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## INSIDE:



## NEWS

Professor Alex Hybel named Fulbright Scholar for the second time.



## A&E

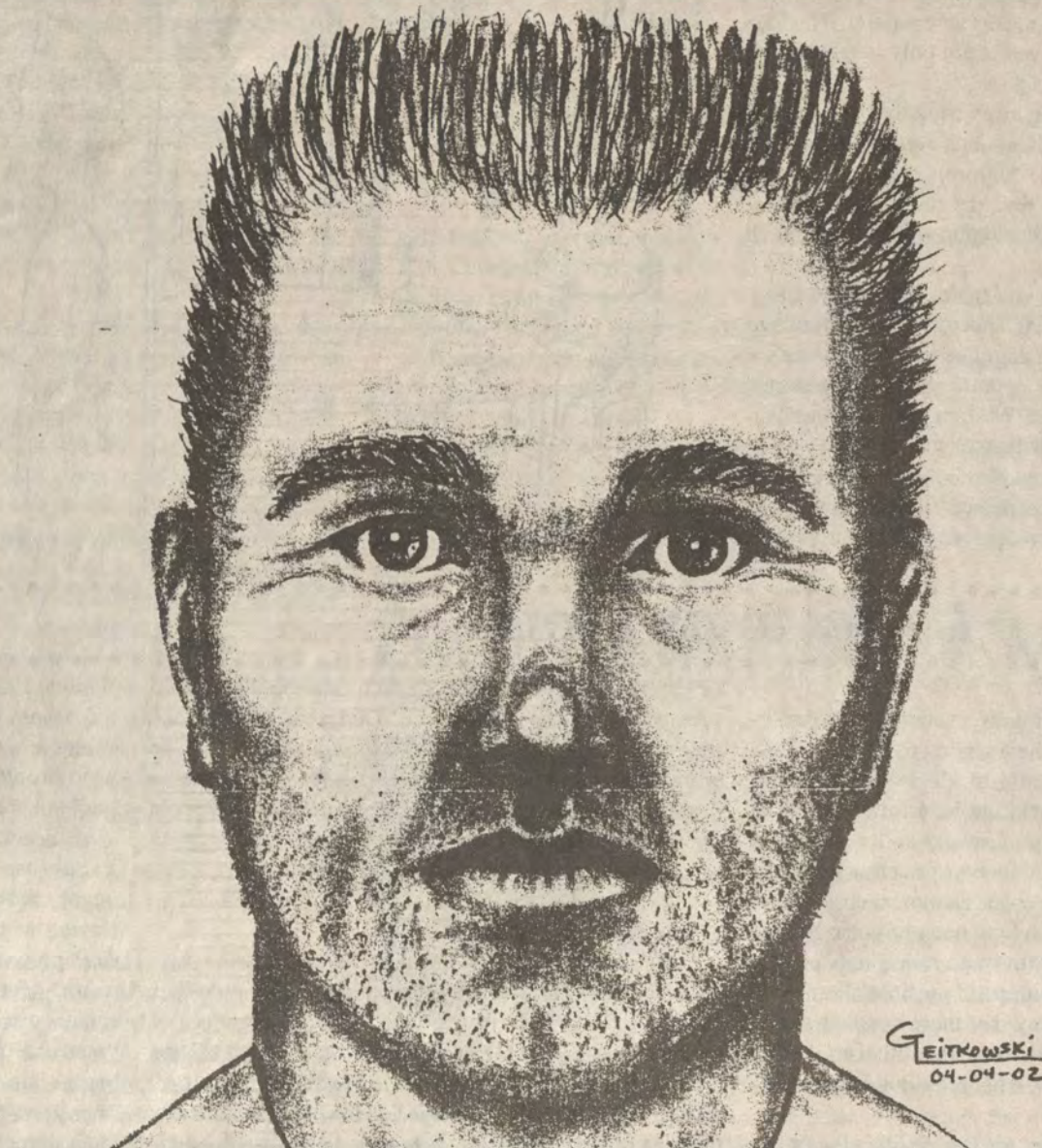
Senior Art minors' work goes on display in Cummings Art Center during the month of April



## SPORTS

Men's Lacrosse promises, "We shouldn't lose a game from now on."

## Conn Student Attacked, Suspect Remains at Large



Connecticut State Police forensic sketch of the suspect in the recent attempted assault of a Connecticut College student.

By SARAH GREEN  
NEWS EDITOR

At 2 pm on Tuesday, April 2, a female student was knocked to the ground while jogging on Gallows Lane. The student, who was wearing headphones, did not hear the

attacker as he approached her from behind. The man, probably scared away by an approaching vehicle, fled on foot. The only physical injuries the student suffered were scrapes on her hands and knees.

"We're working very closely with the Waterford and New

London Police Departments," said James Miner, Director of Campus Safety. "We're following up on the current leads and formulating new ones."

The New London Waterford Police Departments have been

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## McBryde's Tenure as Athletic Director Over

By DAVID BYRD  
STAFF WRITER

Athletic Director Ken McBryde will not be part of the Connecticut College community in the coming school year. According to an announcement made this past Friday, March 29th, Connecticut College has chosen not to renew its contract with McBryde. Essentially, McBryde's departure begins this week with a leave of absence. The absence will stretch until June 30th, the day McBryde's current contract expires.

