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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

VOLUME 34 • ISSUE 16

Blooms and Bills: For Every Season, Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes



PHOTO S // Doug Mills for the NY T; Kelsey Cohen for The Voice

Founding Madres College celebrates 99th anniversary

NORA SWENSON
STAFF WRITER

Yesterday Connecticut College celebrated Founders Day, the anniversary of the day Conn was chartered back in 1911. The afternoon featured a series of events recognizing alumni, years of academic and athletic excellence, as well as the long-anticipated unveiling of Conn's redesigned camel mascot.

The series of events commenced with the "Past as Prologue: Alumni Remember" student performance, directed by associate professor of theater, Leah Lowe, which was based on interviews with three alumni of different generations — 1920s, 1950s and 1970s. The alumni experiences were brought to life, helping to "envision life at Connecticut College through the years."

The Founders Day tea, following the Past as Prologue student performance, commemorated the success of the college over the past 100 years while featuring emeriti faculty as special guests. The event featured a display of historical photos of faculty, entertainment by a student jazz duo and offered students the chance to make suggestions about how the college should celebrate its Centennial.

In learning more about the history of Founders Day, *The College Voice* spoke with Patricia Carey, Secretary of the College and Vice President of College Relations, who let us in on some of the details.

VOICE: What is the basic history of Founders Day at Connecticut College?

CAREY: Founders Day is the official birthday of Connecticut College. On April 5, 1911, Matthew Rogers, Secretary of the State of Connecticut signed and sealed the College's first charter, which had been granted by the Connecticut General Assembly the previous day.

In the original charter, the name of the college was Thames College. The name was changed in July 1911 to Connecticut College for Women. After the college began admitting men in 1969, the name was changed for the second time, to Connecticut College.

VOICE: Are there any special traditions for the day?

CAREY: There are very few existing traditions associated with April 5. We are really starting new traditions and raising awareness

of the upcoming Centennial. The Centennial will be celebrated from April 5, 2011 and end on Founders Day 2012. So Monday's celebration begins the one-year countdown to the Centennial. And then the next two Founders Days will be the bookends — start and finish — of the year-long Centennial celebration.

VOICE: How were the events for Founders Day decided upon?

With a lot of help from students, the three planned events touched on many important aspects of the college, including the alumni experience, the central role of faculty, the contributions of emeriti faculty to the college today, and the NES-CAC scholar-athlete ideal. There's been a lot of student interest and involvement.

Each of the three events featured students. Anders Nielsen '12, Kristen Caruana '13 and Molly Clifford '13 performed in a theater piece. The student jazz duo at the Founders Day Tea included Erik Caldarone '12 and Liz de Lise '13. The student band *You're So Hip!* performed at the Celebration of Athletics, featuring members Zura Grdzlishvili '12, Max Kelly '12, Pete Konowski '12, Mihir Sharma '12 and Mark Warburg '13. Devon Butler '10 served as master of ceremonies for the Celebration of Athletics.

We've also worked to engage alumni who couldn't attend, but were very interested in the anniversary. We've been running a trivia contest on the College's Facebook page — and all of us in College Relations have learned a few things ourselves from alumni's answers! We also gathered more than 1,300 signatures on an electronic greeting card that was printed out and displayed at the Founders Day Tea. It ended up being more than 75 feet long!

VOICE: How is the college preparing for the Centennial?

President Higdon appointed a Centennial Planning Committee that began meeting in February. I am co-chairing the committee together with Leah Lowe, associate professor of theater. The committee will coordinate and implement special projects and events throughout the Centennial year. We will also work with the committees that already plan major institutional events — including Convocation, Fall Weekend, Commencement and Reunion — so that each of these has some connection

to the Centennial.

We are looking for ideas, and featured a Centennial suggestion box in the 1962 Room on Founders Day. Students can also pass on ideas through the student members of the Centennial Committee: Nate Cornell '11 and Katie Mullaley '12. We want to involve all the constituencies of the college: faculty, staff, student, trustees, alumni, parents and the surrounding community. We hope to use this special anniversary to celebrate the history and future of liberal arts education at Connecticut College.

The Founders Day celebration this year has been one step in the process. Another step that we've been working on for more than a year is updating the college's visual identity. The new institutional logo is being implemented now — you can see it on the Cro Boulevard banners and on some of the college vehicles.

VOICE: Do you have any hopes for the next hundred years for Conn?

I hope — and strongly believe — that Connecticut College will just keep getting better and better. When Connecticut College was founded, it was to provide an education for women who were being excluded from other schools simply because they were women. That's a founding story we can all be proud of — and it is only the beginning of a proud history. For nearly 100 years, Connecticut College has provided an extraordinary liberal arts education. Just in the last five years, under President Higdon's leadership, we've seen significant momentum with campus improvements and new investments in the student experience. The Centennial is a chance to celebrate the college's achievements and advance our aspirations for the second century. The college's past provides a strong foundation for a brilliant future.

Celebrations of the College's founding will also include the event "Moving Worlds: 100 Years of Women's Education at Connecticut College" on April 23 and 24. Aili Tripp, professor of political science and gender and women's studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will deliver the keynote address April 23 at 5 PM in Harkness Chapel. Student and alumni presentations will follow on April 24 from 9:30 AM-5:30 PM in Silfen Auditorium, Bill Hall.

New Healthcare Law Seen Alternately As Victory, Insufficient, Communist

SAMANTHA HERNDON
NEWS EDITOR

"Yes, we did!" cried Gary Ackerman, a Democratic Congressman from New York, as President Obama signed the healthcare bill into law. On March 23, while Conn students ended Frisbee tournaments in Georgia, worked on job applications from home and treated orphans in Uganda, among other spring break activities, the U.S. of A enacted legislation more expansive for social policy than any under Presidents Bush or Clinton, or national leaders even further back. The bill was the result of significant cumulative efforts by the late Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, Hillary Clinton, including during her tenure in Bill Clinton's administration, Barack Obama and Nancy Pelosi, the last of whom has served as Speaker of the House for the past three years.

The bill, entitled the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, has met with appreciation, controversy and confusion since its inception near the beginning of President Obama's term. Among the changes it brings about:

-Young people will be able to

-Those with private plans they find acceptable will not have their care altered.

Though touted as an achievement of leftists — indeed, the Democrats and independents present at the law's signing in the East Wing of the White House were in a highly celebratory mood, with Vice President Joe Biden whispering to Obama, "Mr. President, this is a big fucking deal —" yet some groups remain distinctly dissatisfied, in a variety of contexts.

"Our mission is to guarantee every woman the right to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices, including preventing unintended pregnancy, bearing healthy children, and choosing legal abortion," wrote president of NARAL Pro-Choice America Nancy Keenan in a statement.

"We assessed the health-reform package against these criteria, and determined that, because of the egregious abortion-coverage restrictions, we could not endorse this bill..."

"The legislation includes an onerous provision that requires Americans to write two separate checks if the insurance plan they choose includes abortion cover-

What about the public option?

That's not in it.

Why not?

President Obama: Because we couldn't get it through Congress, that's why. So they—but let's—there's no need to shout, young man. No need to shout.

remain on their caregivers' health insurance plans until age 26, an option which currently ends when full-time student status ends.

-Beginning in 2014, those who do not receive health insurance from their employers or from the government can shop for policies on exchanges. The policies sold on exchanges will be subsidized for many low- and middle-income Americans.

-Laid-off workers can stay with the same insurance policy —though employers are not required to pay the premiums.

-Pre-existing conditions, such as gender, cannot be used to increase the cost of healthcare.

-Small businesses will be given tax credits to facilitate insuring their employees.

age... even though more than 85 percent of private plans currently cover this care for women."

Conservatives also expressed disdain for the bill and concern over the Stupak-Pitts proposed amendment, which would limit access to termination of conception for women on Medicaid. Texan Republican Randy Neugebauer shouted "Baby killer!" at Democrat Bart Stupak, according to numerous sources, after the latter politician decided to vote for the healthcare bill amidst claims that Stupak changed his mind following the apportionment of airport grants for his district.

Neugebauer later stated that his taunt had been directed at the bill itself, not at Stupak.

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Sports

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Undeclared against our NESCAC peers p.8

Arts

HOT TUB TIME MACHINE

College Voice reporter conducts interview with comedians Craig Robinson and Clark Duke p.6

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AWKWARD!

The history of awkwardness and awkward p.9

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NL & US

Headed Downtown p.12



KARAM SETH/PHOTO EDITOR

Caleb Smith of Yale University presented a talk in Coffee Grounds entitled "Buried Alive: The Prison and the American Gothic Imagination."

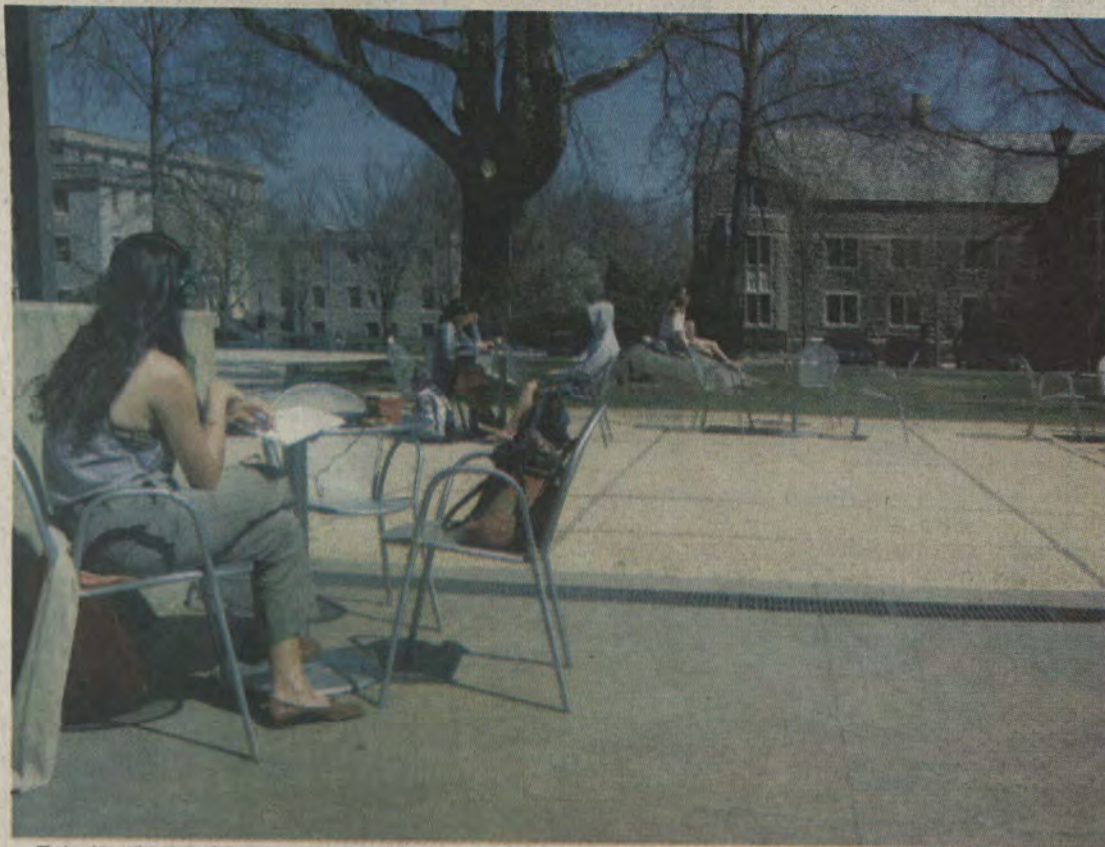
This Week in Weather

Welcome back from spring break, Connecticut College: the beginning of the week brought such heavy rainfall that many dorms, including the Branford basement, flooded. The end of the week brought shorts and sunglasses.



Sweeping up flows from the floods in the Branford Basement

CHARLIE CODDINGTON/CONTRIBUTOR



Enjoying the sunshine outside Shain Library

KARAM SETH/PHOTO EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT/WEB

Muse No More

A New London favorite says goodbye after just three years

BEN GITKIND
STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday New London bade a Whaling City farewell to The Muse. An eclectic fixture in the arts scene for the last three years, Muse was a gallery, shoe store, skateboard shop and venue for live music.

The Golden Street gem was forced to close its doors because of economic troubles inherent to businesses focused on the arts.

"There's just not much money in the town, plus I'm tired," said Muse owner Frank Lo Marchany.

Fatigue aside, in a final flurry of activity this sneakerheads' paradise managed to pull together a final in-store performance on the eve of its demise. The show featured a New York artist who goes by the name of DickChicken.

"This was good karma, for real," said Frank Lo. "I got lucky enough to meet the guy a few days before."

