be worn throughout the entire day of Floralia. Individuals present at Floralia without a wristband will be required to leave the event. Details regarding the distribution of wristbands for Connecticut College students are outlined below. Details regarding the distribution of wristbands for alumni and guests can be found here.
2. Connecticut College students living in campus residences will receive Floralia wristbands during mandatory house meetings on Wednesday, April 30. Each house will host two meetings as follows: house meetings for all Junior and Senior residents (10:15pm), house meetings for all Freshman and Sophomore residents (11:00pm). Each student is permitted to pick up a wristband for him/herself only. Wristbands, which will be imprinted with unique serial numbers, will be placed on each student's wrist at the house meetings and must be worn until the conclusion of Floralia. The color of wristband given to each student will designate if a student is younger than 21 years old or 21+.
3. Connecticut College students living off-campus as well as students who are on Study Abroad/Study Away programs for the spring semester may obtain Floralia wristbands in the Office of Student Life on Friday, May 2nd between 8:30a.m and 5:00p.m.
4. All Connecticut College students must carry their CC ID with them at all times during Floralia.
5. All guests and alumni must carry a photo ID with them at all times during Floralia.

#### Approved and Prohibited Items

1. Students may bring chairs, futons, couches and other personally-owned furniture onto Library Green for Floralia. College-owned furniture (including chairs, tables, sofas and other common room items as well as furniture from the College Center) may not be used during Floralia. All furniture should be removed from the Green immediately following the conclusion of Floralia. SAC will not provide overnight security or storage for these items.
2. Canopies may be used during Floralia but tents and other enclosed structures may not be used.
3. Grills, tiki torches and other open flame devices are not permitted during Floralia.
4. Glass bottles and other glass containers are not permitted during Floralia.
5. Containers of unmixed hard alcohol are not permitted during Floralia.
6. Kiddy pools, trash cans, kegs, mini-kegs, water coolers/dispensers and other large receptacles are not permitted during Floralia.
7. Personal-use coolers (maximum capacity of 24 cans) are permitted.
8. Styrofoam containers are not permitted.
9. Event participants who are 21+ may have open containers (cups, cans) of alcoholic beverages on Library Green during Floralia. Open containers are not permitted at any other campus location.
10. Private parties in residential houses or other campus locations are not permitted Thursday, Friday or Saturday, May 1-3.

#### Safety Guidelines

1. Students are encouraged to lock residential room doors in order to reduce the possibility of theft and vandalism in those spaces.
  2. All event participants are advised to wear shoes while on Library Green and to apply sunscreen even if it is overcast.
  3. All event participants are strongly encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day and take advantage of the free meals provided throughout the day.
- Students are reminded that the Honor Code and Connecticut State Law are always in effect, including during Floralia.*

## The COLLEGE VOICE

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#### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor are due strictly by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding publication. *The College Voice* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. No unsigned or anonymous letters will be published. However, names may be withheld upon the author's request. *The College Voice* will not publish letters deemed to be a personal attack on an individual. *The College Voice* cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. Letters should be single-spaced, no longer than 300 words, and must include a phone number for verification. Please send all letters as a Microsoft Word attachment to: [ccvoice@conncoll.edu](mailto:ccvoice@conncoll.edu)

#### Columnists and Staff

Students from any class year interested in writing weekly news, opinion, arts & entertainment, or sports pieces should contact [ccvoice@conncoll.edu](mailto:ccvoice@conncoll.edu).

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#### Disclaimer

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# Naomi Wolf Brings "Leadership and Ethics" to College

DASHA LAVRENNIKOV '08

staff writer

Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 in the 1962 room in Crozier Williams Student Center, Naomi Wolf — author, political consultant, social critic, and liberal feminist—gave a lecture that took the audience by surprise. She was brought to Connecticut College to discuss "Leadership and Ethics" and much of the audience was expecting to hear her speak on the topic of gender and women's studies. She was advertised to the campus community as author of the *Beauty Myth*, an international best seller. Ultimately, it was a government lecture, paralleling the current political climate in the U.S. to that of pre-dictatorial regimes throughout history.

Wolf graduated from Yale University in 1984 with a BA in English Literature and was a Rhodes Scholar at New College, Oxford University. Wolf currently writes about and studies current cultural trends that effect women and men. She is the author of the bestselling feminist books *The Beauty Myth*, *Fire with Fire*, *Promiscuities*, and *Misconceptions*. *The New York Times* called *The Beauty Myth* one of the 70 most significant books of the century. She has become known for propagating a powerful message of feminism that is neither combative nor submissive. Wolf is also a consulting editor at *George Magazine*. Her essays appear regularly in *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Glamour*, *Ms.*, and other publications.

The lecture focused on the argument she makes in her book *The End of America*, which takes a historical look at the rise of fascism, outlining

the ten steps a state takes to subvert democracy and control citizens' lives. She claims that it is "a blueprint that always works." The book looks at the pattern of steps followed by Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Stalin, Pinochet, and other "would-be dictators," comparing their tactics to those of the current administration and state of affairs under U.S. political power since September 11, 2001.

She had a curious way of beginning; she dramatically warned the audience about the difficult and shocking message that was to come in her lecture, yet assured us that we would be left with a sense of hope at the end. It is still hard for me to say whether I or the rest of the audience genuinely felt any sense of hopefulness as a result of the lecture. She certainly re-exposed the audience to grim and fear-provoking information that many were aware of but had not pieced together in a clear conclusion that accused the state of the "day to day incremental subversion of democracy." The following are the ten steps she presented:

1. Invoke a terrifying internal and external enemy. This includes the use of fake documents to hype a threat and/or the manipulation of American perceptions through staged news.
2. Create a secret unaccountable prison system where torture takes place. The U.S. has black sights all over the world where prisoners are tortured under the pretext of "enhanced interrogation." Torture is systematized from the top down. A society that legalizes torture against expendable terrorists is likely to extend this against their own citizens.
3. Develop a paramilitary force not accountable to citizens. She provides the example of Blackwater, a private military contractor that is establishing

a presence and increasing deployment within the U.S. in the event of a natural disaster or state of emergency.

4. Set up an internal surveillance apparatus used on ordinary citizens. This is a complete violation of the fourth amendment. She provides herself as an example of someone who has faced constant security searches in airports as a result of having been put on a list along with other activists, environmentalists, anti-war veterans, and human rights journalists, which has grown to include 775,000 names with 25 names added every month. She pointed out that U.S. airports currently have interrogation cells. Wolf claimed that "in an open society it is annoying while in a closed society it is scary."

5. Infiltrate and harass citizens' groups.

6. Arbitrarily detain and release citizens.

7. Target key individuals.

8. Restrict the press.

9. Recast criticism as espionage and political dissents as treason. Wolf explained that discussion of classified information is considered an infringement of the Espionage Act. She pointed out that no one has been prosecuted under the Espionage Act since 1917 when it was used to criminalize anti-war opinion and silence dissent in the U.S. for a decade. Wolf claimed that "a fascist legislation defines crime as someone using force against the government."

10. Subversion of the rule of law, making it easier to use martial law. Wolf claimed that "a coup has taken place" in the U.S. and that the "executive is standing to act as the legislative."

Throughout the lecture she compared the current state of affairs, scenes, images, and tactics used by

U.S. government to Germany's parliamentary democracy and pluralism leading up to the rise of the Nazi regime where "a small group of people used the law to subvert the law." She gave numerous examples of how the U.S. administration is trying to create a closed society by restricting and harassing journalists, unloading coffins of dead soldiers at night, among other things. Wolf claims that the public has not caught on to all of this and "still thinks it's a democracy," while in reality "the time for negotiation is over... everything looks the same but without liberty."

Just as the audience was reaching the pinnacle of hopelessness, Wolf quickly took on a dramatically hopeful position claiming that history has shown that a force of millions of people can be empowered to rise up against the "would-be dictators" and save the population from a catastrophic state of world affairs. She advised people to become active members of the Democracy movements that exist in the U.S., including Wolf's organization, The American Freedom Campaign.

She emphasized that democracy is fragile if powers are unchecked and for this reason, the Founding Fathers created a system of checks and balances to safeguard the liberty of U.S. citizens. She argued that citizens of the U.S. have the power to combat the current state of affairs and rampant complacency that exists using the pillars of the Constitution.

She finished by commanding the audience to "impeach, prosecute, and save America" and to snap out of the belief that action and power are elsewhere.

## Election Speech Night Well Attended by Students

ADRIAN STOVER '08

staff writer

On the evening of Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, students running for the SGA positions of class council, environmental representatives, and the Young Alumni Trustee (YAT) gave speeches in the 1941 room of Cro to rally support for their candidacy. Members of the classes of 2011, 2010, and 2009 are currently running for the various positions that exist on class council, such as class president, vice-president, SAC rep, and J-Board. Members of the Class of 2008

are seeking the position of YAT. The person who assumes this role is responsible for representing younger alumni on the board of trustees and serves for three years.

Many of the candidates for the SGA positions cited their leadership experience with or without SGA, listed various goals and proposals that they would carry out if they were elected, and proclaimed their undying love for the school. Some even implored their fellow students just to vote. All of them stated why they thought they were most qualified for the positions they sought.