In an interview with The Day, McBryde told the newspaper: "I have enjoyed working with all the students, which I consider a primary part of my job. There are a lot of good people on campus, but there are also some that have made it very difficult. I think my record as an administrator speaks for itself."

The quote alludes to previous tensions between McBryde and the administration prior to this decision being handed down. Earlier this year, McBryde filed an internal complaint, alleging racism within the department. He also filed an external complaint with the Connecticut Human Rights and Opportunities Commission. After an investigation, the complaint was deemed to be without merit.

McBryde could not be reached for further comment about the failure to renew his contract or any other issues that may have related to it.

On Monday afternoon, Dean of the College, Helen Regan,



Chemist Professor Stanton Ching will serve as Interim Athletic Director starting in July.

announced that the transition team, headed by herself, had named Stanton Ching, a chemistry professor at Connecticut College, as the interim Athletic Director, effective July 1st. He has previously served the athletic department in several functions, including assistant volleyball coach from 1992 until 1998 and the faculty athletics representative to the NCAA since 1994.

To many, the news concerning McBryde's contract was not new information. Upon returning from Spring Break, several members of the student body were informed of the administration's decision, although the college had not yet officially announced the result of McBryde's contract review.

A group of students, including Tim Host '02 and Mizan Ayers '02, requested a meeting with President

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## College to Hire New Faculty, Eliminate Visting Postions

By SARAH GREEN  
NEWS EDITOR

Over the next two years, 10 out of 14 vacant tenure track positions at Connecticut College will be filled by new faculty. The college will not be renewing the contracts of current visiting faculty once those contracts expire at the end of this year.

"Over the last two or three years the college has been committed to creating a balanced budget," said Helen Regan, Dean of the Faculty. "Money has to be reallocated."

A special staffing committee determined what the appropriate size of the faculty should be, given the college's current circumstances.

"A year ago when we were doing searches, we stopped and left tenure lines vacant," continued Regan.

Requests from each department were submitted to the Special Staffing Committee, which in turn made a recommendation to the Faculty Steering and Conference Committee. The FSCC then submitted its own recommendation to the Dean of Faculty and to the

President. The plan will be presented to the trustees in May, and the board will vote in October. It is unlikely that the trustees will call for a change.

"We haven't done a comprehensive review of the faculty in a long time," said Regan. "We did it in order to achieve some savings—we did it in the context of trying to balance our budget."

Paul Maroni, Vice President of Finance, echoed Regan's statement but said that President Fainstein was committed to keeping academics the college's top priority.

"A lower decrease was expected [for the faculty] than for other parts of the college," explained Maroni. "The budget is what causes this every year. We are committed to a balanced budget."

Maroni said the college expected to save \$500,000 next year because of the reductions in visiting faculty.

"We need to leave some room to introduce new things into the budget," said Maroni.

The budget for next year will still be roughly \$1 million more than

it was this year, in part because of increases in financial aid and salary increases. The iConn project, which will cost between \$5 and \$7 million over several years, poses another challenge to creating a balanced budget.

Vacant tenure track positions will be filled in anthropology, chemistry, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Economics, French, History, Sociology, and Math and Computer Science. The English Department will hire two new tenure line faculty members, and there will be new positions in Botany and Zoology.

Regan denied the rumors that the East Asian Languages and Cultures department would be eliminated.

The adjunct position in Botany and Zoology will increase the size of the tenure track faculty in those departments, since an outside visiting curricular review committee determined that these departments were too small.

"We're one of the fastest grow-

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## Alumni Lectures On Breast Cancer Research

By USMAN AMIN SHEIKH  
ASSOC. NEWS EDITOR

A lecture entitled "Recent Advances in Breast Cancer Research" was held in the Olin Science Auditorium last Thursday, March 28 as part of the biology department's Spring Series. The lecture was delivered by Ethan Cash of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The event was well attended by biology students as well as other members of the campus community.

Cash graduated from Connecticut College in 1997. While

at Conn, he was a pre-med botany major planning to be a physician. But Cash's plans changed after he interned at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. After graduation, he went back to Dana-Farber and got involved in breast cancer research.

Over the course of an hour, Cash spoke about his own research as well as recent developments in the field. Some of the statistics he cited in his lecture were eye-opening: breast cancer, being the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, claims approximately 180,000 new cases each year, and each year 46,000

Americans die from the disease.

Due to unknown factors, women in the US are 4 to 7 times more likely to suffer from breast cancer than women in other parts of the world. Statistically, 1 in 8 American women will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 1 in 28 will die of it.

Cash's lively manner helped him hold the audience's attention during the lecture, which was divided into 3 major segments. The first part dealt with genetics; Cash explained that only 5 to 10 percent of all breast cancer is due to inheritance.

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With the onset of Spring, the Arboretum will transition from barren to lush and attract many a Conn student (Stenger)

## Spring Offers Chance to Rediscover Arbo

### Feature

By CAITLIN GREELEY  
STAFF WRITER

Look around the campus and you will discover an amazing array of trees and plants that are part of the Connecticut College Arboretum. Just beginning to sprout buds, they signify the cycle of rebirth through which nature turns every year.

Although it often remains behind

the scene, the staff that oversees the Arboretum has been working diligently since January to prepare for the spring season. Jeff Smith, who is college's main Horticulturist, and his assistants Craig Vine and Chip McIlwain perform the task of maintaining and taking care of the many different types of plants, trees, and shrubs.