With the help of employee Amy Jean Pupillo, a friend of DickChicken, Muse was packed to the brim with a variety of pieces featuring either the artist's moniker or his trademark chicken with, you may have guessed it, a penis for a head.

The display consisted of a variety of prints, paintings, and drawings, all featuring the eponymous creature, as well as piles of boxes and vast rows of cans labeled as "Dickchicken Noodle Soup," with everything from the ingredients to the directions edited to refer to these inglorious, mythical animals.

The atmosphere was supplemented by DJ Rob Vaughn Guess, who kept the space feeling like it

always did, funky and outlandish.

Not only did DickChicken throw the show together to help properly shut down Muse, but upon hearing about the recent, brutal attack on Matt Potter (front man of New London band Fatal Film), the artist also offered up the profits from the first sale of a series to support fundraising efforts.

Frank Lo was happy to go out in style with this final exhibit.

"What better way to shut down than with a great show," he said.

The final farewell took place at the El N Gee Club, in the wee hours of April Fool's Day.

"I want to see Twitter and Facebook posts about how much people's feet are hurting afterwards," Frank Lo said. "Everyone better be having a good time."

Though Muse has to step down from its spot as one of the integral spaces for creative expression in New London, Frank Lo is hopeful that his work will inspire a new generation of artists to action.

"The reason I'm closing is because we need new blood," he said. "People need to get involved."

When asked about Connecticut College's relationship with the store he explained that things were good, but they can always be better.

"I'd really like to see more students living in the city," he said.

Overall, Frank Lo hopes the end of Muse will provide enough of a jolt throughout New London to begin restructuring the way everyone relates to the city as one with a unique scene.

"The city needs to wake up, and everyone's got to get involved," Marchany said.

Contentious Healthcare Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Others criticized the bill for failing to include a public option. As President Obama conducts his current campaign-style tour to promote the new legislation, he has been questioned on this issue; Obama's speech in Iowa was interrupted when a member of the audience yelled out, "What about the public option?"

He answered: "Because we couldn't get it through Congress, that's why. So they—but let's—there's no need to shout, young man. No need to shout. Thirty-two people—32 million people are going to have health insurance because of this legislation. That's what this work is about."

Throughout the legislation process, the President cited his mother and her struggle with cancer and discriminatory insurance companies as inspiration for the reform.

In the end, NARAL and other groups on the left chose to reluctantly support the bill, or at least not to stand against it.

"We recognize that the bill will bring more than 30 million Americans into a system that includes affordable family-planning services, better access to contraception, and maternity care. It also outlaws some discriminatory insurance-industry practices that make health care more expensive for women," Keenan wrote.

Keenan also expressed her disappointment "that politicians such

as Rep. Bart Stupak (D-Mich.) and Sen. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) were able to use women's reproductive health as a bargaining chip."

Figures such as Rush Limbaugh stated that they would leave the country if the bill were passed.

The bill was passed by the House of Representatives in a seven-vote margin, after going through the Senate in a slightly different form in December, amidst the rising outcry of the tea partiers and other conservative groups.

In the weeks leading up to the House vote, key Congresspeople were targeted on their way into the Chambers. Civil Rights activist and Congressional Representative of Georgia John Lewis and others were verbally assaulted, derogato-

ry terms like 'n**ger' and 'f**got' hurled at them. Representative Emanuel Cleaver of Missouri, who is black, was spat upon by a protestor as he entered the Longworth House building.

Democratic Congresspeople have also received e-mail threats, as well as a letter mailed to Representative Anthony Weiner of New York containing unidentified white powder. Some members of the House are stepping up their personal security as a result.

Republican Congressman Steve King of Iowa gave a speech to a group of tea partiers a week before the House vote. He urged, "Let's beat that other side to a pulp! Let's chase them out. Let's chase them down. There's going to be a

reckoning!"

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors extremism and hate groups, has noted a 244 percent increase in the number of active Patriot groups in 2009, which are anti-government, and often have Nativist tendencies.

President Obama continues with his tour, encouraging a patient attitude toward the new law.

"It's only been a week, before we find out if people like health care reform, maybe we should wait until it actually happens," the President told a crowd in Portland, Maine.

Full list of sources for this article available on the online edition.

Month of Gay-pril Presents Rainbow of Festivities

LGBTQ Resource Center, SPECTRUM, and CQ Squared collaborate with other on-campus groups for a slew of events

SARAH KOSOFSKY
STAFF WRITER

It's Gay-pril: a month full of LGBTQ-themed events for the campus.

To kick off the month-long event, Jen Manion, Director of the LGBTQ Resource Center and Assistant Professor of History, will be giving a lecture called "Why Marriage? Homonormativity and Limits of Liberalism" on April 7 at noon in the Center.

The talk will address the role of the same-sex marriage campaign within the context of the LGBTQ movement for liberation. Manion hopes the audience leaves the talk with a more complex understanding of gay marriage, and an awareness of the rights and freedoms the gay community might be giving up in their efforts to legalize same-sex marriage.

CCASA (Connecticut College Asian American Student Association) has organized the "True Diversity Workshop" for April 14, to be held in Blaustein 210 with Magdalen Hsu-Li, a bisexual Asian American.

Hsu-Li is an internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter, painter and cultural activist. The workshop seeks to build upon the audience's awareness of diversity and uncover diversity issues within each individual.

MEChA, the Mexican-American cultural appreciation and social justice club on campus, has also collaborated with Spectrum to host guest speaker Professor Irene Mata of Wellesley College on April 21.

Mata will give a talk, "'Oye mi canto': Challenging Constructions of Gender, Sexuality, and Nation in the Chicana/Latino Community," in Olin 014 at 4:30.

MEChA's co-chair, Joselyne Flores '10, said that the club had wanted to address of being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Queer and Questioning in the Latina/o community. Professor Manion convinced the club to hold the event during Gay-pril; Flores expressed gratitude for the opportunity to collaborate with the LGBTQ Resource Center.

"We decided to do this to get involved with other clubs and groups on campus," she said. "We're a small club [in our first year] that wants to get our feet wet. This is a great way to do that."

Professor Manion expressed her excitement for the events, especially those in which the gay community could collaborate with other groups on campus.

"Both MEChA and CCASA have planned events for Gay-pril that address the specific experiences of LGBT people of color, as well as acknowledge the fact that sexuality and gender are also racial categories."

Openly gay English Professor Blanche Boyd was pleased to hear about the events taking place this month on campus, stating that anything that makes gay people and people questioning their sexuality more comfortable is a good thing.

Boyd compared being gay to being left-handed: both are a small percentage of the population, and both are part of how people naturally are.

"Until gay people are as comfortable with being gay as left-handed people are comfortable with being left-handed, we'll have to keep making an issue of it," she said.

Other noteworthy events include the annual National Day of Silence on April 16.

During the day, students can take a pledge to remain silent, representing those LGBTQ people in our country that have experienced hate crimes or have been afraid to openly express their sexuality.

On April 18, Spectrum will be screening of the film, "Out For the Long Run," a movie about openly gay students who participate in the world of college sports.

Spectrum's chair, Brenner Green '12, is interviewed in the documentary as an out varsity athlete. Green hopes that "people who see this film to understand that gay, lesbian, and bisexual athletes are no different than straight athletes."

Tanaha Simon '13 was pleased to hear about Gay-pril's events on campus.

"When I heard about events like Drag Ball and Gaypril, I was happy that Spectrum and similar organizations are so active here. They don't sit back and let campus life swirl around them; they have a purpose and do a nice job of promoting it."

Other events include a barbecue with the Men's Social Group on April 9, and a special Tuesday Tea on April 20, and a lecture by French professor Catherine Spencer entitled "The Republic's Closet: Can One be 'Gay' and French?" on April 21.

Extra, Extra Read(ership) All About It

Students support the return of the *New York Times*

JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

Bigger than the font size proclaiming our commitment to diversity, the amount of financial aid that students are likely to receive, and post-graduation success rates, Conn's website boasts a mission to "[educate] students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society" in a way — and stature — that you just can't miss.

How does the college maintain this promise? We have an outstanding study abroad participation rate (55 percent), a student population hailing from 70 countries, and at the most basic level, a program that, almost daily, supplied the campus with the nation's most prominent newspaper, the *New York Times*.

Until now.

Upon returning to campus at the beginning of the school year, students were disheartened to find that the *Boston Globe*, *USA Today*, and the *New York Times* were no longer distributed around campus free of charge.

"The papers are the reason why I get up every morning," said Tessa Engel '11, an International Relations and Hispanic Studies double major. "What is breakfast without them?"

The Simmons Fund, a donation from an alum, previously financed the distribution of the papers, through the Collegiate Readership Program. However, the program was only endowed for three years, with no program instated to replace the designated funds.

Last semester, using their appropriated budget, the SGA's Newspaper Task Force, headed by Corey Testa '10 and Teddy Fisher '12, funded an eight-week pilot program, supplying the campus with issues of the *New York Times* between October 5 and December 11.

In December, a campuswide survey was administered to access the impact of the program. Four hundred ninety-nine students, or

roughly 28 percent of the college's full-time undergraduates, completed the survey, which focused on students' sources of news, factors leading to hard-copy newspaper readership, impacts of the readership program, and purposes of reading the newspaper.

Estimated from aggregate results, the survey showed an overwhelmingly positive response from the campus community. Usage of the Internet and hard-copy newspapers are almost equal amongst students on campus as the predominant resource to "keep up with what's going on in the world."

The nearly 500 students surveyed responded that they had picked up a copy of the *Times* during the pilot program. Comparing the results between "Prior to the *New York Times* readership program, on average, how many days a week did you read a daily newspaper (not online)?" and "During the *New York Times* readership program that began in October, how many days per week did you read a daily newspaper (again, not online)?" John Nugent, Senior Research Analyst and compiler of the survey, found that just 9 percent of students who "never" read a hard-copy during the program, from a previous 60 percent.

The most important information, however, was the "ways [students] used the information learned" from reading the *New York Times*—66 percent of students mentioned an issue or had a question based on something read in the *New York Times*, with 93 percent of students declaring to have had "a conversation or discussion outside of class based on something you had read in the *New York Times*."

Amidst rumors of grade inflation and the faculty-driven Academic Challenge Report, the intellectual atmosphere of the campus is under some scrutiny. The results show that the *New York Times* has "had an impact in terms of increasing

SEE READ, PAGE 4

EXCHANGE BAR & GRILL

...BEER.....WINE.....PIZZA.....BEER.....
.....200.81.....66.92.....20.99....161.....

BAR & GRILL MENU

RED PIZZA

Mozzarella	10.99
4 Cheese	11.99
Sausage	11.99
Pepperoni	11.99
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Mediterranean	11.99

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Barbeque Chicken	12.99
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Vegetable	11.99
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Grilled Chicken	12.99
Basil Pesto Chicken	13.99
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All pizzas are made to order. Please allow 20 minutes.

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Large Grinder	7.99

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WRAPS

Caesar Chicken	7.99
Honey Buffalo Chicken	7.99
Fried Chicken Tender	7.99
Grilled Chicken Ranch	7.99
BLT	6.99
Veggie	6.99

FROM THE FRYER

Wings	7.99
Chicken Tenders	7.99
Mozzarella Sticks	6.99
Jalapeno Poppers	6.99
Combo Appetizer Plate	9.99

Combo Appetizer Plate includes 2 Wings, 2 Chicken Tenders, 2 Mozzarella Sticks and 2 Jalapeno Poppers.

Basket of Fries	4.99
Onion Rings	4.99

8 OZ BURGERS

Burger	7.99
Cheese Burger	8.50
Bacon Cheese Burger	8.99
Sliders (Five 2 oz)	9.99

SALADS

House	4.99
Spinach	5.99
Grilled Chicken	7.99
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Salad dressings include Balsamic Vinegar, Bleu Cheese & Ranch.

OTHER BYTES

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Hot Dog w/Chili	4.99
Add Cheese	+5.00
Chili Bowl	4.99
Add Cheese	+5.00
Nachos	7.99
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Crab Cakes	9.99



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Information Services News and Events

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Writing Center tutors are now available on the lower level of Shain Library at the Blue Camel Cafe on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10.

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JAZMINE HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

-CC Curtiss and the Peer Educators have finalized details on "Think Outside the Bottle Day", a Hump-Day activity to help educate Conn students on the dangers of alcohol abuse. The event will

Last Week at SGA ...In Brief

take place April 7, from 11 AM -3 PM, in the 1962 Room.

-The Commission on SGA Restructuring presented possible changes to SGA for following years, amending the roles of the PR Director, Vice President and Parliamentary members of the executive board. The changes will

be voted on during next week's meeting.