It was clear at the outset of the event that all of the underclassmen were concerned with how to improve immediately the school for the coming years. It was not as palpable, however, what the candidates for the YAT position would be concerned with for such a long-term position. As soon as the candidates for the YAT position began to speak, the different tone and character from the speeches of the underclassmen was quickly evident.

While the form was stylistically similar, it seemed that all the candidates understood the importance of the position

and how it is different from other student leadership positions.

Much of this has to do with the ability to influence the budget, and how the school can be improved by allocating funds to certain programs and departments of the school. Some cited the radical changes that need to happen to the school in the next few years, the need to have a strong dialogue with underclassmen and the trustees, and the endowment. Although only a few people stayed until the very end, the event was well attended throughout the night.

## CONN'S DRUG CULTURE

continued from page one

a major factor. She said when a person is using drugs with his very close friends, they are all complicit in one another's use and it is harder to realize there is a problem or need help. "Drug use is often the common denominator that brings people together," she said. These situations lend themselves to students taking advantage of each other. She added, "A friend of mine who was dealing has been robbed several times by peers."

*There were only a few times when I had to leave Conn to get anything. Marijuana, cocaine, prescription drugs, mushrooms, ecstasy, and LSD are all readily available at Conn.*

According to the students interviewed, all of them knew ways to get drugs. One senior indicated that many selling work with each other, and sometimes there could be competition amongst sellers. Many students concurred that buying in New London is "too sketchy," but they know students who will or will buy large quantities at home and bring back to school for re-sale.

"Marijuana is definitely the hardest for dealers to keep in stock on this campus, with coke a close second," said one senior. "Many have resorted to making their own derivatives of the drugs."

Additionally, another senior explained, "There's no fear by those people of getting caught and I don't think there's any desire by the student body to get them caught." Practically speaking, she added, "It's a terrible cycle of supply and demand."

*Most of the time it's no fun to do drugs alone, but if someone is really depressed, like I was, that is what will usually happen.*

All the interviewed students agreed smoking occurs in dorm rooms with a few friends as a way to relax and have a low-key night; meanwhile, some said it is used to pre-game, during small gatherings, or after parties. Students said it is not uncommon to smoke during the week or during the day. When the weather is better, stu-

dents smoke in wooded areas on-campus, and frequency can also depend on what else is going on around campus.

Information on the popularity of smoking alone was mixed, but the majority said small group settings were most common.

As for coke scene, students either blow lines or snort before going out and they use throughout the night in bathrooms or other rooms to keep going.

Everyone agreed the disciplinary repercussions are "lax." One junior said that because marijuana is an illegal substance, possession and use should not be treated with the same sanctioning as alcohol is.

A senior advocating for stricter adherence to state and federal law banning marijuana and cocaine said, "The Judicial board is very good at what they do, but the sanctioning is very relaxed when it comes to drug usage... In the real world, these people would be arrested, and on-campus they are given a letter and a slap on the wrist. I don't think people realize how lucky they are when it comes to being caught on-campus."

Another senior took the tough-love approach one step further, and said, "If someone is caught on-campus in possession, I say call the real cops and send them to jail. People need to learn that in the real world there are consequences... Parents should be notified of all infractions."

Besides the consequences at hand, the issue of getting caught at all is not much of a source of stress for many users. "If you're not stupid about it and you don't do it when there's a huge party going on, then you won't get caught," said a sophomore.

But one student was caught smoking with less than an eighth of marijuana. She explained, "The drugs and paraphernalia were immediately confiscated and the officer asked a student how he obtained them... We accepted responsibility when we received the write-up, so we were sanctioned with social probation but did not have to go through the judicial process."

*Drugs affect everything you do. I never went to class because I just got high or snorted coke all day long. It absolutely hurt my relationship with*

*my ex and with my friends. People didn't want to see me anymore because of how fucked up I was. Believe it or not, a lot of people who play both intercollegiate and intramural sports use drugs. While I never saw any use of steroids, I knew people who would snort coke or abuse Adderall before a game to boost concentration. Too many people make the mistake of thinking that the minor benefits from using drugs and playing sports outweigh the costs.*

One of the first changes is the people you associate with. "It will not help you write a philosophy paper," said a senior. But, she said that top students, leaders, and athletes who smoke do not let it intrude into their commitments.

One sophomore remembers her boyfriend at the time trying it on a few occasions. "That was sort of weird because his nose bled, which was gross, and he couldn't go to sleep. We had to stay up all night, but I wasn't like worried that he was going to die. I was just like...ew weird."

Coke seems divides and ruins friendships—despite its euphoric feeling. "There is a fine line between party friends and legitimate friendships," said one senior. She noticed varsity athletes also using, though not in-season, students smoking before class, and others doing coke after writing a paper. Even if you've never seen another student blow a line, she said, "if you look closely," it impacts a large part of the College's culture.

*I made a friend freshman year, who I was deeply concerned about, and still am. She told me her two best friends died in car crash right before she came to Conn and that all she wanted to do was get messed up on as many drugs as she could. It got to the point where she would try to smoke crack in my closet. I believe she also went to the hospital because of the effects of a mixture of mushrooms and ecstasy.*

Concerns for fellow students encompass a range of emotions. One senior said, "You know what, I probably haven't ever been really concerned for another. It is more peripheral friends that I know who use...combined with the fact that I have become so desen-

sitized because of the frequency of people disrespecting their bodies; I haven't really been deeply concerned. It's kind of sad."

After four years, a senior confessed, "I've never been concerned for another student, but I've been in situations where it turns out I SHOULD [her emphasis] have been concerned. I've had friends who ended up leaving Conn because of drug habits, but I didn't even know they were using."

An athlete and senior said she could recognize when a teammate had used the night before. "All I can think about is how selfish people can be when it comes to making choices about their bodies... I always feel like I've somehow failed them. I've failed the community. People never say that, but it's always true," she admitted, when not being able to get through to another player.

One interviewee said a friend was "very emotional" and "unresponsive" during a night of drinking, smoking marijuana, and blowing lines. The friend was "completely incoherent, could barely sit up straight, and started talking about people and things that weren't there and didn't make any sense." The interviewee had the friend stop, drink water, and lay down.

"I am pretty sure s/he came very close to overdosing, and since no one in our group was sober, we are very fortunate because it is unlikely that we would have been able to respond," said the interviewee.

*I think when it comes down to it, the most important people in a student's life are their professors. With the classes being so small at Conn, I feel like they should be able to tell if a student is skipping class to use drugs or even coming to class high. Even a suspicion should be reported to student health services or an advisor. Also, maybe get a motivational speaker, like an ex-crack head, to really scare people away from drugs—that definitely worked with me in rehab. Seeing a real life, serious drug addict freaks people out. As of now I haven't done any hard drugs since March 2, 2006, but I still smoke marijuana and drink occasionally.*

## Administration Weighs in on Campus Culture

**Thomas Hogarty,**

**Director of Campus Safety:**

Drug and alcohol use is a concern on campuses across the country and Connecticut College is no different. From a Campus Safety perspective, we don't respond to alcohol use or drug use in isolation, we also contend with the results of that use, such as

vandalism, civility issues, and risky or dangerous behaviors.

When we confiscate illegal drugs or substances, we log it in as evidence and then turn it over to New London Police to be destroyed. Students are written up on campus for violating the College's policy on alcohol and other illegal drug possession and/or use, and

their case goes through the College's judicial process. As far as size goes, any quantities we have found have been small.

As far as I can tell from my four months with the College, students mostly are using alcohol. From time to time we also discover marijuana use.

**Anonymous Administrator:**

Marijuana and alcohol seem to be the most popular drugs on campus. In the past, there have been issues with

SEE ADMINS WEIGH IN

continued to page ten

# Tenure 101: Unraveling the Mystery for Students

EMILY PERRY '11

staff writer

Tenure is part of Connecticut College since the College's founding in 1911. Since that time, it has remained an important process that impacts not only the lives of professors at Connecticut College, but also the lives of students.

Tenure is a system of contracts that the college creates with the faculty that gives them a lifetime contract to teach at the college once they reach a certain point in their teaching career at Conn. Tenure is important because it allows the faculty guaranteed academic freedom as well as ensuring them the livelihood that they need to live and work in the modern world.

According to the American Association for University Teachers (AAUP), tenure is an important aspect of the higher educational system because, "the contributions of tenure contribute to professional excellence and the social quest for truth." These benefits of tenure are considered by those who favor tenure to be more important than, "either the individual benefits or the costs to those who do not achieve tenure and to institutions which desire greater flexibility."

There are, however, those who do not support the idea or practice of tenure. This is the case for a variety of reasons, but the most common is that critics believe that tenure creates negative social and individual consequences for faculty because once tenured, unproductive faculty will limit opportunities for new faculty and also create limitations for the growth of a college or university.