The other chief responsibility of the maintenance staff is planning events and activities in order to bring

the campus community and the public to the Arboretum more often. Kathy Garvin who is the assistant director of the Arboretum staff facilitates the program. She strongly encourages students to participate in these events in order to learn more about the environment.

Although the native plant collection has traditionally been considered "the Arboretum," it actually comprises only a fraction of it. One

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# EDITORIAL & OPINION

## Emphasis on Race Diminishes Oscar Victories

This year's Academy Awards was notable not just for its running time, the longest ever, but also for its recipients. For the first time in history a black woman was named as Best Leading Actress. For only the second time, a black man was chosen as Best Leading Actor; the previous winner was Sydney Poitier for the 1963 film "Lilies of the Field." He was this year's Lifetime Achievement Honoree.

When Halle Berry and Denzel Washington took the stage for each of their respective awards, it was wonderful, dramatic, and emotional. And it was about time. The fact that it took nearly forty years between Washington and Poitier is distressing. Berry's victory being a first is downright deplorable.

The victories, however, have spawned two problems. The first is a wave of self-congratulations the entertainment industry has entered into. While no one would or should argue that it is not a wonderful thing that the Academy honored two black actors for their abilities, one would and should argue that this is by no means an endpoint. The idea that some sort of pall has now been lifted and that true equality has finally been achieved is not only laughable but also arrogant.

Perhaps the more prevalent problem is that the stress on the "racial" victory is taking away from the actors themselves. Washington's brilliant performance earned the first Best Actor nod for a villain since Anthony Hopkins' Hannibal Lecter. Berry dirtied herself up to play a decidedly unglamorous role to the "t." Unfortunately, none of this is receiving attention, all taking a back seat to trumpeting the winners' race. By doing this, the status of the actors' performances is downgraded and implies that they won based on their race. This robs Washington and Berry of much deserved kudos.

The situation was not helped by the actions of Berry and of host Whoopi Goldberg on Oscar night. While Berry had every right to be proud not only of her award but also of her standing as the first African-American woman to be so honored, she came off as slightly hypocritical. Berry gave numerous interviews leading up to the show stating she did not want her race to be a main issue, but then focused heavily on it in her acceptance speech. Goldberg's racially fueled comedy throughout the evening almost made a mockery of Berry and Washington's accomplishments, not to mention that by the end of the night most of her jokes could be considered obsolete.

All of Hollywood, black and white, actors and members of the press, could take a cue from the classy behavior of Washington, who acknowledged, but did not overplay the race factor in his acceptance speech. For years, Washington has exuded dignity and coolness in his on-screen personas, but with his recent actions he has shown himself to be a class act when the cameras are off as well.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Students Question Column's 'Definition' of Marriage

To the editors:

I am writing in response to the article, "Here Come The Brides" submitted by Ms. Sarah Green. Marriage, as defined by The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, is, "1. a. The state of being husband and wife; wedlock. b. The legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife." Therefore, it is actually impossible for there to be a "gay marriage" for a marriage requires a man and a woman to be joined in wedlock. Of course, as any intelligent and rational person knows, or if one does not know one may consult the dictionary, a husband must be a person of the male gender and a wife must be a person of the female gender. The alternative then is a "civil union". Unless "gay marriage" supporters ask for the definition of marriage to be changed as well, though they do not state so, they would obviously be wrong to ask for the status of "homosexual marriage".

Ms. Green also mentions that, "Marriage carries with it civil as well as religious meanings." She is

absolutely correct, the religious meanings are important. But what religion is she referring to? Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Mormonism all denounce homosexuality, so surely one could not be a follower of one of those religions yet be homosexual and want to get married under such faiths. To be of such a faith that denounces homosexuality one cannot then support homosexuality, for to be of a faith one must also believe in the faith's principals. With these four giants of religion removed, one is left with precious little alternative. One cannot then turn and say that these people looking for religious meaning are atheists, since atheism is not a religion. Tell us Ms. Green, what religion(s) specifically where you referring to?

It is also noted that Governor Jane Swift is the fourth wife of her current husband, yet Ms. Green failed to shed light on the conditions of the Governor's husband's previous marriages. Nor did she mention whether his previous wives had died, divorced him, or annulled the marriage, an action that cannot be prevented if one party chooses to initiate it. Mr. Swift might not have had much choice in resolving his marriages. Marriages and divorces are also described as being executed, "[...] at the drop of a hat [...]". On the contrary, marriages take planning, time, money, and many commitments. Even the speediest of marriages requires the couple to find a person to perform the ceremony and a marriage license. Divorces on the other hand are almost

never speedy. As a matter of fact, one would be hard pressed to find a speedy divorce. Divorces typically take many months to resolve, due to the division of all the worldly assets of the couple. True, in the grand scheme of things, over billions of years, a few months may seem like nothing, but it is no "drop of the hat".