-The intended changes for parking on campus will not go into effect during the upcoming summer. An updated schedule will be provided once the resolution goes in front of the Facilities and Land Management Committee (FLMC).

Read(ership) All About It

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

readership of a daily hard-copy newspaper on campus, and in providing fodder for academic discussion in class as well as conversations outside of class," according to Nugent's conclusions.

Professor Borer, Government Professor and faculty liaison for the Newspaper Task Force is among faculty known for requiring students to read the *Times* for her classes. "From a faculty perspective, the hard copy is simply invaluable. We have ample evidence that people retain much more when reading hard copy than reading something on a computer screen. If the hard copy of the paper is no longer made available for free on campus after this year, it isn't necessarily the students in my class I'm most concerned about—it is other students who will most miss the newspaper. And, by extension, the campus as a whole will suffer."

The impact of the *Times*, and the reader demographic, extends far beyond the Government and International Relations department. Amanda Eggert '12 tries to read the *NYT* every day. "I'm a psych major, so of course I read the Science section, but I also read Arts and the major headlines. I think that the *New York Times* extends to us as global citizens. We read the paper for the same reason that we study history—we need to know what's going on in the world, what has happened and what is happening, so that we don't repeat mistakes of the past and can improve our future."

Out of the 495 students who answered the question about continuing the readership program, 490 supported doing so, citing six main reasons: that information on current events is integral to a college education, that reading a hard-copy newspaper is often preferred over reading news online, that awareness of current, global events is important to the college's mission, that the *New York Times* is quality reading material, that reading a newspaper every day helps to foster lifetime habits of news consumption, and that reading a global newspaper helps to bring awareness of the rest of the world, especially since many students consider themselves to live in a "bubble."

A small number of students had named several, predominantly financial, justifications for choosing not to continue the program. An anonymous comment made at the end of survey asserted that "anyone can read the *Times* online for free. Why is it important for the college to pay for the paper copy?"

Though the world, and thus the college, are accustomed to accessing the paper online for free, the *NYT* recently announced that starting in January 2011, "a visitor to NYTimes.com will be allowed to view a certain number of articles free each month; to read more, the reader must pay a flat fee for unlimited access." (<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/21/business/media/21times.html>)

Many members of the campus who oppose the continuation of the program think that students and

faculty who want to read the *New York Times* every day should pay for it themselves or read the online version. With the vast changes to the *New York Times* website, however, an equity issue is raised: will students who want to read the *Times* be able to afford it? Does this give students with higher incomes an advantage?

Recognizing this issue, and the numerous others that the lack of papers presents, the Newspaper Task Force submitted an Above Current Level (ACL) request to the Priorities, Planning, and Budget Committee (PPBC) for half of the funds needed to continue the program. SGA plans to fund the other half. If the ACL passes, the Task Force plans to meet with an Educational Programming Coordinator from the *New York Times* to plan for the coming years.

The campus' opinion of continuing the program is enormously positive, which the Task Force hopes that the PPBC will take into account when reviewing the request. "We're hoping that the PPBC sees that we are serious about getting the newspapers back and find them essential to their college experience," said Testa.

Those in favor of the program are passionate about the issue and their role as citizens of a global community. As one anonymous survey commenter said, "Having the paper freely available on campus for students to read at their leisure is great for keeping up with world events and makes for a more educated, aware, and engaged student body."

Chaplin's

• Est. 2009 •



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Hope Outside of Haiti

College prepares to kick off Haiti fundraising efforts

MEREDITH BOYLE
STAFF WRITER

With the Hope for Haiti event at Connecticut College just around the corner, the Haiti Response Committee revealed the charity to which all proceeds will be donated: the International Alliance for the Advancement of Children (IAAC).

The organization is headed by Ghislaine George, a Haitian American with great experience on the charity circuit. IAAC was suggested by a CISLA alum with an interest in philanthropy, specifically building schools in Africa.

George has adopted 13 children orphaned by the earthquake on January 12, 2010. By donating to his endeavor, the Haiti Response Committee hopes to provide nutrition, healthcare and education to the children, and to foster a close relationship between the children and the college.

In addition to choosing the charity, the final times and locations of Hope for Haiti events have been finalized.

The event will kick off at an Oxfam-style dinner where students can sign away their meals, and the money that would have normally gone to the preparation of those meals will be added to the charity fund. Both Two Wives Pizza and Mirch Masala will be donating a percentage of their proceeds from the night to the charity as well.

Members of the Student Government Association will be tabling outside of Harris all week for those who want to sign up.

Friday, April 9 will begin with panel discussions running from

1 to 5 PM in Olin 014. Speakers include Professor of History Leo Garofalo, staff nurse at Mass General Hospital Denise Lauria, former editor and reporter for the Norwich Bulletin Adam Bowles, the Psi Chi Honor Society, representative from Clowns without Borders, Ghislaine George and William O'Neill, United Nations consultant and the director of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum.

Full bios of the speakers can be found on signs posted throughout campus.

At 9:30 PM, an Improv Comedy Show will be held in the 1962 room and will feature N20, Northeastern University's NU and Improv'd and Yale's The Purple Crayon.

During the day on Saturday April 10, a local vendor from Middletown, CT will be selling Haitian art to raise money for charity between 12 and 4 PM.

Saturday night will feature a variety show in the 1962 room at 7:30 PM with a number of student musical, dance and poetry acts. Following the variety show will be a live performance by Erol Josue, the "prince" of Haitian roots music.

Access to all events is guaranteed by wearing a Hope for Haiti bracelet which can be received by making a suggested donation of \$10. Bracelets will be available at the information desk in Cro from 11-2 starting Monday, April 5th and outside of Harris during dinner hours. They will also be available in the CISLA office in Fanning 111, and at the door of all events.

Write for news.

(we eat what we like)

Reunion

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Women's Water Polo Kicks Off 2010 Season

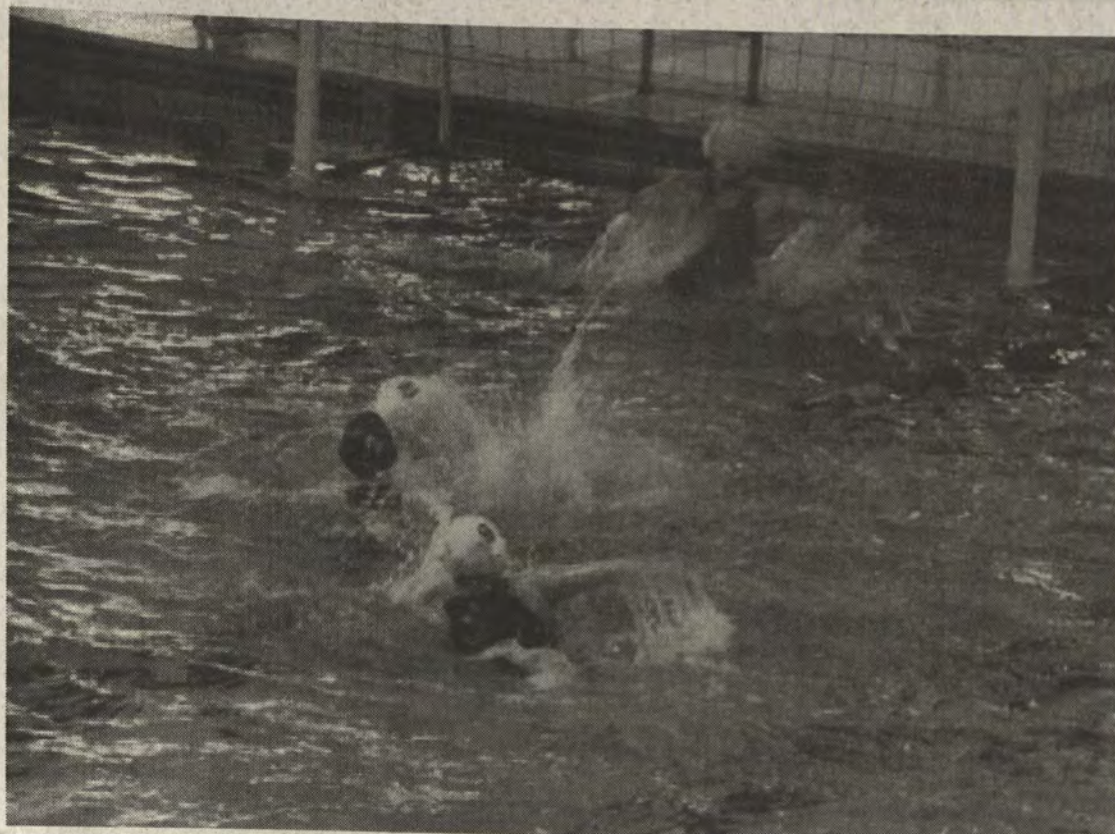


PHOTO CREDIT/VOICE ARCHIVES

PHOTO CREDIT/VOICE ARCHIVES

ALI McPHERSON CONTRIBUTOR

The Connecticut College Women's Water Polo Team is off to a great start this Spring season. With a new team in a recently restructured division, the Camels have won two of their five matches thus far and are hoping to finish the season with a winning record.

The women's Water Polo team has started out the season with a 2-3 record, winning games against Utica and Penn State-Behrend. The Camels won by 7 goals in their 16-9 victory against Utica, and handily beat Penn State-Behrend, with a final score of 13-3.

Upcoming events for the Camels are the weekend of April 3, when they will participate in a scrimmage, and the following week, April 9-11, when they will host a

tournament of their own, competing against select schools in their division. They will end the season with games against Grove-City College, Chatham College, Penn State-Behrend, Washington & Jefferson College, Utica College, and Brown University.

The water polo program at Conn has been steadily improving over the past few seasons, and this team, led by captains Phoebe Bakanas '10, Emily Hunter '12 and coaches JJ Addison and Granger Abuhoff, is one with great potential.

Senior player Jordan Kohnstam said, "I am not sure if I can say for sure that the team this year is more talented than teams in the past, but the girls are certainly working together much better. Phoebe and I talk all the time about how we

wish the program had looked like this when we were younger, but we are very glad to be ending our college water polo careers on a high note."

Senior captain Phoebe Bakanas is the leading goal scorer on the team and consistently proves to be a force in the water each game. As a captain, she is a leader in and out of the pool.

Jordan Kohnstam '10 will undoubtedly make an impact during her final season as a Camel. Her experience and dedication to the sport will be the keys to a successful 2010 season.

Kristin Lampley and Pam Lovejoy '13 are also players to watch, already standing out as a promising members.

2010 Final Four Features Unexpected Underdogs

NICK WOOLF SPORTS EDITOR

After several surprising upsets in each round of games, the teams in this year's NCAA men's Division I basketball semifinals showcase the unpredictability of this tournament. Top-seeded Kansas, Kentucky and Syracuse teams fell to Northern Iowa, West Virginia and Butler, respectively. Northern Iowa, the underdog ninth seed, could not maintain its momentum and lost to Michigan State; MSU now joins West Virginia, Butler and Duke in the final push for the national championship.

The first of two semifinal games features the Butler Bulldogs against the Michigan State Spartans. It's safe to say that few people expected Butler to make it past both Syracuse and Kansas State, but this young team's talent and endurance have landed them in the Final Four.

Not surprisingly, none of ESPN's analysts picked Butler to make it this far, but when half of the nation's brackets (including President Obama's) were busted thanks to Northern Iowa, it became apparent that this year's tournament would certainly be different.

Michigan State boasts experience over Butler's youth; the Spartans have made it to the Final Four in six out of the last twelve seasons. This is thanks, in part, to the strong presence of Coach Tom Izzo, who has led the team to every one of those Final Four appearances.

The only problem the Spartans seem to have is following through and winning the title itself. Only one of those six appearances resulted in a championship, which the team claimed in 2000. Last year, in their most recent bid to claim a championship, the Spartans fell to North Carolina, but now they look to spoil Butler's Cinderella run in order to get another shot at the title.

The second game will feature a popular matchup between the West

Virginia Mountaineers and the Duke Blue Devils. Although West Virginia has never won a championship, this year's team rose above the other talented teams in the Big East to win the conference title, and now they hope to add another trophy to this season's collection.

Da'Sean Butler, Joe Mazzulla and Devin Ebanks have played amazingly well for the Mountaineers. It was the dominant performances from these three players that resulted in West Virginia's victory over number one-seeded Kentucky. Now only Duke stands in the way of West Virginia's first championship game appearance since 1959.

Duke is a formidable opponent. Like Michigan State, the Blue Devils are also familiar with the Final Four, and they own three NCAA titles (1991, 1992 and 2001). Coach Mike Krzyzewski (pronounced sha-chef-ski, and yes, it is a ridiculous last name) is now regarded as one of the best college basketball coaches in the sport's history, and he is also known for coaching the USA men's basketball team to a gold medal in Beijing almost two years ago.