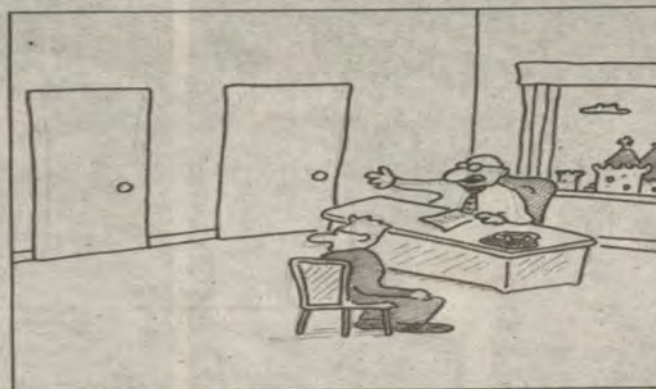
At Connecticut College, tenure is based around a six year period during which a faculty member is able to organize a tenure file. In this file, he is to compile a mass of evidence of his work in three major areas: evidence of their excellence in teaching, scholarship, and creativity in his field of study, as well as service to his institution, and letters of recommendation from external sources are also included. After all of this information is compiled, it is sent to be considered by the Employment Committee which judges whether the teacher meets the tenure standards at Connecticut College. If they feel that

it does, the file is then sent to Richard Brooks, the Dean of Faculty, who judges it for himself and then sends it to President Higdon for review. The final decision of whether or not a professor will be granted tenure is made by the Board of Trustees. Once the application reaches the Board it is highly unusual for the professor not to be given tenure. Tenure is not granted unless there is a consensus among all of the people considering a professor's file. This is done to ensure that the College's professors are in every way fit to benefit the community.

Andrew Pessin, associate professor of philosophy, said of the tenure process, "It's both laborious but also sort of fulfilling to assemble one's dossier. It's a chance to reflect on what one has been doing and what one's goals are and should be. So overall it was actually enjoyable but it is very time-consuming, and of course very stressful given the always present possibility of failure."

Despite this, it is uncommon for a professor who is able to qualify for tenure to be refused. Sixty-five to sixty-six percent of those applying for tenure receive it. Only seven percent of those who qualify for tenure do not receive it, and twenty-seven percent are unable to qualify for tenure. When a faculty member is hired, he receives a contract that may or may not place him in a tenure track position. This means that from the moment a professor is hired, he knows whether or not he will be able to apply to be a tenured professor. If a professor's contract does not include the option to receive tenure, or if he applies for tenure but does not get it, at the end of the contract period he will have a year to find another job. If he does qualify for tenure, applies for it, and receives it, he will be promoted from an assistant professor position to associate professor.

This year, there was only one professor to come up for tenure, and he was granted it. According to Dean Brooks, "The number of professors to be considered for tenure varies from year to year for a number of reasons including the fact that occasionally professors quit or that six years earlier the professor was not hired with a tenure track contract." If, however, there is an opening in a department that the ad-

min-  
istra-  
tion

"Behind one door is tenure - behind the other is flipping burgers at McDonald's."

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needs filled, a faculty member may be able to come up for tenure earlier than stated in his contract.

Before a professor reaches the point of compiling his official tenure application, he creates a file for Third Year Review, which, three years into his contract, a professor compiles a file similar to the one he will create for his official tenure application, but without the letters of recommendation. This file then goes through roughly the same review process of a tenure application, and if the applicant is judged to be on the right path for tenure, they receive a renewed three year contract which lets them know what they have been doing well up to that point, and tells them what they need to work on to strengthen their official tenure application. If however, the professor is not thought to be working out by the time of Third Year Review, they are given a one-year contract and encouraged to look for a job at another institution.

Tenure practices vary slightly by department throughout the College. While there are standards that govern all professors in a tenure track position, such as excellence in teaching, service and creativity in their field, and service to the College, other specific standards may vary because different fields value different kinds of work.

Dean Brooks said, "In different fields of study you do your work in different ways. Philosophy, for example, is work done mostly in articles, while in my field, religious studies, we do studies in books." He stressed that while the expectations for the type of work expected from department to department may change, the standard for

excellence does not.

Dean Brooks also said that, while there are no changes expected regarding the tenure process at Connecticut College, the faculty and administration has tried to be more, "transparent and upfront about the tenure process and standards."

This was also a wish of Professor Pessin. He said that he was very satisfied overall with the tenure process and felt that because the tenure process was taken so seriously by his colleagues and the administration that their approval of his tenure really meant something. However, he said, "What I would like, for example, is that the [files] of everyone who is awarded tenure be made public in some way—or at least accessible to those who are coming up for tenure. While Conn may reasonably want to avoid giving explicit criteria [such as] 'One requires five articles and one book for tenure,' at least an individual can see what standards successful faculty members have achieved before them."

Additionally, due to the fact that the administration at Conn stresses excellence in so many areas to create a strong tenure application, the faculty at times feels pressure to over-perform. Professor Pessin said, "There is a joke that Conn recommends that the appropriate prioritization of your time is this: fifty percent teaching, fifty percent spent on research, and fifty percent on citizenship." He stressed that while he does believe the process to be very thorough and very fair, it would be helpful for the administration to clarify exactly what they expect of a tenure applicant, especially regarding how much research is enough to qualify for tenure.

Interested in working for *The Voice* next year? Contact [ccvoice@conncoll.edu](mailto:ccvoice@conncoll.edu) and include your experience and the position you would like to be considered for.

Editorial Board Positions Still Available.

## Shift to Parallel Showcases Senior Talent



From Left to Right: *Dance Pieces* by Ali Hollowell, Zenas Hutcheson, and Cyan Maroney. Dancers are Laura Snow, Lily Ockwell, Raja Kelly, Chris Davis, Zenas Hutcheson, Dasha Lavrennikov

### MADLINE MERIN '11

staff writer

The Senior Dance Majors' Concert, *The Shift to Parallel*, has been many years in the making. The concert is the annual culminating experience of the dance majors' college careers, but for some it is an entirely new process.

Throughout the spring semester senior dance majors are enrolled in a senior seminar, which is taught by former department chair Lan-Lan Wang. Once a week the group of eleven dancers meet to plan and create the concert. The dancers have known since their freshman year that they would have to choreograph a senior piece, and many have looked forward to this with eagerly and with anticipation.

Ali Hollowell '08 knew from the start what she wanted to focus on in her piece. This is the sixth time she has choreographed a piece at Connecticut College. "I knew for a while that I wanted to create this piece, but it has taken this many years for me to be in a place to be emotionally ready to revisit the topic," she said. She chose her dancers based upon not just their technical skill but also their emotional maturity. "The piece, 'First Try,' is about undergoing a traumatic experience. The individual dancers' experiences and their emotions were important to the process because much of the piece is about knowing that others will also have those kind of experiences," said Hollowell.

Fellow major Cyan Maroney '08 knew from the start that she wanted to do something that incorporated home but did not have as clear a focus as Hollowell did. When she set out to work, choreog-

raphy was the last thing she wanted to do. Maroney did not look forward to this choreography project as much as she had to the other parts of the major. A native of West Virginia, Maroney was a field worker from the age of nine to the age of thirteen. This was quite influential in her creative process. She first looked for movements that replicated field workers and then to her dancers for inspiration. She had her cast brainstorm movements from a farm, and this is one technique she used to develop movement. The costumes and setting reflect an outdoorsy feeling that she was looking for. In spite of her apprehensions, Maroney has been successful in her undertakings.

Zenas Hutcheson is one of most talented choreographers in the class of 2008. In February he was nominated Outstanding Student Choreographer for the New England Region at the American College Dance Festival. Hutcheson loves making dances that explore different ideas. He finds that he can address new subject matter better in dance than in other mediums. "My task is more narrative than aesthetic. Choreography for me is about telling a story, even if that story is abstract," said Hutcheson. When creating a piece he often reflects upon the various subjects he has studied in other courses at Conn. "I draw from my poetry classes every time I choreograph, particularly when thinking of how to structure a dance." Other courses have greatly influenced his work as well. The premise of his honors thesis, which will be performed this weekend, draws from his studies on the philosophy of law. "My other courses have absolutely influenced my work," he said.

Over the course of their four years, the dance majors are prepared for this process, and many choose to choreograph for dance club shows. In addition, dance majors must take composition classes for which they must regularly choreograph and present material to their class. Majors are not the only important seniors in the dance department. Chris Davis '08, a theatre major that came to the College as a soccer player, is as much a presence in the department as the other seniors. In *The Shift to Parallel*, Davis danced in five pieces and understudied Paul Taylor's *Aureole*. He started dancing in the spring of his freshman year in a dance club piece. He then went on to dance in classmate Zenas Hutcheson's piece, "Unseen Enemy," at the ACDF at Boston University. Faculty member Heidi Henderson cast Davis in an acting-oriented role in a piece for the faculty concert, and he performed in two senior pieces during his sophomore spring. Davis traveled to Italy during the fall semester his junior year, where he studied physical theatre and movement as it applies to theatre, discovering that the exploration of movement is what he enjoys most.