-Andrew Bibas '05

To the editors:

In her column last week entitled "Here Come The Brides" Sarah Green asserts that the state of Connecticut, in order to be a "pioneer in civil rights" and "not squander the opportunity to do the right thing," should legalize "gay marriage." However, to consider the idea of "gay marriage" is to grossly misuse the definition of marriage itself. Looking up the word "marriage" in the American Heritage Dictionary, we find that "marriage" is defined as "1. the state of being husband and wife, 2. the legal union of a man and a woman as husband and wife." The term "husband" is equally gender-specific: a "husband," is defined as "a man joined to a woman in marriage." In a so-called "gay marriage," this situation would not exist: in fact, a "gay marriage" would not constitute a marriage at all, but at most life-long cohabitation with marital benefits.

To portray states as "perpetuating discrimination" because they do not endorse assigning the rights and privileges of a marriage to something that by its definition is not marriage is akin to demanding a driver's license for someone who has never driven an automobile but has ridden a bicycle for thirty years. A bicycle does not fit the definition of an automobile, and a civil union does not fit the definition of a marriage. Defense of Marriage Acts, then, clearly are preventing reckless definition of marriage as a type of union that is not marriage, and if accepted as such would completely undermine marriage as an institution. Hopefully, the state legislature will have the presence of mind to adopt such policies for Connecticut.

Green claims that by failing to recognize the paradoxical concept of "gay marriage," instead only allowing a civil union, state governments are implying that "same-sex unions are inferior." There is no evidence for such an assertion. States do not recognize "gay marriages" because they are not marriages by definition. Going back to my analogy above, would it be implying inferiority of bicycles not to recognize them as automobiles? I should think not. The same situation exists here, but supporters of "gay marriages" obviously haven't checked a dictionary before proclaiming the validity of their definitions of "marriage."

Green further attempts to justify "gay marriage" by criticizing the Governor of Massachusetts, Jane Swift, for being somebody's fourth wife. I question how Mr. Swift's behavior relates at all to accepting as marriage a union that does not fit the definition of marriage. While I submit that Mr. Swift's behavior certainly qualifies as something of an "affront to the institution" unless the circumstances involve domestic abuse or adultery, to recognize "gay marriage" as a true marriage qualifies as an equal, if not greater affront. One cannot avoid the fact that two wrongs do not make a right. There is no such thing as a "gay marriage" and there never can be, unless "gay marriage" supporters aspire to redefine the English language.

-Owen A. Kloter '05

### Voice Editorial Based on Misinformation

To the editors:

I would like to respond to some of the issues raised in the editorial of the March 1st issue of The Voice, titled

"Online Registration More Pain Than Gain." The editorial is not only based on serious misinformation but comes at a time when we are already more than half the way through the process and almost ready to begin the implementation phase.

It needs to be pointed out that before we embarked on this task, qualified professionals and experts thoroughly reviewed our current setup and concluded that staying with the outdated AIMS system "means that the College would be, in a very real sense, moving backward." After extensively studying all aspects of the project, they were "convinced that the college will save a great deal of money, literally millions of dollars, if it begins on this new course as soon as possible." Therefore, to put facts straight, the college is not trying to fix something that "ain't broke" as the editorial erroneously assumes.

The editorial goes on to cite a couple of examples of bad implementation in order to argue that we shouldn't go ahead with iConn, while simply ignoring literally hundreds of success stories that suggest otherwise. Moreover, the desire for online registration is NOT "fueled by the knowledge that it will cut down on the number of classes students get shut out of," but by the fact that it will save all of us the hassle of going down to Fanning to pick up course schedules and registration forms, having to check the changes made to it every now and then, and later running from one department to another in order to get signatures of professors once you get shut out of classes. More importantly, online registration is only one tiny part of the project; iConn covers virtually everything - from Admissions to Financial Aid to Registrar to Accounting to Alumni and so on.

It is possible that in the end it might not prove to be a seamless process, as the editorial rightly points out, but that should be totally understandable and expected, given the giant size of the project. It will require a little bit of patience on our part as the different iConn committees try to do everything humanly possible to minimize the possibility of any such hiccups.

So let's hope that everything goes as planned and we do not make any mistakes - at least not the ones that have already been made by others.

-Usman Sheikh '04

### The Smoking Task Force Needs Your Help

To the editors:

The Smoking Task Force was created this semester and charged with assessing the campus climate regarding attitudes about smoking in the residential houses. Students were asked, via the CONNtact, to volunteer to work on the task force. The committee will make a recommendation on the current tobacco smoking policy in the residential houses based on our research of other campuses and the tobacco smoking survey. We ask all students to fill out this survey so they can have input on this policy. This quick, twelve-question survey will be available next week in both Harris and Cro. On Monday, 4/8, the survey will be in Cro from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. On Tuesday, 4/9, the survey will be available in Harris from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. On Wednesday, 4/10, the survey will be available in Cro from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. On Thursday, 4/11, the survey will be in Harris from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. All students who fill out this survey will be entered in a raffle for a book store gift certificate for \$50, \$25, or \$10. The Smoking Task Force thanks everyone for their help.

-Lara Mizrack '03

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# THE POWER TO TAX

ERIC SEVERSON • ...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL



Good day, my loyal readers, and welcome back to the old grind. In case anyone cares, the main event of my Spring Break was a voyage to our nation's capital. This week, I'd like to share some of the thoughts I had while visiting the seat of our national government, as well as my thoughts on an issue which presented itself while we were away.