Coach K's star players this season have been Jon Scheyer, Brian Zoubek and Kyle Singler. While Scheyer and Singler have taken care of the offensive end of the game, Zoubek has been the defensive and emotional leader of this Blue Devil team. If Zoubek and his teammates can hold off West Virginia's powerful offense, they will be responsible for Duke's seventh appearance in the national championship over the past twenty years.

As for my bracket, it died a painful death when Kentucky lost to West Virginia. Although it would be foolish of me to make another prediction after such failure, I will anyway. I believe West Virginia has what it takes to win a national championship, and I predict that they will defeat Michigan State to claim the NCAA title.



Da'Sean Butler leads West Virginia in scoring with 17.4 points per game. Photo from Web.



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"You're Tearing Me Apart, Lisa!"

The Room Comes to Conn

DAVIS MCGRAW
STAFF WRITER

At the turn of this humdrum American century, somewhere underneath the big, hot California Sun, a struggling actor mysteriously acquired several million dollars without killing anyone. With a smile on his face and a song in his heart he began the Great Arduous Process, a mad darting through the weft and warp of improbability to unleash his Dream Tapestry, a glowing cinematic textile of pure love that he intended as his gift to the world.

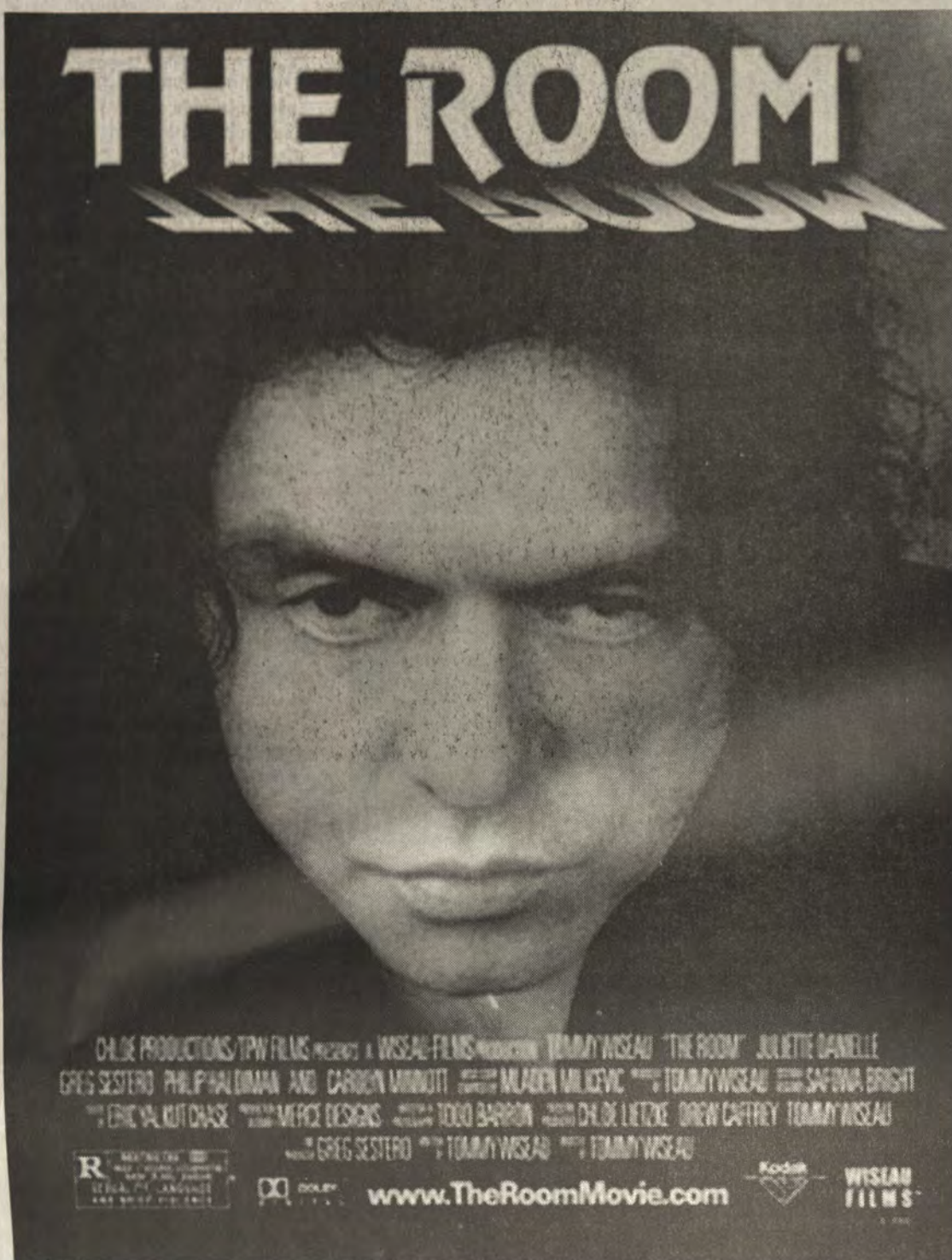
He walked tall against in the face of failure, an unflinching David before the fat glistening bulk of a Goliath Film Industry.

His name was Tommy Wiseau and his hair was terrifying. The extended weaving metaphor from the introduction is in reference to *The Room*, his debut feature film from 2003.

Last Friday evening, the Connecticut College Film Society, with the fanatical encouragement of a handful of film majors and some of the people who knew all of the callouts for *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, brought the magic of *The Room* to the Olin City Music Hall 014 for a one-night-only gala exhibition.

As the lights dimmed and the INTERPOL Copyright Infringement Warning glowed blue on the screen, the air was alive with barely contained youthful electricity positively itching for release. This would occur shortly, in the form of laughter, yelling and about a hundred airborne spoons.

The Room is a movie that is so bad it's good, that it's good because it's so much fun to watch. Wiseau's accent is hilarious, described by one critic as "Borat trying to do an impression of Christopher Walken playing a mental patient." Lisa's wine glass jumps from her hand to the table each time the camera angle changes; at the same time, a bulbous twitch keeps jumping from her neck when she speaks, reminding audience



members of the alien from John Hurt's chest cavity in *Alien*.

Actors quit and were constantly replaced; new characters are hastily introduced at ransom points throughout the movie to replace the old. Interesting subplots including drug use and breast cancer are nonchalantly introduced and then discarded. The green screen used

for the outdoor scenes is painfully and laughably obvious. Characters constantly enter the main characters' apartment without knocking or explanations and only stay for short conversations before having to leave, as if *The Room* is a movie adaptation of the game *The Sims*.

The Room, which is still being quoted nonstop audience members

who didn't lose their voices yelling "FOCUS" at the occasionally blurry screen, relays what Wiseau probably thought was a story of a good man's demise at the hands of a cruel world.

A seasoned Hollywood production team would have limited the impact of his story to a degree comparable with *While You Were*

Sleeping or, at best, *Marmaduke*.

Luckily, the sum total of Wiseau's professionalism and filmmaking experience amount to the frenetic skittering of an excitable puppy on a hardwood floor, and his film will accordingly be remembered a tour de force of hilariously bad shooting, unintelligible editing, and pantomime sexing to generic R&B, which is as uncomfortable to watch as it is unfathomably hilarious.

Like so many before him, Tommy Wiseau has stumbled into the Grand Ethereal March of Weirdos. As long as there is a keen artistic tradition, his name will be celebrated alongside Ed Wood, Nicholas Cage and The Shaggs, if not necessarily Tennessee Williams.

Even if they'd never donned tuxedos to play football in a back alley or managed to misplace their boxers in a friends' apartment without ever taking their pants off (it's not impossible, I guess), the thirty or so Conn Collegiate who attended *The Room* got to take part in this rare brand of cultural chaos, and unless uncontrollable laughter implies seething hatred, they thought it a pretty awesome time.

Schedule for Upcoming Film Society Screenings:

April 8: *The Headless Woman* (Amadori, 1947)

April 9: *Wild Strawberries* (Bergman, 1957)

April 15: *Playtime* (Tati, 1967)

April 16: *A Colt is My Passport* (Nomura, 1967)

April 22: *Il Divo* (Sorrentino, 2008)

April 23: *The Battle of Algiers* (Pontecorvo, 1966)

April 29: *Survive Style 5+* (Sekiguchi, 2004)

April 30: *Stop Making Sense* (Demme, 1984)

May 6: *Three Times* (Hsiao-Hsien, 2005)

May 7: *Last Life in the Universe* (Ratanaruang, 2003)

May 13: *Thirst* (Chan-wook, 2009)

PHOTO FROM WEB

PHOTO FROM WEB

PERSPECTIVE

Hangin' with Clark and Craig

A Conference Call with Hot Tub Time Machine Actors

ANDERS J. NIELSEN
STAFF WRITER

The Internet had wrapped its long and spindly tentacles around my face once again, infiltrating every available orifice and slowly making its way into my tender brain. I had given up resisting its insipid charm, resolving instead to follow the rabbit deeper into the hole to whatever Wikipedia page or silly video was deemed fit by others who had stumbled along my path before me. Mine was a path of least resistance.

The Internet was my ally after all, my informative and entertaining bunk mate, ever eager to provide everything I could ever want. From illegally streaming *Seinfeld* episodes to finding out what malt is and why it's in some beer and some milkshakes, but not all beer and not all milkshakes, the Internet provides.

The Internet also continues to deliver me these "emails" and every once in awhile I receive "emails" that I open before deleting.

One such "email" informed me that an interview was to be conducted between Craig Robinson (Matheson from *Pineapple Express*, and "hay, zat guy'z on *The Office* lolz!") and Clark Duke ("I feel like I saw this guy on the Internet once") and one lucky *College Voice* writer to discuss the upcoming film *Hot Tub Time Machine*. I pounced on my keyboard and pounded out my demands with its tiny white keys: "I'm feelin' lucky, sign me up."

Now bear in mind, every time



you sign up for something on the Internet, you become immediately swamped with rigmarole.

You think to yourself, "Hey! I am between the ages of 20 and 21, and I do want unlimited Pizza Hut for Life! How the heck do they know me so well?" You click, and you have to enter endless amounts of information about yourself into tiny white boxes instead of enjoying gooey delicious pizza, my experience was similar.

I began a grueling "email war" with a woman named Sarah who continuously asked me to confirm times and dates.

She was apparently a "representative of the company" producing *Hot Tub Time Machine*, a film re-

leased March 26th and starring the two men I was now bound to speak with, as well as 80's fixture John Cusack and *The Daily Show*'s Rob Corddry. Eventually I established a cease-fire with Sarah's email barrage and waited with bated breath for the phone call that would change my life.

Now, undoubtedly you've seen ads for this movie, but if you're not the observant type, it appears to be about a Hot Tub that's also a Time Machine. Four silly men hop in and travel to 1986 where everything is 80s (neon spandex and jerry curls, for example!)

Clearly, these are people who have a rich understanding of comedy as a reflection of the human

experience, and therefore I was as giddy as a schoolgirl when the day finally arrived for me to speak with them.

As soon as I logged into the conference call I realized that I was not the only one who had suffered endless months of email confirmations from Sarah, but in reality there were roughly ten other college reporters on the call gnashing their teeth and hoping to bite off a chunk of the talent. We waited tensely like racehorses in our starting pens as a man who never identified himself inquired who had logged on to the call every minute or so. The anticipation was almost too much!

Finally, when the nameless man

was satisfied, we were patched through to a woman serving as arbiter of the whole ordeal and the two comedians of demi-fame.

We were instructed to wait until our school name was called, as if we had been branded beyond individuality by our respective institutions, and then we would be permitted to ask one (1) question. I suppose they had anticipated a rousing blood bath of stabbing queries as each reporter fought to be heard over the din of the truth being sought, so instead there was a kind of stingy Genie like quality to the interview as instead of wishes we were granted questions and instead of three we were granted one (1). Now that's journalism!

Suffolk led the pack with the first question, he wanted to know how much input Craig had on "all the 80s stuff." Craig assured him that the producers of the film had made sure to check what "stuff" was from the "80s" and what was not.

The second question came from a woman who really got the interview cooking, she wanted to know if "the director had any, like, improv during, like, the acting and stuff." Craig responded positively, ignoring the obvious grammatical flaws in her question, saying he believed, "the majority of the movie was improv."

What this says about the writers of the movie I'm not sure, perhaps the script was just a series of suggestions and rough ideas. Then again the movie is called

SEE HOT TUB, PAGE 7

Hot Tub Time Machine Conference Call

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Hot Tub Time Machine.

After a few more pressing questions regarding the “80s” it came to be my turn, I was interested in what they thought was the most viable medium for creative comedy in this day and age where audiences have access to internet, television, film, live performance and the like.