Last spring he returned with a new perspective. For his senior year, Davis made a point of taking modern and ballet classes. "I always wanted to take technique classes but I could never fit it in with my theatre schedule," said Davis. If he could do it all again, would he have been a dance major? "Because theatre is what led to my discovery of dance, I wouldn't do it any other way." Next year Davis will move to New York City where he will continue performing in dance and theatre pieces, and hopes to find the synthesis of his two passions.

### Floralia Schedule of Events

#### Music Performances

- 12:00 p.m. Quietlife
- 1:15 p.m. Wicked Peach
- 2:30 p.m. Welcome to Florida
- 4:00 p.m. MOBROC
- 5:30 pm-6:00 p.m. Berenstain
- 6:15 p.m. Chester French
- 7:45p.m. 1997
- 9:15 p.m. Ted Leo



The Misshapes DJ at 10:45 p.m.

#### Novelty Attractions

- 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Adrenaline Rush Obstacle Course, Defender Dome and Inflatable Slip 'n' Slide
- 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Roving performers (airbrush tattoo artist, balloon artist et al)

# Graduating Seniors in the Arts

## *A Selection of Student Profiles*



### **Hannah Krivis**

**College Voice:** What are some highlights of your time as an arts student at Conn?

**HK:** Spending time in the dark room and going to Perugia, Italy with Professor Wakeman to study watercolors and pastels.

**CV:** What next? What are your goals?

**HK:** I'm going to UCLA in the fall for a two-year interior design program. I hope to then work for an architecture firm in a design division or start my own interior design business.

**CV:** What is your medium of choice or specialty?

**HK:** Photography and printmaking

**CV:** Any interesting hobbies?

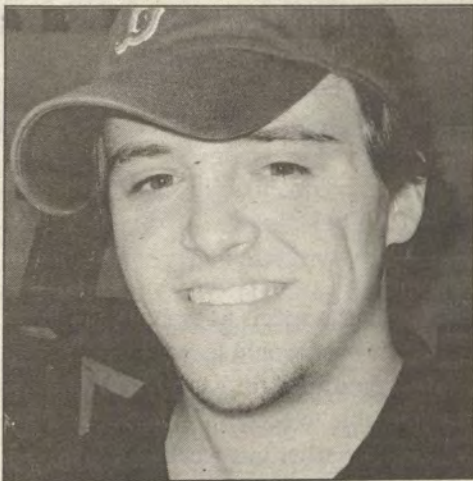
**HK:** Knitting, organizing, cooking.

**CV:** What has Conn given you?

**HK:** A well-rounded liberal arts education and a strong sense of self.

**CV:** Anything you'd like to be remembered for?

**HK:** I'd like to be remembered for being a kind, creative person.



### **Drew Lagace**

**CV:** What are some highlights of your time as an music student at Conn?

**DL:** Singing with the CoCo Beaux and recording two CD's with them, once my freshman year and once this year. Getting the Niblack scholarship from the Music Department that allowed me to intern at Plum TV in New York City last summer. Composing and singing my own original composition last semester for my Senior Project.

**CV:** What next? What are your goals?

**DL:** Immediately next is unemployment, but my long-term goal is to become a sound editor for television and film...So if anyone has any ins with the business, shoot me an email.

**CV:** What is your instrument of choice or specialty?

**DL:** My instrument is my voice. I'm a tenor. Sometimes piano/keyboard.

**CV:** Any interesting hobbies?

**DL:** I've been known to dabble in Taco Bell, and collecting Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle stuff.

**CV:** What has Conn given you?

**DL:** Awesome friends.

**CV:** Anything you'd like to be remembered for?

**DL:** Making people gasp the first time they heard the Co Co Beaux sing "I'll Be."



### **Aubrey Millen**

**CV:** What are some highlights of your time as an arts student at Conn?

**AM:** This year has been a crazy year of research and experimentation for me in the studio. I feel kind of like a mad scientist (or mad seamstress) with some of the techniques I've experimented with, including burning, shrinking, burying, melting, ripping, stretching, pinning, and sewing different materials for my thesis. For a while I had a row of pinned paper women soaking in jars and Petri dishes on my desk. My studio space is like the Feminist Laboratory of Lace and Wire.

**CV:** What next? What are your goals?

**AM:** Right now I'm applying for jobs in computer animation and 3D modeling for video games. Ultimately I'd like to work creating 3D characters and special effects for films. This summer I'm attending SIGGRAPH (a Special Interest Group conference for motion graphics) as a student volunteer where all of the major animation companies present their latest innovations in animation and special visual effects.

**CV:** What is your medium of choice or specialty?

**AM:** My specialty is drawing. These days I'm looking for ways to stretch my drawing skills in other realms like animation, or turning them into prints to illustrate stories that I write. In my thesis, I transferred a number of drawings into prints, which I then constructed into miniature paper theaters with collage inside.

**CV:** Any interesting hobbies?

**AM:** I watch absurd amounts of films. I usually rent them by the stack, especially documentaries and experimental films. I usually have one on mute in the background in the room because the stimulation of someone else's imagery helps me think. Also, people watching. I usually forget that I'm doing it, but I'm so fascinated by people.

**CV:** What has Conn given you?

**AM:** Conn gave me the attention that I wanted for my undergrad classes. All of the professors are so accessible, and I've gotten to know my classmates really well. I know exactly who to ask for advice on any given subject. My advisor calls my cell phone and brings me books and articles that I'd be interested in. You can't get that level of attention at most schools. On a completely separate note, Conn art professors are all obsessed with really expensive paper. I'll never look at paper the same way again.

**CV:** Anything you'd like to be remembered for?

**AM:** I'm really interested in the ugly side of beauty—the fact that flaws often make things more attractive. I try to emphasize the multiple dimensions of beauty, especially feminine qualities of things in my work. I like deconstructing why we think something is beautiful. When we find something attractive, how much do we weigh color, texture, line, and light in comparison to the content?



## Men's Lax Rolls into Playoffs

MIKE FLINT '11

staff writer

On Saturday, April 19 the Connecticut College Men's Lacrosse team concluded its 2008 regular season against archrival Trinity, and began its postseason quest for the NESCAC Championship on Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Connecticut College actually clinched a playoff birth last Tuesday with an 8-5 win at home over Western Connecticut State. Phips Smith '10 scored four goals in the game and Ryan Hayes '11 had three assists. The win was the fourth in a row for the Camels, marking their longest winning streak of the season.

Previous to the victory against Western Connecticut, the Camels had taken care of fellow NESCAC rival, Colby, in an 11-4 blow out on Colby's home turf. Connecticut College also dominated two out-of-league schools, Wheaton and Nichols, 14-3 and 16-2 respectively.

These scores reflect how much of the Camels' success can be attributed to their stellar defense. Before their game against Western Connecticut,

the Camels had the #1 defense in the NESCAC, and were allowing a mere 5.76 goals per game.

The defense has been led by goalie Mark Moran '10, who has played great of late, and defenseman Ben Stahl '09, who is one of the Camels' three captains.

Connecticut College has also benefited greatly from the fantastic play by Hayes at attack. Along with his three assists in last week's game against Western Connecticut, Hayes has also contributed in a major way with three goals and nine assists since April 15<sup>th</sup>.

After starting off the year with a 1-2 record [with both losses coming in tough, in-league matches against Middlebury and Bowdoin] the Camels have rebounded nicely. In the middle of the season, they had a great win at Tufts—a team that eventually finished as one of the top teams in the league—and finished the year in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the NESCAC. Before their final game against Trinity at home on Saturday, the Camels were 9-5 on the season and 4-4 in the NESCAC.

This 2008 Camel squad ended up with an impressive record, which reflects how the team has greatly

improved. In 2006, the Camels finished at 6-8 overall and only 3-6 in the NESCAC. Last year they fell even deeper into the standings at 5-9 overall and 2-7 in the NESCAC.

On Sunday, in the playoffs for the first time since 2005, the Camels intend to make a major statement. In 2005, Connecticut College lost to Amherst 17-7 in the first round.

Entering the playoffs on a roll should propel the Camels past the first round.

Hopefully, the Camels' momentum will work in their favor and get them deep into the tournament. However, they must continue to play the superior defense they showed throughout the season and get solid offensive production from Hayes and Smith if they want to advance.



Camel Lax (Web)

## Successful Season Run Not Over Yet Connecticut College Track Heating Up

EMILY WEBB '11

staff writer

In a race that is just 100 meters short of a mile (1600 meters), Keith Drake '08 holds the school's record with a time of three minutes and 53.12 seconds. This time, his PR (personal record), is undoubtedly faster than the 2008 Olympic trial women's qualifying time, and only 20 seconds short of the men's.

As a result of this spectacular time and an entire season of outstanding races, Drake has provisionally qualified for the NCAA championships in the 1500-meter at Princeton. For an athlete at a small liberal arts college, Drake's accomplishment would appear to be highly individualized, but on the Connecticut College outdoor track and field team, Drake is just one of many talented athletes.

After finishing a successful

indoor track and field season, the spring outdoor track and field season started with a bang. Unlike other sports, where games are evenly split home and away, the track team is forced to travel for all but one of its meets.