First, a word of advice: if you make the trip to D.C., I highly recommend a visit to the American History Museum, the Holocaust Museum and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. The history

museum currently houses detailed and fascinating exhibits on everything from Presidents and First Ladies to the great African-American migration after World War I to the various infringements on the rights of Japanese Americans in this country's history. The Holocaust Museum serves as an unforgettable reminder of the most evil atrocity in the history of humanity, and it demonstrates that a human rights abuse anywhere on the planet represents a threat to the human rights of every single one of us. Finally, the beautiful FDR memorial contains four outdoor exhibits which showcase the multitude of accomplishments which Roosevelt made in each segment of the presidency which saw us through a crippling depression and the war which smashed fascism.

Washington certainly has much to make one proud to be an American, but some of what I observed concerned me. First, the entire city seems to be shut down at six o'clock, and the transit system is plagued with poorly-funded stations filled with broken escalators. The city is one of the nation's poorest and most dangerous, which would be a problem anywhere, but especially in the place which symbolizes all that this country stands for. Also, I was distraught over the fact that only four hundred and eighty folks are allowed to tour the capital building each day. I understand that there are security concerns, but this does not seem right in a nation which is supposed to have government "of by, and for the people." Our taxes are paying for the place, and it is only fair that more Americans who visit the capital get a sense of what their government looks like close up.

In any case, the visit was hardly perfect, but it was completely worthwhile and I'd recommend that all Americans make it at some point in their lives. For now, I want to address an issue which appeared a week ago in the Washington Times: President Fox of Mexico is hosting the International Conference on Financing for Development, and he has renewed a call for global taxes to fight third-world poverty. These taxes would be levied upon carbon emissions, international flights and currency transfers, and would be used to fund programs such as improved health care in developing countries.

On its surface, the idea seems perfectly sound to me: why not place a tax upon carbon emissions, which would help to combat air pollution, and use the money to better the lives of people in the third world? However, I also happen to believe in the principle of "no taxation without representation." Since I don't get to vote on who represents me in the United Nations, why should they have the authority to collect taxes from me? This question is so divisive that in 1996 Senator Bob Dole fought for legislation which would pull America out of the UN if a global tax was implemented. It is an issue which deserves our careful consideration.

## BATHROOM HUMOR

BENJAMIN WHITMAN • VIEWPOINT

For those of you who do not have to cope with the tragic reality of coed bathrooms on this campus, consider yourselves lucky. For in Branford and a handful of other dorms, the threat does indeed exist. The everyday bathroom liberties that men and women once enjoyed have been unfairly taken from us. The result is an awkward situation for both sexes who are subjected to each other's company. Suddenly, I now find that single-sex bathrooms at monster truck shows, gas stations, and even strip clubs are more of a luxury than the appalling conditions at Connecticut. Enough is enough. Thus, it is my only hope now that I can put an end to the miserable enslavement of coed bathrooms by bringing the problem to the attention of the public.

When I first arrived, I thought I would make the best out of a bad situation: Try and meet some nice scantily clad ladies, and maybe even set up a web cam and try to turn a profit on the situation... But what I soon found out was that coed bathrooms have no place in the land of the free. Simply put, men and women were just not meant to use the same bathrooms. Before this year I really didn't even know that women had to physically go to the bathroom. Go ahead ladies. Laugh. But most men block out this unfortunate feminine reality. We just don't want to hear or know anything about it. It is our impression that women merely travel to the magical "little girls room" in groups of 2 or more just to talk. We see the women's bathroom as more of a pink, flowery, meeting area, rather than a functional facility. In contrast, men never go to the bathroom in groups; it is strictly a business trip. Consequently, men are left alone and outnumbered against packs of women in coed bathrooms. This situation can be quite intimidating for a man. I don't know if it's stage fright or just an issue of concentration, but it is quite awkward for men to do their business in the company of women. And men are not at risk in the bathroom alone, the shower also presents it's own separate problem. The amount of hair that women seem to lose during a trip to the shower is unfathomable. I have found that I really don't even need to wear shower sandals anymore. The 2 inch tangled layer of hair at the bottom of the drain is the only protection that I need from the shower floor. The urinal is also on the verge of extinction thanks to coed bathrooms. No longer is there a quick in and out of the bathroom. We are now suddenly required to lift the seat? Is this Afghanistan? I think not, I am confident with my aim.

Now I do understand that Connecticut College is currently in a deep state of financial crisis and may not be able to afford single sex bathrooms, however we seem to afford plenty of other amenities. Take for example the 2 items or less express lane at Cro for when you are in a hurry, or the staff of highly qualified "make believe" law enforcement officers that keep us safe here at Connecticut. If we could just cut back on some of these luxuries, we could have same sex bathrooms. I mean I am not asking for much, a shower curtain or some chicken wire should do. Furthermore, I can't imagine that the girl in pink sandals riding shotgun in the stall next to me is all that crazy about my company either. However, when I question a number of CC girls about their impressions of coed living, I was surprised by the female response I received. Most women told me that they really "don't care" about the current situation.

Well gentlemen, it seems that the only way we are going to have some peace of mind is by making women start to 'care'. Therefore, I propose the following: because a boycott would be impossible and potentially very messy, I call on the men of this campus to enact a new motto into their daily routine... "Don't lift". I think that women will certainly begin to 'care' when our aim may "accidentally" stray. Only then will we be able to achieve some true results. Until then, I guess I'll just keep going to the men's bathroom at the local New London Wendy's. Trust me guys, its worth the walk.