Clark Duke regarded the inquiry quite dourly, stating that for writers television was a better medium, but that actors might find film more rewarding as it allowed for more improv.

I pressed him, inquiring about time constraints and how they affected the amounts of improv in certain mediums, but he continued to be very closed up as an orator, reiterating at least three times that it “depends on the show or movie.”

My sense was that he had been briefed on how to talk about *Hot Tub Time Machine*, but really didn’t give too much thought to comedy as a larger genre. His work with Michael Cera on their Internet show *Clark and Michael* indicates just this limited scope as a comedian. He frequently relies on awkward pauses to get laughs and focuses on deadpanned, minimalist plots in which he exerts little to no energy.

Similar to Michael Cera’s style of mousy awkwardness, Clark seems to end up playing a straight man for more outgoing, active comedians to bounce off of in all of his bits. Interestingly, he is the only character in *Hot Tub Time Machine* who wasn’t even alive in 1986, forcing him to be even further off the radar.

Craig weighed in with some more concrete comments, making reference to the “ADD mentality” that most consumers have in the modern day.

“There’s just so many resources to go find comedy like *Funny or Die* and Youtube,” Craig said, “so, yeah, it’s raising the stakes and the game because now it depends on a lot of word-of-mouth, you know, trying to get videos to go viral. So, the internet has definitely changed the face of comedy.”

The accessibility of a timer on Internet comedy also has an effect on how popular it is. The “ADD” aspect has turned a video longer than five minutes into “too long,” which affects the type of sketches or characters that get developed. Punch lines and bits have to emerge early on in a sketch or they’ll be dismissed as “not funny.”

This isn’t to say that the Internet is necessarily a bad influence on comedy, as it also allows fresh faces to get “discovered” much more easily than in the days before instant communication. Think of all the little kids yelling, fat people falling down the stairs and frat boys yelling and falling down the stairs you never would have seen without the Internet.

Think about any movie or music video, and then remember that you could find a parody of it RIGHT NOW. Then you could share any of those videos with any of your friends, or anyone you don’t even know. You could send them a message, personally or publically, while you’re still watching it for the first time. That’s what the Internet has allowed us.

The future of comedy is in the hands of the people. The people make it, the people consume it. Now we decide what we think is funny.

Do we honestly think a movie called *Hot Tub Time Machine* sounds like the future of comedy? Are we going to support it as a testimony of what the people of 2010 can accomplish in the field of funnies? Will we shell out our 8 to 12 dollars and see it in theaters? Will we stream it bootlegged on the Internet? Will we be sucked in again by the mindless cogs of Orcs who run the steamy inner sanctums of the information super highway? Is there an end to the treadmill from hell they call “email chains”? Is there anything better to do?

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Swedish Murder-Mystery Delivers Taut Thrills and Chills

RACINE OXTOBY
ARTS EDITOR

It’s not often that I decide to see a movie on a whim, without any prior information or knowledge about it. Moreover, I’m a spoiler whore - I can’t help but look up a movie’s plot before I go see it. I recently received a lot of flak for reading the plot of *Shutter Island* on Wikipedia before going to see it.

This made my screening of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* especially entertaining. I had no idea what it was about or what was going to happen. As it turns out, the movie was a twisting mystery, and a very pleasant surprise.

My reason for seeing the film? My grandmother, who read the bestselling novel on which the film is based, told me it was so gripping, that she couldn’t put the book down. I found the movie similarly suspenseful: I almost didn’t want it to end, nearly three hours later, because the mystery was just so good.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo starts off as a run-of-the-mill mystery thriller. Forty years ago, Harriet Vanger, a family member in an illustrious Swedish family, mysteriously vanished. Every member of the family is a suspect in her disappearance. Her loving uncle receives framed pressed flowers anonymously once a year and believes that they are from Harriet’s murderer, taunting him.

He hires journalist Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist), on leave from his magazine after a libel scandal and awaiting a jail sentence, to help find out what exactly happened to Harriet. Blomkvist, in turn, hires the titular tattooed punk, Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace), a hacker with problems of her own.

Rapace is a stunning actress, with a haunting stare and a fierce determination rare in young actresses, while Nyqvist confidently



PHOTO FROM WEB

carries the lead role on his shoulders.

The two form an unlikely yet charismatic detective duo. With Mikael’s journalistic skills and Lisbeth’s hacking abilities and photographic memory, the two discover that Harriet’s disappearance may have been because she discovered that one of her family members was a serial killer.

The movie is not for the faint of heart. First, it boasts a killer of a running time: over two-and-a-half hours. Secondly, what’s packed into this long duration is a mixture of rape, torture, anti-Semitism and various other squirm-inducing subjects. The villain, not revealed until the very end, is a particularly

sick individual, taking pleasure in giving his victims hope for survival before then brutally murdering them.

Our heroine, Lisbeth, is forced to endure the majority of these horrors - while she is able to successfully seek revenge against her rapist (in a clever, “you go, girl!” sort of way), the camera painfully lingers on her rape. She is scorned by the majority of the other characters, who treat her like a freak, because of her multiple piercings, black lipstick, and waifish figure, as well as a somewhat-masculine attachment to her motorcycle. The movie has even been released in some American venues under the title *Men Who Hate Women*, if that

Music Review:

Jónsi’s *Go* Sparkles with Life, Love and Awesome



PHOTO FROM WEB

ERIK BROWNSWORD
CONTRIBUTOR

Let’s make my bias clear from the start: Sigur Rós is my favorite band.

The on-hiatus Icelandic ensemble may not be ideal for revelrous karaoke or drunken fist-pumping, but their richly layered, sweeping epics move me in a way no other music does. While the rest of the band has been off raising newborns, frontman Jón “Jónsi” Birgisson has been working on a new solo album, *Go*.

Of course, when I say solo I don’t mean to give you the impression that Jónsi has become an Icelandic John Mayer - *Go* has all the cello bow-played guitars, piano, strings, brass, woodwinds, drums and synths mixed in rapturous harmonies and triumphant finales one would expect from recent Sigur Rós albums like *Takk...* or *Me Su Eyrum Vi Spilum Endalaust*.

In one word, I would describe

the album as “effervescent.” In two words, “utterly captivating.” In three, “hard to understand” (more on that last one in a moment).

The opener “Go Do” sets the tone of this pop-friendly album, introducing staccato blips of Jónsi’s voice and various pipes until they are unified behind the driving pound of drums, rolling into a joyful refrain.

“Animal Arithmetic” takes the cake for best title and most interestingly off-kilter beat, skipping and tumbling along with Jónsi’s lively, childhood-memories-evoking lyrics: “I see you’re colorful / I see you in the trees / I see you’re spirit / You’re in the breeze.”

The album’s energy reaches its zenith in “Boy Lilikoi.” Its alternating frenetic and marching beats juxtapose with Jónsi’s airy, whimsical vocals and woodwind flourishes as they crescendo in an exuberant, string-filled waterfall of a chorus.

The entirety of the album is full of engaging surprises and explo-

sive finales.

It’s also full of brightly optimistic, occasionally inspiring and often fanciful lyrics about growth, life and struggle (obviously influenced by his bandmates’ young children) although you might not make any of that out in your first few listens. And not because Jónsi is singing in his usual Icelandic (or his personal variant, known as “Hopelandic”). The bulk of the album is in English, but that may not make it as miraculously easier to comprehend as you might imagine.

At first, the incomprehensibility of a great deal of the lyrics was a thorn in the otherwise unblemished paw that is this review. But then I realized a great truth about myself: Jónsi could be singing the lyrics of Khia’s “My Neck, My Back” in every song and I would still get goosebumps from his transcendent, elevating falsetto and glistening soundscapes. Maybe, just maybe, you will have a similar reaction to this accessible, jubilant release.

WRITE
FOR
ARTS!

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UPCOMING EVENTS FROM SAC

Thundersticks will be sold at the Bates vs. Conn Men’s Lacrosse game, for \$5 a pair, Sat. April 10, 1 PM

Zumbathon, April 8 Cro’s Nest 11-1 (run by SAC’s very own Bridget Byers)

FNL - Dusty & the Know, April 9 - Cro Pit or Cro’s Nest if raining 10:00 (related to Hope for Haiti)

SAuction II at 8, April 15 - Cro’s Nest

Men's Lacrosse Perfect After Eight Games

SARAH HAUGHEY
SPORTS EDITOR

The unveiling of our improved mascot comes at an appropriate time, as one spring sports team is already legitimizing the new ferocious image of our once serene, friendly Camel. The Connecticut College Men's Lacrosse Team is having a momentous season thus far. Not only are they undefeated with four NESCAC wins under their belts, but they are ranked #10 in the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) National Poll.

The Camels opened their season on Saturday March 13 with a strong victory against Trinity College. They continued to dominate over spring break with non-league wins against Plymouth State, Clarkson University and SUNY Farmingdale. On March 20, Conn faced off against its NESCAC rival, Amherst College, a team they had not beaten since April 2001. While it was a tough game, the Camels fought until the end and secured a 10-8 triumph over the Lord Jeffs.

While defeating their long-time rival is itself impressive, the Camels went even further and managed to outlast #5 ranked Middlebury on Saturday March 27. While Conn still has plenty of NESCAC competition ahead, their level of play thus far in 2010 long surpasses their success of prior seasons.

So what has made this season so unbelievable? Is it the fact that the College finally invested in a snowplow so that players can

spend their time practicing rather than shoveling the turf? Or is it maybe the addition of lights to Silfen Field?

While both of these investments have undoubtedly aided in the Camels' success this year, it is more likely due to the dramatic change in the intensity of the players and coaches. Going into his fourth season at Conn, Head Coach David Cornell has added two more assistant coaches to his ranks, Dan Corcoran and Thomas Nahornick.

Topher Grossman, a 2005 graduate of the college and prolific Camel goaltender, continues to share his wisdom on the field for his third year as assistant coach. Now with double the amount of coaching staff, the Camels can reach their full potential. Coach Cornell believes they will be a more efficient team this year as each player can now attain individual attention and improve his own skills.

Not only has the program expanded its coaching staff, but also this season's roster is composed of mostly new players. Coach Cornell states that the goal of recruiting for 2010 was to find "the best players and try to get them to buy into the sacrifice required to be a competitive team in the NESCAC." He has high standards and demands hard work from his players in every practice and game.

"You're either hot or cold. We don't want any lukewarm guys in our program, you need to be all in," said Cornell.

This year's team is chock-full of young and talented players. While some may see the Camels' lack of

experienced upperclassmen as a disadvantage, the Camel freshmen and sophomores have stepped up as leaders of this year's squad.

Sophomore Chuck Czerkowski has been consistent in the midfield, winning 75 percent of his face-offs and leading the team with 44 ground balls. On attack, freshman Stephen Eicher has a rocket of a shot and has scored some key goals for the Camels this season. Sophomore Rob Moccia has proven himself to be a wall in the cage, stopping 62 percent of the shots he has faced.

While the underclassmen seem to be taking the spotlight, the continued impact of senior tri-captains, Sean Driscoll, Steve Dachille and Will Schumann cannot be ignored.

Dachille notched his 100th career goal in the match-up against Keene State on March 30 and has a total of 22 points so far this season. Driscoll and Schumann continue to be strong defenders, corralling 24 and 18 ground balls, respectively.

While this year's squad has shown great improvement over past seasons, Coach Cornell realizes the challenges that lie ahead for the Camels. His only expectations for this season are to unite as a team and play 100 percent every game.

"All the talk about rankings and tournaments is great, but that's all it is... talk," said Cornell. "Let's compete everyday and when we're told there are no more games left to play, we'll hug each other and tell one another great job."



UConn-Believable! Women's Team on the Verge of History

SAM PERLEY
STAFF WRITER

Quick! Name the best team in the sporting world right now – collegiate or professional. Lakers? Wrong. Cavaliers? Nope. New York Yankees? Not even close. The answer is the women's basketball team at the University of Connecticut. I can tell you, personally, that as someone who does not watch a whole lot of women's basketball, the Huskies can flat out play some ball.

This year the Huskies are 37-0 and 16-0 in the Big East Conference. They are not only the defending national champions but are currently in the Women's Final Four this year and are scheduled to face off against Baylor University on April 4 in San Antonio, TX. As of March 31, they are riding a 76-game winning streak, which is impressive on its own, but even more so is the fact that none of their wins have come by less than ten points.

Simply put, this is arguably the greatest collection of basketball talent ever assembled at the women's collegiate level.

The Huskies are led by their three-time All-American First Team junior forward Maya Moore who averages 18.3 points and 8.2 rebounds per game. Complementing Moore is senior center Tina Charles with an average of 18.3 points and 9.3 rebounds per game. Moore and Charles were also both

unanimous selections for the 2010 All-American First Team.