Starting nearby at the Coast Guard Academy, the team performed quite well and soon carried that talent throughout New England. Two weekends ago, Connecticut College hosted the Silfen Invitational and excelled in a way that should make the College Community proud. The women's track and field team stepped up and won the entire invitational with a score of 164 points.

Not only did they win the meet, they also set two school records and won seven individual events. The women's relay teams also won each of their races. The 4 X 100 meter (1 lap total around the track) team of

Cindy Nielsen '11, Joann O'Brien '11, Asia Bento '11, and Amanda Monnye '08 set a school record with a time of 50.48 seconds.

In field events athletes stood out as well. Margaret Thayer '10 jumped 5.11 meters in the long jump, and Laura Nadelberg '08 threw the javelin 32.46 meters. Following in her older sister's footsteps, Katherine Nadelberg '11 qualified for NESCACs in the javelin competitions.

Drake and Thayer were recognized by the NESCAC for their excellence in track and field, especially in the Silfen Invitational. Thayer was commended for her performance in the long jump by being named NESCAC Women's Field Performer of the Week, and Drake was named NESCAC Men's Track Performer of the Week.

Unfortunately neither Drake nor Thayer was available for comment,

but it seems as though such an honor would leave both with only gratitude for what they have been able to accomplish.

Earlier this week, Coach Ned Bishop told Connecticut College sports writer William Tomasian that "[W]e are very proud of the recognition that Margaret and Keith have received. "They have both been key contributors to a very successful season thus far...and we look forward to what they will accomplish in the championship meets ahead."

Although this year is Drake's last season to compete in collegiate track and field events, and his skill and leadership will certainly be missed next year, the team's future appears to be quite bright. Congratulations to the track and field team, and best of luck in the upcoming Championship meets.

## Water Polo's Phoebe Bakanas Player of the Week



Phoebe Bakanas '10 (Wen)

MARISSA DEMAIS '11

staff writer

The Connecticut College Women's water polo team went 2-0 during the week of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and received a tremendous effort from Phoebe Bakanas '10. The sophomore from Redding, Connecticut totaled eight goals, including five versus Queens College. The highlight of the game against Queens came with 20 seconds left when Bakanas sealed the victory with her final goal. She tallied 38 goals this season

and was the second highest scorer for the Camels. I met with her to reflect upon her terrific season.

**Marissa DeMais:** How do you think the season is going so far?

**Phoebe Bakanas:** This season has been exciting. We had a rough start, but we overcame the obstacles. Our team definitely has a lot of talent.

**MD:** What has been the key to your recent success?

**PB:** I feel that teamwork and teambuilding [have been] key. It takes effort from more than one person for any goal or steal to be made in water polo. If any one of us makes a goal, it is because the rest of the team is doing a good job occupying their defenders. And if someone makes a great steal it is because they have faith in their teammates to back them up.

**MD:** How did you first get involved in water polo?

**PB:** When I first started water polo, I played with a girl whose parents' were very influential in the world of water polo—Bill and Kathy Smith. The Smiths took me under their wing throughout my middle school and high school career, and brought me to the Junior Olympics [in] Greece and Croatia to play water polo. They continue to give me new opportunities in water polo, including a chance at 20-and-under Nationals this summer.

**MD:** Who has influenced your career the most?

**PB:** The best coach I have ever had is the Connecticut College coach, JJ Addison. His knowledge and passion for the sport has turned me into a smarter and more aware player. And of course, my parents have provided the best support I could ever need. It was because of their encouragement I stuck it out on a guys' water polo team during high school.

**MD:** What was your greatest achievement?

**PB:** Being nominated for the all-tournament team in the Cal-Tech water polo tournament we attended in California was pretty awesome. And of course, my most memorable and best experience was playing water polo in Europe. I loved playing and winning against Croatian and Greek teams.

**MD:** What makes water polo so intense?

**PB:** Water polo is intense because of the fierce amount of aggression and athleticism bundled into one sport. The game is made up of four, eight-minute quarters where the players swim from end to end of a 30-meter pool, never touching the bottom, trying to score goals. Because the referees cannot see what goes on under water, there is a lot of grabbing, kicking and punching involved in order to get position. It is the best feeling to shove someone, get open and score.

**MD:** Have you played other sports? If so, how does water polo compare to it?

**PB:** I played soccer and was on a swim team for ten years. The swimming never entertained me as much as water polo does. As for soccer, I was better at water polo and enjoyed the plays and tactics of water polo more than soccer.

**MD:** What are your goals for the rest of the season?

**PB:** I hope that the team plays its best at Division Three Nationals, which Connecticut College is hosting. I hope to also get a lot of spectators.

**MD:** As a sophomore, what are your long-term goals for the next two years?

**PB:** I personally hope to continue to improve my performance. I also hope that the team grows in size and popularity here at [Connecticut College] and in the Northeast. We have a lot of talent, and maybe someday we will beat Harvard.

## Tough Times for Mens' Tennis



Men's Tennis at Practice (Day)

MATT SMITH '10

staff writer

Coach Paul Huch and the Connecticut College men's tennis team finished off the spring season with a record of 3-12.

Huch recounted a sweet victory to end the season and explained that "[W]e ended on a positive note beating [The Coast Guard Academy] 8-1, and we lost to them in the fall." The team also enjoyed wins against Illinois Wesleyan while in Orlando, Florida and Post University at home, respectively.

Huch believed that his team will have no trouble rebounding from this difficult season. "We only had one senior

in our top six, so the future looks good as long as the younger players learn from their matches this year."

Hopefully, the team will be able to draw upon its experiences against tough opponents like The Coast Guard Academy to compile a stronger record next season.

Huch also anticipates that the team will grow from this season's struggles and truly develop into a mentally composed and determined squad. "We lost a heartbreaker, 4-5, to Wesleyan in our last NESCAC match" he said.

Connecticut College suffered in NESCAC matches this year and posted a 0-7 record against conference

opponents.

Paul Huch has coached the men's team since 2002. His coaching career is highlighted by the 2007 season when his team finished with a .500 winning percentage at 8-8.

Even though this season was extremely disappointing, one should still be optimistic about the team's future because most of its skilled players are lowerclassmen. The team consists of five rising sophomores including Trevor Prophet and Craig Stanton, both of whom recorded impressive wins against Wesleyan and The Coast Guard Academy, respectively.



Aim, set... (Brodsky)

## Always maintain the correct balance between school and play.



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## ADMINS WEIGH IN

*continued from page four*

cocaine, but I have not heard of any cocaine instances this year.

The consequences for being caught eventually become rather severe, but overall, there doesn't seem to be too much anxiety associated with getting caught on the part of students.

I think drug use is a problem on-campus in relation to the behaviors and negative incidents that occur after drug and alcohol use. Also, the consequences of drug and alcohol use seem to be rarely considered ahead of time, and a plan of action among social groups, if something should go wrong, is rarely present. Also, many students tend to not be supportive of someone who "over does it." It seems that most members of a group do minimum care-giving to a friend in need because they don't want to stop their drinking or drug use to fully take care of the one in need.

### CC Curtiss, Director of Student Wellness & Alcohol/Drug Education:

Drug and alcohol use is a concern on college and university campuses across the country. As a community, Connecticut College is addressing this issue with a comprehensive approach that includes everything from initiatives to enhance the overall residential experience on campus to specific programming related to alcohol and drug prevention.

The College takes part in a national survey generated by the Core Institute, a leading research, assessment and development organization serving alcohol and drug prevention programs across the nation. The Core Alcohol and Drug Survey

was developed to measure alcohol and other drug usage, attitudes, and perceptions among college students. We just received the raw data this week from this survey, and are in the early stages of analyzing the numbers. Once we've analyzed the data and its implications, we plan to share it with students as part of our ongoing educational efforts.

This year, Connecticut College created my position and hired me to work as Director of Student Wellness & Alcohol/Drug Education. Part of my job includes developing and implementing programs to lower alcohol and other drug use.

While early indications from our most recent Core Institute survey seem to indicate a decline in use over the last five years, alcohol still appears to be the most commonly used substance among our students. Based on conversations with students, there is also some marijuana use on campus. Regardless of one's reasoning or self-justification, there really is no level of drug use that is considered low-risk.

Connecticut College is in line with the national statistics that indicate alcohol and other drug use is slightly higher on New England campuses than in other parts of the country. It is important to note, there are students on this campus who choose not to drink or use drugs.

The Judicial Task Force evaluates consequences and responsibility for policy violations.

The College is revamping prevention and education programs, including student leader training and freshmen orientation. The College will review the drug and alcohol policy and work with J-Board to formalize its educational component.

## The Nitty-Gritty of Emergency Contraception

EMILY ROSENFELD '09 AND ANGELICA SGOUROS '09

*contributing writers*

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and, in conjunction with Take Back the Night and other related events, it is important to also understand the use of and access to emergency contraception.