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## OPINION

# ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PROBLEMS NOT BLACK AND WHITE

COLEY WARD • VIEWPOINT



"The only reason Ken McBryde was hired is because Claire Gaudiani wanted a black man."

That's the line that was supposedly uttered by a Connecticut College coach at a meeting last semester. That's the line that supposedly inspired Ken McBryde to file a complaint with the college and another with the Connecticut Human Rights and Opportunities Commission. The internal investigation revealed no wrongdoing and the state dismissed McBryde's complaint as groundless.

Last week, McBryde was informed that his contract would not be renewed and he would not be retained as Athletic Director.

Troy Sessoms is the equipment manager at Connecticut College and he is black. Last semester, Sessoms' car was vandalized. The tires were slashed and windows broken. Upset over McBryde's treatment, Sessoms is leaving Conn to take the same job at Montclair St. University.

For those of you that are counting, that's two fewer African-Americans in the Connecticut College athletic department, leaving a total of one remaining. Lynn Ramage, the men's basketball coach, is the lone survivor and says he is staying, despite feeling uncomfortable that he will be next.

Is there racism in the Connecticut College athletic department? Was Ken McBryde hired because he is black? Or was he fired because he is black? Or both? And which is worse?

Allegations that McBryde was hired to diversify CC's athletic department are difficult to substantiate, but it's not hard to imagine Claire Gaudiani getting more than a little excited over the prospect of bolstering her image as a civil rights advocate and equal-opportunity employer. All the better to run for Governor with, you see.

## PUT OFF WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING AND READ THIS INSTEAD

SARAH GREEN • VIEWPOINT



It's the last quarter of the school year. Five weeks until freedom baby. It's around this time of year that the forsythia starts to bloom and the beach begins to beckon. Alas, it is also that time of year when papers pile up precipitously and exams loom on the horizon. It's just as this trying time of year that you realize you're out of good ways to procrastinate. No excuse seems good enough anymore—a nap? Please. That's so "February." Boozing? That's not so much procrastinating as what you do when you stop procrastinating.

So don't put it off any longer! I suggest you sit down and really think of new ways to procrastinate...and yes, that is the first of my list of procrastinatory suggestions. Number two? Make up new words like procrastinatory.

Number three (and this one really works because you can tell yourself you're actually doing work, and hence avoid having to deal with any pesky, lingering feelings of guilt): read outside. Now stay with me you anti-book people. Here's how it works. You take your headphones (you can't possibly read with all that ambient noise outside) and your blanket and you head out to, say, the green. You flop down and put on your CD, roll over onto your stomach, put your head on your book, and go to sleep. If you want, you can even rest your book on your face to shield you from harmful UV rays, or modify the exercise by substituting a towel for a blanket and heading to the beach.

Number Four: Make all your friends hate you. You will be far too busy dealing with the emotional turmoil to have time for pesky, insignificant assignments like term papers that count for half your grade. Which brings me to my next suggestion...

Number Five: Clear your head. There is no better excuse for procrasti-

## CITI IS S\*\*\*\*Y

KELLY F. O'DAY • EARTH HOUSE

Gliding down the largest river ecosystem in the world, the wind in my face and the sun shining, it seemed I had no care in the world. I watched freshwater dolphins jump in the wake, turtles dash away at the sound of the boat motor, eagles, ibises, hawks, osprey, and colorful songbirds fly overhead. I was engulfed in the Brazilian amazon, the most beautiful place in the world. But all was not well. Travelling from place to place for a half month along this vast, beautiful, eternal aquatic paradise also showed me some of the most horrific destruction in the world. I was reminded daily of the fragility and importance of rainforest ecosystems, not only to admirers of beauty and naturalists like myself, but as subsistence of local peoples and mining, logging, and pulp processing companies. Each day summoned me with challenge, and I endured every fashion of extraction. And I was emotionally, ethically, physically, and intellectually weary.

Thousands of hectares of riverbank in Brazil are dominated and owned by one corporation—Cia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD)—a conglomerate of bauxite, alumina, aluminum, iron ore, and pulp manufacturers. CVRD capitalizes on Amazon soil, trees, water, and people in order to provide the aluminum cans, telephone wires, and paper that we use and consume hourly. Annually, CVRD extracts thirty-five million tons of iron ore from Amazonian ecosystems. Rainforest is clear-cut, the valuable wood sold to logging companies, and re-planted with monocultured non-native eucalyptus plantations, later used to create pulp and paper. As I drifted amongst the bright red soil being unearthed by enormous machines, a graveyard of what was once pristine primary forest and a home to people and animals, the alien and piercing energy of what was not supposed to be coldly crept it's way into my soul. It has never left.

During my two-week adventure on the river, I visited five of CVRD's projects, experiencing and analyzing every action that goes into bauxite mining, alumina and aluminum production, and pulp production. The pulp-making facility had a particularly strong impact on me. As we arrived, we donned gas masks, helmets, goggles, and ear plugs. Upward the sky was clouded by constant streams of black smoke exiting the plant. Taking off my mask, I could hardly breathe and the taste of pollution still remains on my tongue. I was astounded that none of the employees of the plant were wearing any of the protection the American visitors wore. Later, walking through the neatly lined, sickly looking Eucalyptus trees, the silence of the millions of passed insects, birds, monkeys, flowers, vines, smells, and sounds that characterize the region was ear-shattering. Taking notes on the propaganda that our trained Brazilian guide was feeding us, I realized where the paper I was writing on came from, and my hand froze.