Coach Geno Auriemma is no slouch himself as he has won fifteen Big East Conference Championships, six national title and six Naismith College Coach of the Year awards. Auriemma has also compiled a 731-122 record since 1985 and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006.

I will be honest and admit I rarely watch women's sports at all. After hearing constantly about how superb this team is on Sportscenter and ESPN, I finally succumbed to the hype and tuned into watch the Huskies take on the Florida State Seminoles in their Elite Eight match-up on March 30.

Not only were they able to squeak out a forty point win (nail biter!) but they recorded the largest regional final win in tournament history against a team that was 29-5. The gap in talent and ability is simply staggering. The Huskies are not even close to being on the same level as their opponents. Florida State was so overmatched in this game it was almost unfair.

Some think the UConn Huskies' success is not good for the sport. The games are not competitive by any means and it takes a lot of the suspense and drama out of the sport, something that is making the men's tournament this year particularly entertaining. Others say it is great because their dominance is drawing attention and fans (like

myself) to women's basketball that previously would not have watched a game.

Looking ahead, the Huskies will face off against Baylor University on April 4 in the Women's Final Four. Baylor is led by star-freshman Brittney Griner, who is known more for her infamous punch that broke Texas Tech's Jordan Barncastle's nose on March 3 than her skills, but she may give the Huskies some competition. She stands at a monstrous height of 6'8" and set the NCAA Women's Tournament record for most blocks with 35.

However, since UConn has not even been close to being challenged in the past two seasons, Geno Auriemma and the Huskies might be looking to maybe get Griner in foul trouble and easily handle the Bears to advance to the National Title Game against either Stanford or the University of Oklahoma.

Despite the fact that Huskies beat Stanford this season 80-68 on December 23, the Lady Cardinals did manage to beat UConn as they knocked them off in the National Semi-Finals in the 2008 Tournament.

They also defeated Oklahoma 76-60 on February 15, which shows the Huskies are set up well to beat whoever they play and win a second consecutive national title and achieve another perfect season.

Lock Up Your Daughters: Tiger is Back



ALEX MARTLAND
STAFF WRITER

Sitting in front of a television mired in the depths of an annual tryptophan coma this past Thanksgiving, I read the newsflash plastered on the front page of every media outlet in the country: Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus' heir-apparent as the best golfer in history, was being rushed unconscious to the hospital after slowly driving over a fire hydrant on the side of his driveway. Curious speculation inevitably followed; was he drunk? How badly was he hurt?

While details about the specifics of the incident were slow to emerge, eventually it became clear that while authorities were busy trying to revive Mr. Woods, Mrs. Woods was brushing bits of Tiger's face off of an eight-iron and quietly placing it back in the garage. The iconic image of a woman scorned is her seeking retribution while wielding a golf club. Irony would have it that the most famous golfer in the world got caught with his hand in a number of cookie jars, to put things lightly.

Long considered one of the most intensely private professional athletes with regards to personal matters, Woods was now facing constant media scrutiny surrounding his infidelities, rapidly diminishing sponsorship opportunities and vulgar text messages he sent to pretty much every woman he'd ever met.

However, there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel for Tiger, and that light comes in the form of the 2010 Masters. His sexual-addiction rehabilitation stint has been completed (14 straight days of watching Betty White do a shot-by-shot remake of the 1995 movie *Showgirls*, sources say), his Swedish supermodel wife has graciously accepted a multi-million dollar "I'm really sorry" and all is right with the world as Tiger's extensively repaired face has been spotted back on the links.

But Tiger's return to competitive golf at Augusta National does not necessarily signal the end of the nightmare of the last five months.

Will last month's "tearful" press

conference where he sorta-kind-almost apologized suffice, or will the court of public opinion decide to hold Tiger Woods accountable, above all the other lecherous celebrities we are likely to ignore? Jesse James cheated on Sandra Bullock recently with a bucket of tattoo ink, and he hasn't received even a fraction of the animosity that Woods has. The Pope failed to defrock a catholic priest in Wisconsin who sexually molested 200 deaf boys at his school, and even he is fighting for airtime against revelations that Tiger Woods spent nine hours in the Hawaiian Tropic bus listening to Barry White.

What kind of performance, then, should we expect to see out of Woods during this year's Masters Tournament? He is not the first professional athlete to be involved with a moral grey area in their personal life. John Terry, a married man and former captain of England's soccer team, had an affair with a teammate's underwear model girlfriend, and England still seems to be on track to be dangerous in June's World Cup. Ray Lewis, star linebacker for the Baltimore Ravens, killed a man and went on to be named the NFL MVP (though, in reality, who was going to be the one to tell him he didn't win?). Even in golf, John Daly admitted to an extra-marital affair, though that admission received significantly less media attention when it became clear that his mistress was an extra large bucket of KFC original recipe and twelve Budweiser's.

From international golden child to reviled pariah, Tiger Woods now turns back to the game which enabled him to begin illicit relationships with sticky MTV reality show losers and late-night talk show porn stars in the first place.

But which Tiger will we see? The one with nearly 100 professional victories including 14 majors, or a broken man missing puts as penance for his guilt?

Either way, the manicured fairways of a course in Georgia will play host to one of the most compelling dramas professional golf has ever seen.

Love Sports?
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The Rise of “Awk” Culture

A historical approach to a contemporary linguistic phenomenon

JAKE SCHNAIDT
COLUMNIST

That freshman is so awkward. Look at how awkward my butt is in these pants. Would it be awkward if I smoked in your car, Gam-gam? You have asthma? Awkward, LOL!

How did awkwardness become the new coolness? If *Dazed and Confused* (and Matthew McConaughey) was the model movie for teens, pre-teens and post-teens in the 90s, are *Superbad* and Michael Cera the “its” for the aughts? I hope not! They’re going to kill awkwardness the same way *D&C* killed sitting suggestively mustachioed in high school parking lots. Before it fizzles out, let’s see where awkward came from: with a now barely-known Brit named Nate.

It all started in on a lively Spring morning in 1674 when the now-forgotten English author Nathaniel Fairfax famously wrote, “Birds... build nests with such an awk tool, their beak.” It was a brilliantly stupid quote that would later be used as an example of the word “awk(ward)”’s first truly awkward usage.

Awkwardness is sort of a fall-back method artistic expression for artists who have grown bored with the conflict of good and evil or found it too difficult to go blabbering on about love and death. Instead of referring to the bird as “diabolically queer” like Edgar A. Poe did with ravens, Nate finds a word, “awk,” that manages to politely convey the freakish quality of the bird without any major judgment.

Moreover, if we translate Fairfax’s quote into contemporary vernacular, it could be transformed into an even more moronic phrase: “‘Birds build like, nests and stuff with such an awkward tool. Birds and beaks

are so awk,’ Peyton said pompously.” So only birds can be awkward? Not anymore, but it used to just be birds before Darwin came along and said, “Animals, whom we have made our slaves, we do not like to consider our equal.” This, by all means, was a rude awakening for animals who had thought that we were cool with being equal with each other.

Before Chuck Darwin invented evolution and the survival

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of the fittest, it was very popular among the English literati to discuss the bizarre behavior of animals, so as to emphasize their inferiority. Surely, though, Darwin meant to include humans in his theories, so why have we not evolved past our own awk social behavior in the way birds have evolved past their awk beaks?

Because unlike avians, humans have evolved to the point at which certain undesirable traits may be reappropriated by mass media and made marketable. In other words, we don’t need to evolve past awkwardness or perversity because Hollywood tells us one day they’ll be popular. Positives from this: Gary Busey. Negatives: Dan Deacon. So, where did awkwardness come from?

It came from Neanderthals, the most awkward of all our ancestors, and the most made extinct in a short period of time for being so awkward around the socially-superior Cro-Magnons. Imagine

a Neanderthal perusing the icy tundra for berries. Lost and stumbling through the forest, he discovers a secret hot spring where he finds a Neanderlady taking a bath. Too awkward to make any sort of move, he sits for hours and ruminates comically about his lack of sufficient body fur, his under-extended brow, his Steve Carell-esque virginity – his inferiority. By the time he’s done deciding whether or not he should approach the fecund bather, she has disappeared. Returning to his camp, he finds that his family has starved to death because he spent all his foraging time ogling a bathing ape.

Fast forward a few billion years. We now have a branded Judd Apatow form of male laziness and nerdiness, which according to *Superbad* et al is rewarded with women with superior social success. This is similar to how male slovenliness used to be rewarded according to *The Honeymooners* up to *The Simpsons*; with films like *Knocked Up*, the nerd-slob merge is complete.

Sadly, while male standards of attractiveness (or tolerability among females) vary, slovenly, dorky ladies are falling by the wayside. Ellen Page was pretty slovenly in *Juno*, drinking Sunny D and being with child, but there was something very sad about her “situation” that didn’t quite allow her to achieve the adorable, Michael Cera-esque pinnacle of awkwardness. How can girls have babies and be awk at the same time? One day in the near future, science will give men the gift of childbirth, and maybe then we can all be awkward together. Especially when that first guy actually has a baby, and it’s really, really gross. Ew, so awkward.

Conn and New London Communities Unite for Benefit Show

ANDREW CRIMER
STAFF WRITER

Conn students are not the most likely of characters to encounter downtown. On some level, the fault lines of disconnection in our relationship with the New London community are mostly widened by our physical isolation, behind walls on a hill, but there is also a social isolation.

Like any relationship, the interaction between students and New Londoners often has rough patches. One such rough patch is the much higher and generally much scarier exposure to crime in the city. When Matt Potter, singer and guitarist of beloved New London band Fatal Film, encountered a group of six malicious hoodlums who proceeded to beat him horribly and savagely into a hospital, Conn students who heard about it generally saw that as a reason not to go downtown.

But we turned it around.

It’s a testament to the unity of the New London music scene that the reaction was not merely sympathy but instead positive action. Sean Murray, manager of the Oasis Pub on Bank Street, immediately cleared his bar’s weekend schedule and threw a benefit for his exorbitant hospital and prescription bills.

It’s a testament to the fundamental decency of Conn students that a solid number headed downtown to attend, and that others decided to donate even if they couldn’t actually go to the show.

The first night of music featured Conn professors David Dorfman and Gabe Chandler’s hip hop group, Above/Below, in addition to the entirely student band Mercutio alongside New London scene fixtures Straight to VHS and Dorian James & the Brood. Saturday’s lineup includes Potter’s bandmate throwing a presumably sick DJ set and former FNL performers The Paul Brockett Roadshow Band.

As of Saturday afternoon, the benefit had already generated over \$1,000 for Potter, thanks to donations from New London businesses in the form of both money and raffle prizes, as well as the generosity of New Londoners and involved Camels.

Bobby Crash, the drummer for Dorian James & the Brood, was impressed with Oasis’ attempts to help out a friend in need.

“This is what a music scene should always be about,” said Crash. “Music is people coming together; it’s not about major labels and getting signed or whatever. You can do everything without a huge investment and it’s this – it’s going out and playing shows; it’s going to shows – that’s going to change the world.”

Sean Murray also praised the scene’s response. “This year alone I’ve seen more unity in this music scene than I’ve ever seen since I became a part of this and I’m very proud of that fact,” said Murray, who also organizes the I AM Festival every September.

A fresh toast to Potter’s health and recovery heralded every new set, and every band played as if they could manifest his healing in the pure intensity of their rock moves and rap lyrics. Here’s the thing: they could.

Matt Potter’s bones weren’t the only thing on the mend this weekend. Although a rough event like the attack can be abrasive to the relationship between our school and our city, its roughness is sandpaper: it shapes and polishes our solidarity into refined and beautiful smoothness.

By pitching in, both students and New Londoners find themselves with more in common through their mutual generosity toward Potter. We can accept the reality of violent crime and move past it; we can reach out rather than shying away.

The First Step Is Admitting You’re Packing a Yarnball

Formerly-closeted crochet enthusiast John Sherman comes out, joins ranks among Camel Knitters

JOHN SHERMAN
STAFF WRITER

I don’t often tell people I knit. I prefer it to be a secret quirk of mine – something people I’ve known for years might never be aware of, like when families of the deceased find deskfuls of poetry, reams of vintage stamps, or stacks and stacks of *Tiger Beat* in the homes of family members. “Who knew?” they say to each other.

If asked, I wouldn’t deny at least dabbling – I’m not ashamed, just shy. When I was 17 my grandmother taught me to knit, and my aunt taught me to crochet. Since then I’ve never really made a habit of either, though I do go on occasional benders, making hats and scarves, and starting blankets I’ll never finish. I’m not wearing a “Scarf Ace” t-shirt (“Say hello to my needle, friend”) or collecting punny bumper stickers like “Knit Happens” – though now that I think about it perhaps I should be.