The emergency contraceptive pills available in the United States, Plan B, are a set of two pills with high doses of a hormone called progesterin—the same type as in many hormonal birth control pills. Emergency contraceptive pills work to prevent pregnancy by interfering with fertilization (when the egg and sperm meet), thickening the cervical mucus to slow sperm movement and slowing ovulation. Emergency contraception is *not* an abortion pill. In contrast, the medical abortion pill, known as Mifepristone or RU-486, stops the progression of a pregnancy once the fertilized egg has implanted. Emergency contraceptive pills will do no harm if the pregnancy is already in place (if the fertilized egg has implanted in the uterus).

Though it's often called the "morning after pill," emergency contraception is effective within

the first 72 hours (three days) after unprotected sex and still may be effective up to 120 hours (five days) after sex. Emergency contraception is more effective the sooner it is used after sex and within the first 24 hours it reduces the risk of pregnancy by 95 percent. While it is effective for emergency use, it is not a very reliable means of regular birth control and other methods such as condoms or hormonal birth control are much more consistent.

Plan B consists of two pills to be taken twelve hours apart, though it appears that taking the second pill a little bit early or a little bit late does not impact the effectiveness. Your next period should start within the month, though it might be earlier or later than usual by about a week.

Emergency contraception is safe for almost all women to take, even if they have been told they cannot take oral contraceptives as this one-time emergency use should do no harm. Emergency contraception has no long term side effects, though some possible short term side effects are nausea, vomiting, headache, abdominal pain, tiredness, dizziness or tender breasts which should subside in a day or two. The risk of side effect is very low, as less than one in four women will experience nausea and even fewer will vomit. However, if you do vomit within one hour of taking the first pill you will need to call your medical provider as this might reduce its effectiveness.

Plan B is available on campus at the Health Center for \$25. In addition, a program is in development to provide EC to students on the weekends when the Health Center is closed. Volunteers will be on call to dispense EC. As of 2006, emergency contraception is available without a prescription for people eighteen and over from

pharmacies (people under eighteen still require a physician's visit and prescription). The price of Plan B ranges from \$35-\$60 and you must show an ID at the pharmacy window. Also, family planning clinics, such as Planned Parenthood (45 Franklin St, New London), may provide Plan B on a sliding fee scale. Additionally, emergency contraception may be covered by some health insurance plans.

Furthermore, for students planning to travel or go abroad, keep in mind that emergency contraception pills may not be legal or as easily available in other countries. It may be a good idea to purchase Plan B before going abroad.

Emergency contraceptives can also be used in the case of forced sex (sexual assault). While the emergency room is not the only place to access contraceptives under these circumstances, a new Connecticut state law, "Compassionate Care for Rape Victims," passed in April 2007, requires all hospitals in the state to offer EC to victims of sexual assault.

Knowing about emergency contraception is a valuable part of understanding healthy reproductive choices. For more information go to [ec.princeton.edu](http://ec.princeton.edu). Additionally, to volunteer to be on call and distribute EC on campus, e-mail [emily.rosenfeld@conncoll.edu](mailto:emily.rosenfeld@conncoll.edu).

*About the contributing writers: Emily "Rosie" Rosenfeld is a PICA Junior and Angelica Sgouros is an intern at Planned Parenthood*

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## The Playoffs Are Here Indefinitely

JASON STARR '09

sports editor



There's nothing like the playoffs. Each moment oozes with intensity, and every play holds tremendous importance.

Postseason

action is marked by a heightened sense of urgency which causes the playoffs to be an extremely exhilarating and draining experience for both athletes and fans.

The NBA and the NHL playoffs began recently, and many fans have immersed themselves in all the excitement that surrounds the season. Each sport currently features a number of captivating match-ups that promise to thrill viewers everywhere. Although we are still in the early stages of the playoffs, this postseason has already produced some exceptionally riveting moments.

The intensity and passion of the NBA playoffs emerged during the first day of postseason action as the San Antonio Spurs beat the Phoenix Suns in double overtime 117-115. A major upset nearly occurred in the NHL playoffs when the Boston Bruins, the number eight seed, battled back from a two game deficit and forced a game seven against the top-seeded Montreal Canadiens.

While the playoffs have been fairly gripping so far, how much longer will they be able to sustain this initial excitement?

Both the NBA and the NHL playoffs consist of four best-of-seven series, and the entire post seasons can last over six weeks. There are several off days between each game, and a team will not play more than three times a week.

One might think that fans enjoy these long-lasting post seasons, but the frequent off days are extremely frustrating, and they grow impatient as they wait to see who will win the NBA championship and the Stanley Cup. Even though virtually every basketball game will be shown on national television (TNT, ABC, ESPN, ESPN2), it is very likely that many fans will lose interest and stop watching.

Can the NBA compensate for its unnecessarily drawn-out playoff schedule and continue to captivate fans? In order for these playoffs to truly remain interesting, it is necessary for the right teams to advance throughout the postseason. Similarly, the teams that

have little or no national appeal, like the Atlanta Hawks, Denver Nuggets, and Toronto Raptors, must not make it out of the first round.

Unlike the NFL, the amount of people who watch the NBA playoffs largely depends on who is playing. The playoffs currently feature many flashy teams like the Cleveland Cavaliers, Houston Rockets, Utah Jazz, and the Washington Wizards that truly excite basketball fans. But eight teams will be eliminated after the first round, and the national audience will undoubtedly decrease if these fan favorites exit early.

While fans in Detroit and San Antonio will disagree, the NBA cannot afford to have either the Pistons or Spurs make the finals. At least one of these two teams has appeared in four of the last five championship series, and the national fan base finds them quite boring. Even though the Pistons and Spurs are two of the best teams in basketball, it would be better for the NBA if two newer and more exciting teams like the Cavaliers or the New Orleans Hornets met up in the finals.

A Celtics-Lakers finals match-up would produce an enormous amount of viewers and will allow the NBA to overcome the problems that arise from its tedious postseason schedule. Both Boston and Los Angeles have extremely large fan bases that extend to a national level and are also crucial media hubs. This match-up would renew a classic rivalry from the 1980s which would appeal to an older generation of fans that might otherwise not follow the playoffs.

In addition to rooting for your team, you should also hope the Celtics, Cavaliers, Lakers, and Hornets advance as well. Even if your guys ultimately finish on top, you may still find the playoffs rather dull if the teams with national appeal aren't there at the end.



## An NFL Draft Memoir



BEN EAGLE '09

sports editor



The Rockettes were given the weekend off. In their place was not a choir or a modern

dance crew. Rather, it was several six-foot-something men about to be millionaires.

I visited Radio City Music Hall on Friday. It was a day before the Hall was filled with several teams' rabid fans. Though their loyalties were spread from California to Florida, they all shared one thing in common: a seething hatred of the Patriots.

However odd it was to see the draft hall devoid of the fans, Radio City was hardly empty. Ex-NFLers Keyshawn Johnson and Marshall Faulk sat next to each other, and Keyshawn showed Faulk a little dance that highlighted the former wide receivers classmate Chuck Taylor. A few feet from this little jig were former NFL coaches Brian Billick and Steve Mariucci. I pondered giving my condolences to the recently released Billick, but with his flawless slacks on, he looked like he was getting on just fine without the Baltimore Ravens.

Also looking at ease were the draft's top six players. Every year the NFL invites the players they expect to be drafted in the top ten picks to New York. This year those players were: Matt Ryan, Chris Long, Jake Long, Vernon Gholston, Glen Dorsey, and Darren McFadden. I watched them

interview with media, joke with each other, and I began to worry.

For those of you not familiar with the draft, let me tell you a story. Last year, the NFL invited Brady Quinn to New York. They expected him to go in the top ten picks, and instead he lasted until the 22<sup>nd</sup> pick of the first round.

The cameras caught every agonizing second of Quinn's free-fall. The players who are invited to New York sit in a green room back stage. The infrastructure of the draft used to call for a room off the Green Room for situations just like Quinn's. Players could escape the scrutiny of the cameras as they watched the dollars slip away from them. Coincidentally, the NFL abolished this room last year.

For me, this story is a microcosm of the draft. These players, who are no older than you or me, are mere fodder for the NFL. The potentially psychologically damning process of losing millions of dollars when you slip in the draft is both intrigue and ratings for the NFL. The green room is not comforting or homely. It is just as well lit as the stage, and on draft day, they will even have cameras on the catwalks above the green room.

Maybe this pressure doesn't get to the players. You must remember that these players regularly perform in front of tens of thousands of fans, and one misstep there will draw the ire of even the most loyal follower. There are no helmets or pads at the NFL draft, however. No matter how well coached or guarded these players are, it is quite different when they don't have inches of plastic between them and the camera.

# Plane Stupid is Plain Wrong

ANDREW IRWIN '10

staff writer



British anti-aviation group Plane Stupid has used direct action methods since 2005 as a means of

It is in Plane Stupid's inherent nature to alienate everyone except those who vehemently renounce anyone who has ever stepped onto a plane. Real activists come in the form of Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Group, who has challenged the industry to find green solutions and is transforming airlines from inside the industry.

Beyond more efficient airplanes, there are many steps to take in order to change air travel growth and pollution. Recently, the FAA has looked into changing the routes airplanes fly. These highways in the sky are extremely inefficient and cause undue pollution and expenses. Allowing

planes to fly more direct routes will save airlines money and reduce delays as well as pollution.