As we re-boarded the small boat that was our living space for two weeks, I followed with my awakened eyes the stream of smoke emanating from the plant. The blackness drifted across the unusually narrow portion of the river and paused, for all time, over a community of rainforest dwellers, undoubtedly settled there before the plant came. Awareness of the harms the

The Gaudiani era was notorious for its attempts to pad statistics and pander to the all-powerful college guidebooks. So maybe McBryde was hired, at least in part, because he is black. So what? The College promotes itself as a diverse campus, both in terms of faculty and staff. It's no secret that our diversity is produced by carefully calculating the number of minority students we admit and the number of minority professors we hire.

College is a business. Connecticut College sells an education, and the potential buyers are looking for a "well rounded" education. Connecticut College also sells a way of life. Prospective students are looking for a place to spend the next four years of their lives and they want to spend their time in a place that promotes old fashioned values like equality and fairness. Prejudice is a real turn off.

So here at ConnColl we bring in students and professors with different colored skins and boast about how "well rounded" our education is and how "diverse" and "accepting" we are. And the prospective students nod their heads and agree and say, "this is a place where we want to live!" And then they sign the checks. Perception is reality.

Whether or not McBryde was let go because he is black is another question. All signs point to no. An investigation by Affirmative Action Officer Judith Kirmmse into racism in the athletic department revealed nothing and an appeal by McBryde to the Connecticut Human Rights Office was dismissed. In other words, his complaints didn't even merit an investigation.

This is not to say that there is not racism in the athletic department, but Ken McBryde was probably not let go because he is black. He was probably let go because the athletic department is quickly becoming a hostile working environment for coaches and students. Most of the coaches down at the AC have differing views on McBryde's accountability for the problems in the athletic department, but all of them will agree that there are problems. Declining to renew McBryde's contract might well have been the right thing to do, but it was certainly not the only thing that needed to be done.

nating in the spring than clearing your head. I mean, you've just got so much going on—so many papers due, so many scary exams coming up, a plethora of personal problems. You won't be productive until you take a niiiice, loooooong walk in the arbo. Although with creepy guys running around and knocking girls over, maybe you'd be better off staying on this side of Williams Street.

Number Six: Do fun crazy college type things. With only five weeks left, suddenly you realize you haven't had nearly enough wacky—or even zany—antics. You want to have something to hide from your grandchildren one day, don't you? So get out there—sneak that stripper onto campus, hitchhike to New York, even resort to corny prank calls if you have to. You're procrastinating, remember: this is a no-holds-barred, full frontal assault on the very concept of work. Someone has to do it. I think this is a key opportunity for you to really prove yourself.

Number Seven: Become a columnist for the College Voice, and spend your afternoon writing an inane column that the majority of people won't read instead of writing that English paper that's due tomorrow. Or, if Op-Ed doesn't float your boat, write a feature about the President's dog.

Number Eight: I have to say, of all the many procrastinatory methods I have perfected, this is probably my favorite: watch the game. I mean, this is the year my Sox are going to go all the way, right? I would hate to miss a single contest on their road to World Series glory, the first time since 1918. The best thing about this excuse is that you can make it year after year after year after year...

\*Author's Note: I am not condoning or in any way advocating napping, boozing, making up fake words, using books as pillows, making people hate you, walking in the arbo, lying to your grandchildren, consorting with strippers, hitchhiking, prank calls, writing for the Voice, or becoming a Red Sox fan.

employees of CVRD are enduring in order to feed our consumptive habits hit my heart like the dead weight of a eucalyptus tree. Not to mention the daily battles with poverty and hunger these people deal with, while ironically living across the river from one of the most profitable companies in the country and the world.

It was not until I returned to America, to Connecticut College, and to the presence of three Rainforest Action Network activists visiting Earth House that I learned the details of our everyday support of what is occurring in Brazil. The world's largest financial institution, CITIGROUP, funds the exploration, extraction, transport, refinement, and consumption of fossil fuels all over the world. And guess who they get their money from: us. Consumers. Anyone who has a credit card, student loan, personal loan, mortgage, insurance, mutual or pension fund through Citibank or Traveler's Insurance. Yep, your money goes to funding destruction such as I experienced in Brazil. Not only are there projects in Brazil, but Citigroup was also a major financier of the Three Gorges Dam in China; is currently funding a project drilling for natural gas in Camisea, Peru; and right here in our own America Citigroup enabled Pacific Lumber to expand logging of ancient redwoods in California's Headwaters Forest.

Rainforest Action Network is in the midst of an educational campaign of resistance to Citigroup's destructive projects. The goal is not to rid the earth of Citigroup, but to demand that the corporation finance and support sustainable and therefore ethical projects around the world. While the loans made available to people who could not otherwise afford education and basic human needs are a positive aspect of Citigroup, the projects they fund from the earned interest of these loans are ones that our technology, ethics, and intellect have surpassed. Instead of continuing with practices that exemplify and promote our past ignorance, Citigroup could be supporting and creating a way of life that is more indicative of our innovative knowledge and the evolution of human good.