The Camel Knitters meeting appears each week in college event emails – Wednesdays in Oasis snack shop at noon. Curious but unwilling to take my hobby to the next level, for the past three years I’ve told myself and friends, “I knit, but I’m not a knitter.” Knitters have circles, cases for their needles and bags of unused yarn multiplying in their closets. That wasn’t me; I was too cool. By all accounts, I was exhibiting a number of red-flag addiction behaviors: knitting alone, knitting in secret, finding excuses to knit, becoming angry when confronted about knitting, trembling in the morning. I needed help.

Charged with writing an article about Conn Coll’s premier knit-

ting circle, I was forced to confront my demons last Wednesday. I went out for provisions the night before: a skein of yarn and a new crochet hook. Armed with these, I would infiltrate their ranks. I was Hunter S. Thompson, and the Camel Knitters were my Hells Angels.

“They’ll expect me to come every week if I go once,” I complained to a friend over breakfast. “I can’t commit to that.”

“I think you’re assuming they’ll accept you right away. Don’t you think it’s more exclusive than that? You can’t just show up and be one of them.”

He was so right. My confidence was shot. Who was I to pretend the Camel Knitters were even interested in having me at their meeting? They couldn’t care less, and in joining them I was hardly in a position to deign.

I arrived in Cro at 12:05 with a canvas bag of yarn tucked into my backpack. Shaken by my rude awakening, I made a furtive dash through Oasis, pretending as though I’d come to check my mail. My initial pass revealed no coven of wool-clad crafties, save one woman who seemed to know what I was up to. She sat expectantly in the U-shaped booth by the microwave – she had to be one of Them.

Oh God, I thought, if there’s only one person, I’m not going. I almost left.

Waiting for more knitters to arrive, I kept an eye on the booth, and with no mail to read, I hovered strangely by the bulletin boards, pretending to plan my weekend. I felt like a freshman on the first day of class, terrified of finding himself in close quarters with old pros. As I waited, every person walking into Cro became a suspect. I was sizing up hand-

bags and purses, guessing at who might be packing wool. Minutes passed, and my feigned interest in the three posters in front of me was becoming transparent. I made a second, slower pass by the booth to assess the situa-

Knitters have circles, cases for their needles and bags of unused yarn multiplying in their closets. That wasn’t me; I was too cool.

tion. There were five or six of them gathered, and it was now or never. I bought myself a drink and marched over.

“Hi, are you the Camel Knitters?”

“Yes,” a few of them answered, a bit guardedly.

I introduced myself and took a seat. Once it was clear I’d come to join them, they were nothing if not welcoming.

I’m not sure why I assumed the conversation would be strictly knitting-related, but in the hour I sat with them, we covered everything from flooded basements and sump pumps to homemade

ice cream. Of course there was a bit of shoptalk, but even those who call themselves knitters can discuss other things. Crocheting in the middle of Cro, I felt as though I’d come out of the closet. I felt a part of something warm and woollen.

Though it’s clear it takes more than an afternoon to really be a Camel Knitter, I feel I’ve taken an important step.

My name is John S., and I knit.

Camel knitters meet weekly, Wednesdays at noon, in Oasis snack shop.



Camel knitters hard at work. Photo by Kelsey Cohen.

On the Constitutionality of Healthcare Reform

DANIEL HARTSOE
COLUMNIST

Last week, the House of Representatives passed the Senate's healthcare reform bill, sending it to President Obama for his signature or veto. As the President was signing the document into law, however, the Attorneys General of twelve states filed a joint lawsuit against the national government. They claim that, in passing the healthcare law, Congress exercised a power it is not granted in the Constitution, and thus violated its constitutional obligations. The Attorneys General are correct.

Their entire case against the new law is built upon the claim that the so-called "individual mandate"—which requires all citizens of the United States to purchase health insurance, and all businesses employing more than fifty employees to purchase insurance coverage for their employees—has no grounding in the Constitution. Let's examine that claim.

The Constitution grants Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States," but no part of the above clause implies that Congress has the power to force an individual or group of individuals to engage in commerce. The similar language used regarding both inter-state and inter-national commerce implies that Congress has the same power to regulate commerce over state

boundaries as it does to regulate it over national boundaries—Congress may, of course, enact tariffs and restrictions on international commerce, and thus has the power to do the same over interstate commerce.

No one, however, claims that Congress has the power to force a person to engage in inter-national commerce; and if Congress does not have this power, then surely it does not have the power to force a person to engage in inter-state commerce.

In any case, the current nature of health insurance commerce makes the inter-state commerce clause moot to the issue: people may not, under the laws of the fifty states, buy insurance over state boundaries—a plan sold in one state can not be freely sold in another state. Congress has no power over intra-state commerce; since most, if not all residents of each state can only engage in intra-state commerce to buy health insurance coverage, Congress has no constitutional power over their decisions regarding the purchase and sale of health insurance.

Within the new law, however, the requirement has been framed as a tax, and not a mandate. So instead of forcing people to purchase insurance, at penalty of a fine, the law taxes people who choose not to purchase insurance. Supporters of the new law claim that, since Congress of course has the consti-

tutional power to tax commerce, this tax is therefore constitutional. But if you fail to see a difference between a tax and a fine, you are not alone. A tax is a fine, plain and simple.

But does that make it unconstitutional? Let's presume that it does not.

If Congress has the power to enact this particular tax, then

Now, if Congress has the power to tax a person for choosing not to buy health insurance coverage, it logically also has the power to tax a person for failing to engage in any other kind of commerce...

logically it has the power to enact a tax structured in the exact same way, but infinitely steeper. After all, the Constitution mentions nothing of the degree to which Congress may exercise its powers, but only which powers Congress may exercise.

Now, if Congress has the power to tax a person for choosing not to buy health insurance coverage, it logically also has the power to tax a person for failing to engage in any other kind of commerce—and to tax them to any degree of magnitude for such a failure. So, if the health insurance tax is indeed constitutional, then Congress therefore

has the power also to tax a person, at any rate or lump sum amount, for failing to: purchase an automobile, purchase a hat, install and annually maintain cable television service, purchase a dryer machine, set up and maintain a credit card or mutual fund account, donate to a religious organization annually, donate to a political cause annually, subscribe to a magazine annually, purchase a gas-powered oven, purchase an annual membership to a fitness center, annually purchase any mandated amount of energy drinks, or organically-grown food, or inorganically-grown food, subscribe annually to a weight-control program, purchase bullet-proof windows, purchase cameras and microphones to be installed in one's place of residence or engage in any other activity in which money changes hands.

Some of the above examples may seem ridiculous, and certainly unconstitutional, because any law regarding them would violate the treasured "right to privacy." But the Constitution does not explicitly deny Congress the power to infringe on citizens' privacy, and does not specify any right of privacy for the people of the United States. And Congress, in specifying what actions people must take regarding their health, has demonstrated a lack of concern with any "right to privacy."

It might appear, by my reasoning, that I believe all taxes to be

unconstitutional. As the Constitution specifically grants Congress the "Power To lay and collect Taxes," it is obvious that many taxes are indeed constitutional. The difference between the health insurance tax and the taxes allowed under the Constitution is that the taxes allowed under the Constitution are those that taxes engagement in a specified activity, while the health insurance tax taxes non-engagement in a specified activity.

A tax on engagement in an activity still allows a great degree of freedom of choice—for example, if Congress were to tax the purchase of health insurance coverage at an exorbitant rate, one could join a health savings pool instead. The tax on refraining from purchasing health insurance coverage, however, leaves no freedom to choose—instead of "you must not," the law says "you must," funnelling everyone into, instead of pushing them away from, a single specific outcome: the purchase of health insurance coverage.

If Congress has the power to force people to buy any service or good, at penalty of a tax of any rate or lump sum amount, in any way not explicitly denied it by the Constitution, then what powers does Congress not have at its disposal? Is there anything that Congress may not do?

A Different Take on SGA

DONALD BUDGE
COLUMNIST

Many students wonder how decisions around campus are made and how exactly the Student Government Association works. While there are detailed minutes posted online quoting the entirety of meetings, they are extremely lengthy and sometimes difficult to follow. This is especially true if a student doesn't have thirty minutes to spare to try and determine what the resolution was on how to join the Centennial Committee. So, I'd like to propose a more concise report of the SGA minutes to offer a brief but comprehensive summary of each meeting. I hope the following helps make SGA more accessible to students and encourages increased student involvement in official matters. Using the example of the minutes from the meeting on February 18, 2010, the revised minutes would look something like this:

I. Open Forum

a. Renewable Energy Certificates

Discussion of how to allocate the annual \$40,000 budget spent on energy credits sends SGA wild with desire. Mysterious pile of bacon cheeseburgers appears in corner of the 1941 room. Burgers ignored for time being. Four options were seductively suggested:

1. 100% wind energy Green-e Certified Renewable Energy Certificates, which offset about 100% our electricity purchase
2. Installation of several Moonbounce units, preferably in the shape of miniature castles
3. Tantalizing Hickory Barbecue Sauce
4. Purchase the REC's from 3Degrees for a two-year contract for about \$39,900 all together

Slight arousal and confusion ensues over the source of the money. Large portion of SGA visibly excited by options two and three. SGA members agree that voting on multiple options would be the best investment, especially option three. Giant pile of

bacon cheeseburgers now takes up one-third of the room. Members of SGA begin eating burgers, slathering them in both BBQ and cheese sauce.

II. Old Business

a. Renewable Energy Credits

Members of SGA yearning for release from the pressure of RECs.

Committee for summertime fun proposed: unanimous vote in favor. Passes.

III. New Business

SGA begins firing up grill, despite thousands of mysterious burgers present. Large amounts of chicken and bison slathered in hickory delight. Majority of SGA quivering with anticipation over consumption of sizzling chicken breasts. Three members lazily sip Sarsaparilla and check pocket watches. Furious discussion over the merits of home-style vs. hickory erupts. Hours lost.

Several Moonbounces inflated, all in shape of miniature castles. Majority of SGA commences bouncing. Hours lost. Unidentified alligators wander into Moonbounce, proceed to pop with sharp claws. Anti-alligator sentiment in SGA grows.

Mint Juleps all around. Proposal for riverboat to cross the Thames and other bodies of water is greeted by huzzahs from SGA and emphatic boos from alligators.

Several Kissing Booths set up. These quickly devolve into Make-Out Booths. Cheese sauce is poured on multiple members of SGA while furiously making out, forming giant pool of cheese sauce. Alligators are unhappy with lack of alligator kissing booths.

Two members of SGA begin wrestling in pit of cheese sauce. Everyone wins.

SGA room overrun by mysterious bacon burgers and cheese sauce. Meeting forced to close.

IV. Announcements

a. Moist Towlettes and cornbread are required for the next meeting. Ribs encouraged.

V. Adjournment



Paul's Pasta Puns by Steve Bloom from his College Voice blog "Academic Costume"
Visit thecollegevoice.org/costume for more of Steve's linguistic tomfoolery or thecollegevoice.org for more student blogs

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College-Sponsored Senior Events: Fueled by Alcohol

RIORDAN FROST
COLUMNIST

I have noticed two troubling trends here at Connecticut College. First, we seem to have a dependence on alcohol for fun. Second, even though drinking is officially frowned upon, the college falls all over itself to provide seniors with alcohol during their final days.

In the fall of 2008, each house had a mandatory meeting to gather and discuss Conn's drinking culture. This was a response to the record hospital visits at that time. The administration seemed upset with us at the time for drinking so heavily. Our culture of drinking while locked away in our rooms was criticized. Admittedly, I've gone through my first three years partying in just this way. But I have seen the attempts that faculty and administrators have made to curb this and add more intellectualism into life at Conn. They turned common rooms into classrooms, promoted

the Dessert & Dialogue series, encouraged social programming in houses through the creation of floor governors, et cetera.

However, now that I am a senior of legal drinking age, I have started to experience a contradiction in the values of this institution. The college has been handing me alcohol for free. It began with the 100 Days party. My friends and I went to Cro and were greeted by a open bar, a DJ, an assortment of appetizers, and a large amount of our fellow seniors. We drank openly in Cro for the first time – watched by Campus Safety – and socialized the night away. It was fun, and I am not arguing that we shouldn't have any of these parties. But last Thursday we had the 50 Days party which was exactly the same. And there are many more to come.