The airline industry is also highly privileged with tax-exemptions, giveaways and a huge safety net. Private airlines would not exist without such help. Taking away a fraction of this assistance would level the playing field for a struggling passenger rail industry. Traveling by train is often cost-prohibitive and encourages people to take advantage of cheap air travel. Redirecting assistance towards a more sustainable industry must be of high priority for those serious about solving the global climate crisis.

What increased air travel comes down to is indirect costs covered up by convenience. Indirect costs associated with the billions in public (tax dollars) subsidies are paid out to a struggling industry by a so-called free-trade capitalist government.

Indirect environmental costs are preventing even those who strive to be friendly to the earth from being so. Priority must be given to passenger rail travel in the form of reinvestment projects by the government, as well as balancing prices so that traveling by train is not time and cost prohibitive. The FAA must also team up with industry leaders to find solutions to efficiency and pollution issues plaguing airlines. These are the ways government, business and civil society can work to change the airline industry and help solve the climate crisis. So the next time you plan to blockade airplanes at JFK, stay at home instead.



Known most recently for a banner drop on top of the Houses of Parliament in London, Plane Stupid's tactics essentially involve annoying the hell out of everyone until they get what they want. Much like Earth First! In the 1980s and 1990s, this type of activism is outdated and alienates much of the population. Until Plane Stupid changes their tactics or dissolves into some cooperative in the woods somewhere, they will continue to aggravate the aviation industry and air travelers to the point that they do not want to tackle airplane pollution.

## TED'S COMING...SATURDAY!



### Don't let your non-Conn friends miss out! Here's the Floralia guest info:

Each Connecticut College student may register one (1) guest for Floralia. Connecticut College alumni should not be registered as guests of students. Alumni may register themselves by clicking here. All other individuals (including Coast Guard Cadets, Navy personnel, Mitchell College students et al) must be registered as guests by individual Connecticut College students in order to attend Floralia. Guest registration is only available online. Guest registration will close at 10:00p.m. on Thursday, May 1st. It will NOT be possible to register guests after this deadline. Non-registered guests will be turned away at the Gatehouse. Any non-registered guest present during Floralia will be escorted off campus and their hosts will be subject to judicial action. Pre-registered guests and alumni are required to obtain and wear a Floralia wristband throughout the day, Saturday, May 3rd. Guests and alumni will be able to obtain wristbands at the Gatehouse on Saturday, May 5th between 10:00a.m - 6:00p.m. All guests and alumni must arrive on campus no later than 6:00p.m. Individuals arriving after 6:00p.m. will not be granted access to campus. A hosting a guest is responsible for the whereabouts and actions of his/her guest at all times and assumes responsibility for the actions and behavior of his/her guest while the guest is on the Connecticut College campus. By clicking "Register a Guest" below you are indicating you understand the College guest policy and are willing to assume responsibility for your Floralia guest.

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# Tibet Beyond Western Bias and Chinese Propaganda

NAYAN POKHREL '10

staff writer

Much has been talked, written, and broadcasted about the widespread protests by Tibetans and Tibetan sympathizers across the world to mark the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chinese invasion of Tibet. From streets of Lhasa to Kathmandu and Paris to San Francisco, the world witnessed a frenzy of international sympathy towards this mythical remnant of the Shangri-La on the roof of the world. Media all over the world, notably West European and American, very enthusiastically provided exclusive coverage about the past and present of the politics behind the protests. The general Western media consensus was that Tibetans were fighting for a genuine cause and the Chinese government was suppressing the protests within China the way it always has: using sticks and bullets (no tanks yet!). The crackdown on Tibet, coupled with China's controversial ties with gross-violators of human rights like the Sudanese government, reinvigorated yet another powerful rhetoric of popular call for boycotting 2008 "Genocidal Beijing Olympics."

Then came the Chinese response—from both Beijing (officially) and its millions of ultra-loyal citizens across the globe. There was nothing very surprising about these Chinese reactions. "Tibet always was, is and will be a part of Chinese territory"; or "China liberated Tibet from its dark past of economic hardships and the ills of highly feudalistic traditional class-based society into prosperous modernity"; or that Dalai Lama was the perpetrator of all violence, hence a religious terrorist with a deceiving charm in the west. And more recently there has been a massive online anti-CNN movement led by extremely patriotic Chinese students living in the west. Youtube has been flooded with videos that show the violent acts of Tibetan protestors and their provocation of "innocent" Chinese cops. The same is true with hundreds of pro-China, pro-Olympics, anti-Tibet and anti-CNN Facebook groups. Harsher criticisms have come against the "extremely biased" and incorrect reporting by noted western media, especially CNN and some German media. Consensus among the Chinese folks is that the west cannot see



China's eminence as the next superpower.

Unfortunately for us, the neutral newsreaders and students seeking to develop a better understanding of regions around the world, such biased propositions and the citizenry successfully indoctrinated with propagandas only complicate realities and undermine genuine academic scholarship. Such is the nature of the information age and media manipulation that we really need to dig deeper to rescue ourselves from misinformation. I write this because I see the most important issue facing Tibet being shadowed by media biases and indoctrinated, ultra-chauvinistic mentalities, both of which parties are unfortunately capable of wide spheres of influence. This is truly a frustrating challenge.

Tibet has indeed seen unprecedented economic transformation within last few decades, with the Chinese government's deliberate attempt to completely alter the socio-political face of the region. The region that was once a mythical and rarely accessible Shangri-La now has cities as modern and vibrant as any other industrialized metropolis. Beijing is proud of its efforts to modernize one of the world's most impoverished societies, and often uses this rapid modernization as a benign act of liberation of a society that was plagued by slavery, feudalism and serfdom based on religious and mythological notions of submission and order. There is no denying that Tibet was a highly traditional and class-based society with enormous social inequality. That being said, modernization as an excuse to Chinese occupation is far from convincing given the unique history of autonomy and societal norms

that Tibet has embraced. Every society has its own share of good and evil, and Tibet was no exception. Herein lies the biggest disconnect of our popular understanding of Tibet crisis.

Chinese authorities have generally been very hostile to Tibetans since the invasion in 1959. China has coupled the rapid economic transformation with a massive expansion of settlements for the ethnic Han, the largest ethnicity, which makes about 90 percent of the Chinese population. This is a deliberate attempt to annihilate the relics of a very rich Tibetan culture and identity. Ethnic Tibetans have been subjected to numerous persecutions including losing the right to practice religion. What follows is a continuous flow of Tibetans into refugee centers in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Some of the stories from Lhasa are shocking. The places of religious and historical importance under Dalai Lama, for example, have been renovated into discotheques and brothels! This is where the case for a "cultural genocide" becomes very strong. This is where—although it rarely does—the international sympathy should lie.

Chinese and Tibetans have their own versions of Tibet's history. It is, however, very clear that Tibet has always been governed independently, although the degree of independence shows variance under different rules. It is almost undisputable that China has political sovereignty over Tibet. There is, therefore, little meaning in most of the pop-culturesque "Free Tibet" movements that we have accustomed ourselves to witnessing in political rhetoric of Western media. It is also true that Dalai Lama has been unconditionally—and unfairly—portrayed

as the "Godly" icon of peace and moderation in the West. The media-darling celebrity-like holy monk did have his share of theocratic failures during his rule. Nonetheless, he does inspire six million Tibetans. That definitely deserves a proper acknowledgement. The more important debate is, therefore, a quest for political settlement rather than a decision of whether or not Dalai Lama is holy enough. Sadly, there are not many attempts to solve the issue of Tibetan autonomy. Continued political domination and suppression only leads to radicalization of a section within the victims. We have seen that in Ireland, in the Middle East and elsewhere. We are beginning to see that in Tibet as more and more young Tibetans are resorting to violence in their protests against the Chinese.

Tibet has the potential of turning into the next major conflict zone. Scholars are already drawing parallels between the Chinese handling of Tibet and that of Israel-Palestine. As limited and reductive as the analogy may sound, there are some striking similarities. Genuine academic scholarship is the only hope against this orgy of misinformed actions. The case of call for boycotting Olympics is worth bringing here. As much as I would want to see the Chinese government challenged and resisted for their imprudent role in the world, these whole protests are disingenuous and blown out to a great extent. You carry a placard of "Genocidal Olympics" and odds are that the placard is MADE IN CHINA. There are whole hosts of other double standards and limitations of these protests. We should also not forget that China is only a part of very big problem when it comes to the violation of human rights. Abu Grahیب, Guantanamo, Water boarding, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Egypt are as gross a notion of human rights violation as there can be.

This is where an international community should and can be something more useful than mere consumers of McDonald's burgers, Western media-biases and ultra-nationalistic propagandas.

# No Stage Fright: Freshman and Recording Artist Takes Floralia Stage

**ARETI SAKELLARIS '08**  
*editor-in-chief*

Amongst the five harmonicas, amps, microphones, electric and acoustic guitars, violin, piano, flute, and banjo Daniel Walker '11 sits at his computer playing the opening lines of "Oh My Sweet Carolina" by Ryan Adams. He picks up his acoustic and starts finger-picking the notes. The magnetic crooner hails Adams' 2000 release of *Heartbreaker* as the album that taught him the most about harmonies.