The e-mail that all seniors received on March 17th entitled "SENIOR WEEK 2010" informed us of these future parties. According to the e-mail, there are

five events in this all-caps-worthy week. They are as follows:

Kick-off Bash on Wednesday, May 19th – 10:00p.m.-2:00a.m. – location TBA

All-campus Luncheon on Thursday, May 20th – 11:00a.m.-2:00p.m. – Castle Court

Night of Nights Party on Thursday, May 20th – times & location

Now that I am a senior of legal drinking age, I have started to experience a contradiction in the values of this institution. The college has been handing me alcohol for free.

TBA

Senior Week Formal on Friday, May 21st – 9:00p.m.-1:00a.m. – off-campus location TBA

Family & Friends Gala on Saturday, May 22nd – 8:00p.m.-11:00p.m. – College Center

That's three parties, one luncheon, and one family gala,

whatever that means. But I need no more details than the time of day and the name of the event to see the trend: three more parties where there's likely to be another DJ and another open bar. Oh, and the week's dues are \$70 (\$85 if turned in late), and it's only payable in cash or check, which makes me feel like I'm being asked to take part in a drug deal.

I recently heard from one of my friends from another college. She was excited about paying her senior week dues, because the events included bowling, beer tasting, and a brewery tour. Tasting beer and touring a brewery do include alcohol, but they have a much different character than the parties where as much alcohol as we want is simply handed to us.

Are there feasible alternatives? Yes! There are several seaports in the area, as well as several beaches in the area, just begging for daytime visits. Not only that, but there is a wine trail throughout all of Connecticut with almost 20 wineries, and three of those win-

eries are very close by and open for tour appointments. There's even a state forest close by. Laser tag, bumper cars, mini-golf, bowling – the possibilities for a daytime adventure that doesn't require alcohol are plentiful.

So my conclusion is this: why can't we have a few more of the kind of events just listed during our grand finale? I am positive that there is a portion of the senior class that is either alienated by or uninterested in the parties we have. And some of us who do drink just want to do it on our own turf, because we don't find the everybody-is-wasted-in-Cro events that much fun. The alcohol culture is criticized for three years, then overly encouraged and reinforced by the college.

My proposal is not that we should just do away with all of these parties. We can still have one or two of them during the week – after all, I did enjoy the 100 Days party. I just don't enjoy the prospect of three more 100 Days parties.

Conn Committee Gives the Gift of Hope to Haiti

REBECCA CHENEY
EDWARD FISHER
CONTRIBUTORS

Editor's note: This article was submitted by two student members of the Connecticut College Haiti Response Committee.

We both joined the Connecticut College's Haiti Response Committee almost as soon as we got back from winter break. Mary Devins, the Associate Director of CISLA, told us that a small group of faculty and staff members were going to meet the first Tuesday after break to discuss the disaster in Haiti and what the college's response should be. She asked both of us, as committed students, if we would like to join and represent our peers. Neither of us had ever met, and we were surprised by the scope and size of the effort we would help create.

From that small meeting in the CISLA office with a few faculty and staff, and just four students,

the effort ballooned. Student volunteers came pouring in, forming a committee that is responsible for much of the events and outreach. This weekend, hundreds of hours of volunteer work by over 100 students, faculty and staff will culminate in a series of

In a time when the initial flood of aid has already passed, it is important for us to contribute to the future of Haiti's recovery.

events that will be the capstone of our outreach efforts.

It has been a long road, one that has been by turns rewarding and extremely difficult. We have been accused of both being too slow to respond and having the wrong priorities. We have been bogged down by endless details about speakers, PR, entertainment, outreach and the question

of which organization to donate to, among others – all while trying to remember that beyond all of the hard work and struggle is the simple need to do good and to provide hope.

We have chosen an organization; our reasoning was that, in a time when the initial flood of aid has already passed, it is important for us to contribute to the future of Haiti's recovery. Giving affected children a chance for a better future is the perfect way to do that. In that, we hope to be unique and to start a new form of aid: one that will have lasting effects on the people of Haiti.

We have done our very best to create the greatest celebration of the Haitian artistic and cultural experience, the boundless spirit of the Connecticut College student and the unconquerable durability of the human spirit that we possibly can. Now only one thing is left to do: we need to provide the hope. So while you're enjoying the events this

weekend, please think about the disaster that started it all. Remember that our celebration of hope has a real world counterpart and that counterpart is matched by pain and suffering that is still occurring.

Images on CNN, articles on relief efforts and tallies of aid dollars tell a story. But they do not tell the entire story; the fact remains that every single dollar

brings the gift of hope. In this world of absolutes, where money is often a form of exchange moving measurable items back and forth, it can be hard to remember that money can bring things that are all the more powerful for their intangibility. Please think back to a time where you needed hope, and remember who gave it to you. Please give the gift of hope. Please donate.



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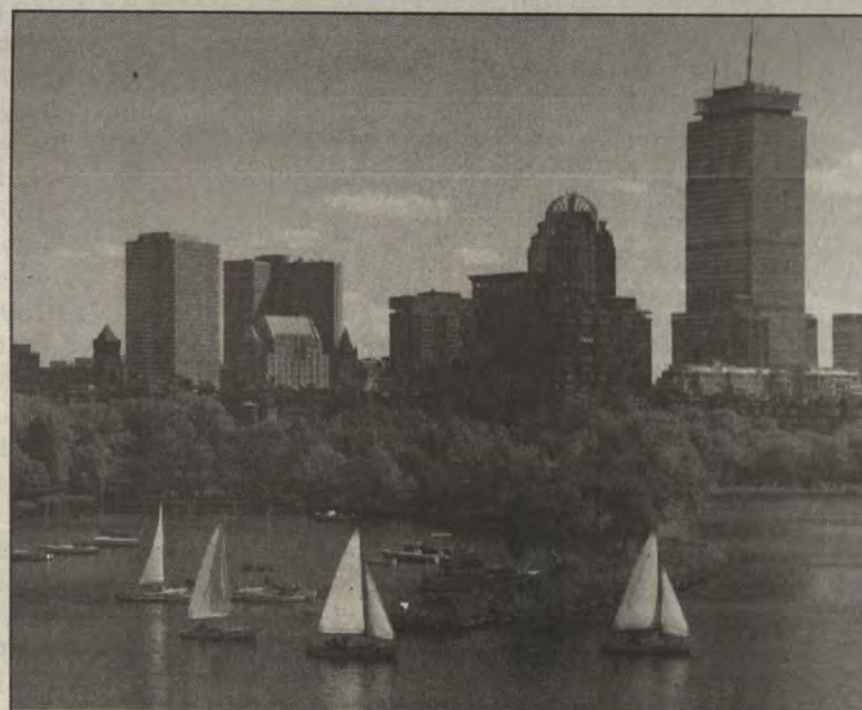
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All members of the Connecticut College community are encouraged to submit letters to the editor, articles, photographs, cartoons, etc.

All submissions will be given equal consideration.

Letters to the editor are accepted from any member of the college community on a first-come, first-come basis until noon on the Saturday preceeding publication. They should run approximately 300 words in length, but may be no longer than 500 words.

All submitted letters must be attributed to an author and include contact information.

No unsigned letters will be published.

The editor-in-chief must contact all authors prior to publication to verify that he/she was indeed the author of the letter.

The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, grammar or libel. No letters deemed to be libelous towards an individual or group will be published.

The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. These policies must be made public so every member of the college community maintains equal opportunity to have their opinions published.

Articles

All articles must be received by the appropriate section editor by no later than 4 PM on Fridays, or by the deadline set forward by the section editor(s).

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Editorials

New London and Us

As Ben Gitkind and Andrew Crimer touched upon in their pieces this week, New London is a pretty cool place, to say the least.

As someone raised in the area, I'm always upset that only select groups Conn students consider a trip downtown for an evening at Exchange, Bean and Leaf or Oasis (among other great spots) to enjoy music, drinks, friends and the unique atmosphere New London has to offer. Or take an interest in the revitalization projects taking place downtown. I hope that changes.

Right before break, *The College Voice* hosted a Common Hour on the revitalization movement in Connecticut cities like New London. The proliferation of cars contributed to the dispersion of residents moving out of small cities and into suburbia, which left cities with less funding, fewer residents, less activity and a lack of interest in maintaining architectural gems like the old theater pictured above.

What's always especially interesting to me is the lack of students who frequent downtown despite the values that residents of New London and students at Connecticut College share such as music, art and sustainable food.

Oasis, El 'n' Gee and numerous other venues feature Conn students on a regular basis, as well as indie-style music. In fact, *The*



PHOTO BY CLAIRE GOULD

New York Times recently reported on the active musical scene in New London that has only improved in recent years.

Likewise, galleries and co-ops like Golden Street, the Hygienic and Aticc constantly offer shows and events, many of which are open to all for submissions.

F.R.E.S.H. New London and Fiddleheads promote the consumption of sustainable local food, an initiative many Conn students support, judging by the large turnout at our recent Sustainability Teach-In conversations regarding foods.

We should take advantage of Conn as a part of our education—our first application of our learn-

ing into the "real world" and also enjoy all the cultural and artistic opportunities the city has to offer.

See below for some upcoming events downtown.

- Claire

P.S. In case readers didn't notice, this issue was our subtle tribute to April Fools' Day. Last year when I was Managing Editor we decided to completely avoid the April Fools' issue because of its tendency to offend, enrage... or even worse, be extremely not funny.

Though I can't pretend that this issue is a knee-slapper, we had a little bit of fun with it.

New Lo Events in April

Via WailingCity.com, Garde Arts Center and NewLondonMainStreet.org

April 8

-Sneakers Café, 8 PM
-The Village Jammers
-The Bank Street Café, 9 PM
-Tantric Yoga Party with DJ

April 9

-Custom House Maritime Museum, 1 – 3 PM and 6:30 – 8:30 PM
-Cribbage Fridays (2nd Friday of every month)
-Studio 33, 6 PM
-"Season of Spring Returning"
-The Bank Street Café, 6 PM
-[BLUE COLLAR HAPPY HOUR] Uncle Flatty CD Release Party
-Stash's Café, 6 PM
-[HAPPY HOUR] Sunday Gravy
-The Exchange Bar & Grill, 6 PM
-[HAPPY HOUR] Sue Menhart Band with special guest John Fries
-Steakloft Restaurant, 7 PM
-Dogbite
-Jazz Underground, 8 PM
-The Blue Lion Trio
-The Bank Street Café, 9 PM
-Girls Guns & Glory (Boston)
-The Oasis Pub, 9:30 PM
-The Hempsteadys (CT Roller Girls Benefit)
-Stash's Café, 10 PM
-1800 Band

April 10

-Jazz Underground, 8PM
-Vocalist Karen Frisk and her quartet
-Garde Arts Center, 8 PM
-"The French Connection," with Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra
-The Garde Arts Center Oasis Room, 8 PM
-The Nicholas King Show with Mike Renzi
-Stash's Café, 10 PM
-Vertigo

April 11

-The El-N-Gee Club, 8 PM
-Nashville Pussy
-The Flock Theatre, 7 PM
-Pride and Prejudice (April 9 – 18)

April 12

-Spirit Gallery, 11:30 AM - 8 PM
-"Skin to Canvas" Concept Exhibit (Through April 30[Closed Sundays])
-The Bean & Leaf Coffee House, 7 PM
-CBYD Jazz Quartet

April 15

-Lyman Allyn Art Museum, 10:30-1:00 AM or 1:30 - 3:00 PM
-Gargoyle Sculpting Workshop
-Mitchell College, 6 PM
-Exhibit Opening:
The Art of Sunil Ranjan Howlander

April 16

-Thames River Wine & Spirits
-Weekly Wine Tasting, 6 PM
-The Garde Arts Center, 7:30pm
-"Polar Bear Obsession:"
Multimedia presentation by Arctic biologist/ photographer Paul Nicklen
-Jazz Underground, 8 PM
-The Dan Hartman Quintet
-Dots Café (Formerly Plan B), 9 PM
-A Moment Of Silence, Tables & Chairs,
-Bruised Boob, Beer Light Industries
-The Backstage Rock Bar, 9:30 PM
-Joe Buck Yourself, Sasquatch & the Sick-a-Billys

April 17

-Eclectic Community Room, 7 PM
-MC Nuggets, Nobody Ever Does, Mystic Disc Terrorist, Anderson Family Picnic, Mark Leonard
-Jazz Underground, 8 PM
-The Dan Hartman Quintet
-The Garde Arts Center Oasis Room, 8 PM
-John McEuen
-The Bank Street Café, 9 PM
-Stix & Stonez
-The Oasis Pub, 9:30 PM
-Hey Mama, Roadside Attractions, Brad Bensko
-Stash's Café, 10 PM
-Thrust

Letters to the Editor
(Your opinion goes here.)

We'd love to hear from you. Have an opinion? Wonder why we haven't covered something really awesome? Strongly agree/disagree with writers and/or their opinions? Please write!