"I actively try to make an unspecified sound," says the lyrical craftsman, who cites Clap Your Hands Say Yeah, Ryan Adams, and Loudon Wainwright III as his musical influences. Riveting and unclassifiable, his sound comes together on albums when he puts certain similar-sounding songs together. The textured soul shines through, he explains, "I like to experiment and to change myself with each song. When I put together an album...I don't have a certain sound in mind."

Though a Floralia rookie, Walker does not have any reservations about the big day and his on-stage performance. A veteran to the stage, Walker has performed at larger venues for

crowds greater than two-thousand in his hometown of Bethesda, Maryland.

Not wasting any time, he came to Connecticut College and promoted himself to the New London community by personally going to coffee houses and bars and then by performing at the Bank Street Café, Bean and Leaf, and Hannafin's. "You have to over-market," he says. "I got these gigs by going around in New London just handing out CD after CD."

With his brazen exuberance and the proficiency of a well-seasoned musician, Walker started playing the guitar during the summer leading into his sophomore year in high school and started writing songs the following summer. As a child he tried out both violin and saxophone, but spent more time polishing his pipes as a member of the children's chorus of Washington. By the end of high school, Walker was singing, writing and playing.

In spite of all of this experience, he has never played outside. Making his Floralia debut as The Berenstain Band with bandmates Josh Gottesman '11 on drums, Wells W. Bacon Jr. '11 on guitar, Logan Zemetres '10 on synth, and hometown friend Jordan Depetrillo on bass, Walker looks forward to the



The Berenstain Band, left to right: Walker, Bacon, Zemetres, and Gottesman (Kaminsky)

venue and the opportunity to play for fellow students.

"When you play to drunk people in a bar, they're not really there to listen to you. When you play to people in a coffee place and they're listening to you, that's really nice. The best is when your audience is drunk and wants to listen to you and they get all loose-y goosy and have too many martinis and they start acting all crazy and they get all into the music," he explains.

Continuing, he says, "The most rewarding thing, not only as a musician, but as a performing musician, is to have a sense of reciprocation off your audience and feed off them."

Marking just the beginning of this multi-talented musician's career, Flo-

ralia will expose Walker to the College at-large.

As for his recording career, tracks for his third album, *Little Fishes* were recorded at the famed Allaire Studios in Woodstock, New York and the album was recently added to iTunes. Being an independent musician, he puts a great deal of effort into promoting his work, and says the digital age and the decline of the record label has definitely made it a lot easier to do that.

Who would he like to open for? "Bob Dylan. The *Desire* years," and laughs. "He's probably the hardest person to get along with ever, though!"

## Restaurant Listings

### Breakfast Places

Broken Yolk  
825 Montauk Ave.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.437.0898  
\$

Kitchen Little  
81 Greenmanville Ave.  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860.536.2122  
\$

Portuguese Fisherman  
405 Williams St.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.443.4412  
\$

Somewhere in Time  
3175 Gold Star Hwy  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860.536.1985  
\$\$

### Pizza

Pizzetta  
7 Water Street  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860.536.4443  
\$\$

Illiano's  
709 Broad Street  
Waterford, CT 06385  
860.437.1999  
\$

Ciro's  
505 Long Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340  
860.449.9703  
\$\$

### Take-Out

Chester's Barbecue  
549 Bank Street  
New London, CT 06320  
860.447.1406  
\$

Saeed's International Market  
464 Ocean Ave.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.440.3822  
\$

Neon Chicken  
88 Howard St.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.444.6366  
\$

Fred's Shanty  
272 Pequot Ave.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.447.1301  
\$

### Restaurants (In your budget)

Northern Indian Restaurant  
150 State St.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.437.3978  
\$\$

The Voodoo Grill  
12 Water St.  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860.572.4422  
\$\$

Singapore Grill & Sushi Bar  
938 Bank St.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.442.3388  
\$\$

Zavala  
2 State St.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.437.1891  
\$\$

MangeTout organic café  
140 State St.  
New London, CT 06320  
860.444.2066  
\$\$

Paul's Pasta  
223 Thames St.  
Groton, CT 06340  
860.445.5276  
\$\$

### Restaurants

(In your parents' budget)

S & P Oyster Company  
1 Holmes St.  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860.536.2674  
\$\$\$

Flood Tide Restaurant  
3 Williams Ave.  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860.536.8140  
\$\$\$\$

Azu  
32 Main St.  
Groton, CT 06340  
860.536.6336  
\$\$\$

BravoBravo  
20 East Main St.  
Mystic, CT 06378  
860.536.3228  
\$\$\$

# Zombies Beyond the Campus



ANDY PALLADINO '09

staff writer

The remake of *Dawn of the Dead* (2004) turned out to be a surprise hit and has since become evidence to the fact that remakes are not all terrible. As the second film of George Romero's zombie film series (the remake of the first, *Night of the Living Dead*, came out in 1990), expectations would naturally be high for the remake of the third installment, *Day of the Dead*. However, it falls far, far short.

First of all, this new *Day of the Dead* was not even dignified with a theatrical release; instead, it's gone straight to video. It's pretty safe to assume that Romero's 2005 film *Land of the Dead* won't be remade anytime soon, so for now, the series of remakes has concluded—hardly with a bang, but with a pathetic whimper.

The second mistake is that the zombies here are fast and aerobic. These aren't Romero's zombies at all, rather ones from the imitators like *28 Days/Weeks Later*. The slow and lethargic zombies worked in that movie because it gives the viewer the false sense that they can easily be fought off, not to mention the logic contradictions. Are really we to

believe that the zombies we've seen bounce off the walls and ceilings can't get over a ten foot fence?

Also unlike the original, which was mostly set in an underground bunker, the action for the most part takes place above ground. Doing this is good in that it brings the viewer more action, but bad in that it seems to just rehash *Dawn*, and all of the other zombie films, when this was the chance to do something different. The underground setting is reached for in the film's finale, but by then it has become too little too late. When looking around at it, you'd wonder why the filmmakers wouldn't want to use the opportunity of a remake to their full advantage.

This film is also strange in that it does not seem at all to acknowledge its predecessor. Although Ving Rhames, who was in and survived *Dawn of the Dead*, is back, he plays a different character (one actually from the original). Here he is a military officer whose troops have been called in to a small Colorado town to contain a sickness epidemic. Our main character is Corporal Sarah Cross (Mena Suvari), a subordinate and former resident of the town. She soon teams up with fellow military officers Salazar (Nick Cannon) and Crain (Stark Sands) as well as her teen brother (Michael Welch) and his girlfriend

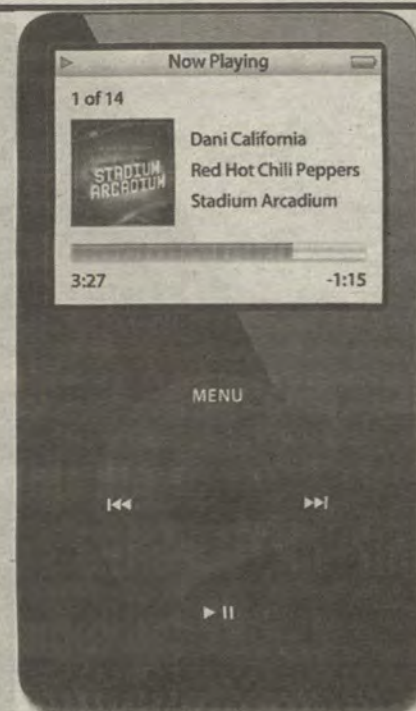
(AnnaLynne McCord) to fight the zombie menace. Suvari is impressive in the lead role—this is easily her best role since *American Beauty*.

One thing that is important to keep in mind, however, is that the source material is hardly a masterpiece to begin with. Romero's *Day of the Dead* is considered to be the weakest of the three, perhaps mostly because the action is toned down in favor of science. But fortunately, this new *Day of the Dead* brings back the action. The makers were smart enough to throw out any of the scientific segments that would surely have dragged on. There are quick parts that explain what needs to be explained, and that's that. On the other hand, it becomes problematic when some things that need to be explained, aren't. For example, it's established that Sarah has some aversion to violence, demonstrated when she tells Crain that she never loads her gun. Naturally we should find out why, right? But we never do.

More time and effort really should have been put into this film. There was so much potential for this project, but it was all horribly squandered. It's a good enough action zombie film for those who want a brief fix, but it cannot offer anything more.

## The iPod Shuffle: Ted Leo Edition

1. Squeaky Fingers
2. The High Party
3. Me and Mia
4. Bridges, Squares
5. Walking To Do
6. The Ballad Of the Sin Eater
7. Shake the Sheets
8. I'm a Ghost
9. Where Have All the Rude Boys Gone
10. Since U Been Gone (Kelly Clarkson Cover)







Thanks for reading *The Voice* this year. Enjoy Floralia, good luck with finals, and have a great summer!

*-The Voice Staff*