The effects of Citigroup's unethical, unsustainable practices have never left my conscience or my soul, and they will forever endure in Brazil, China, Peru, America, Indonesia, Chad, Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, and Chile. By supporting Citigroup through credit cards and student loans, you also are a participant in these activities. You can be a conscious consumer by educating yourself on the companies you support, cutting up your Citibank credit card, asking for a different provider in your student loans, and letting Citibank know that you do not support their immoral, unsustainable, and archaic practices. Remember, we live in a world where you are what you consume.

For any more information, answers to questions, arguments, or literature, please contact Earth House or just stop by sometime. Also visit [www.ran.org](http://www.ran.org) or [www.shiftpower.org](http://www.shiftpower.org) for more information on Citigroup. There is a better way to live, and a better way to feel about what you support and create in your life.





## ARTS&amp;ENTERTAINMENT

## Art Students Exhibit their work in Cummings Gallery

BY MARISSA ZANETTI  
STAFF WRITER

For the month of April, students at Connecticut College have the opportunity to view the artwork of fellow classmates. This display can be found on the second and third floors of the Cummings Gallery. The genre of the art varies from oil paintings to sculpture to cardboard creations. All of the works are unique and original, showcasing the different styles and emotions of each artist. Though the exhibit definitely deserves a thorough passing over, here are some highlights.

Scattered throughout the floor of the gallery is a collection of cardboard chairs. These chairs were constructed with only pieces of cardboard and glue and were made to hold the weight of the artist. The sheer act of designing and constructing a chair with just these two materials is amazing, only heightened by the creativity and variations of chairs produced by a class of design stu-

dents. Some of the chairs are simply constructed but others are complete with a woven back and a matching footstool. Some look like they would be very comfortable to sit in and others seem to be better suited for looking, but the designs and construction are remarkable.

One of the smaller side rooms off of the main gallery houses a black and white photography exhibit. The images of the photographs are clear and concise. The photographs depict people and cultures from around the world. The black and white film captures each expression of the subjects and finds beauty where color photographs would not have. The gallery on the third floor also shows a black and white photograph exhibit of the nature and sites of the state of Maine. Just as the black and white photographs catch the beauty of its human subjects, the natural objects and scenes are perfect to show both the beauties of Maine and of the photographs. The light contrasts in these pictures are radiant and draw to the photos the eyes of the observer.

Hanging on the stands in the gallery is the computer image works, combining images with poetry or prose. The words and pictures, along with the spacing and design of the graphics lend to the emotion and intention of the artist. One in particular maps out a nighttime journey from South Lot to Harkness dorm while calculating the speed and emotions of the author of this piece. This part of the exhibit shows that computer imagery is as much a work of art as an oil painting.

The wide variety of mediums displayed in this exhibition serves to show the many types of art and the talents of the students at the school. Each piece of work demonstrates the extensive audience that enjoys looking at pieces of art. The talents of the art students are amply illustrated in the works shown in the gallery. Make sure to stop by and check it out before the end of April. The exhibit will be shown from April 1, 2002 to April 24, 2002.



One of the pieces on display at the Senior Art minors' show (Jackson)

## 'Weird' Movie Buoyed by Excellent Performances, Manic Energy

### Death to Smootchy



Rated: R

Length: 1 hours 41 minutes

Starring: Robin Williams, Edward Norton, Catherine Keener, Jon Stewart, Danny DeVito

Directed by: Danny DeVito

Summary: Robin Williams returns from the netherworld of schlock on the wings of this dark, twisted comedy, but the show belongs to Edward Norton.

BY TIM STEVENS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There are some films that seem custom made to fulfill critics' clichéd buzzwords. "An edge of your seat thrill ride," was seemingly created for the arrival of *Speed* several years in the future. *Shawshank Redemption* screams to be called "a heartwrenching story of pain and triumph." For *Death to Smootchy*, its destined moniker is one of my dad's favorites. It is, simply, a "weird little movie."

Robin Williams, finally awakening from the stupor that led to such deplorable films as *Patch Adams*, *What Dreams May Come*, *Jacob the Liar*, *Flubber*, well, you get the idea, plays Rainbow Randolph. Randolph is a Captain Kangaroo-esque children's TV host who, surprise surprise, is really a boozy

jerk who extorts money from parents so their children can appear side-by-side with him during the "Friends Come in Different Sizes" number that is his staple. His greed becomes his undoing as the Feds set up a sting catching him in the act of one such transaction.

For Kidnet, the apparent leader in children's entertainment, such a scandal is unacceptable and thus it is ordained that Randolph must go the way of the dinosaur. His replacement is Edward Norton's Sheldon Mopes, better known as Smoochy the Rhino. Mopes is everything Randolph is not, a vegan who is interested in the message, not the merchandise, and therefore exactly what Kidnet needs. Nora Wells (Keener) a cold-blooded TV executive sweeps into the methadone clinic where Mopes performs in a makeshift costume to former heroin addicts as they drift off into their drug-assisted naps and offers him his big chance at the behest of her boss, M. Frank Stokes (Stewart).

As the Rhino ascends to Barney-level stardom without comprising his vision of the ideal children's television show, more and more of the old guard become displeased with his above-the-board ways. Stokes no longer benefits from the secondary income provided by Rainbow Randolph's off-screen activities and the Harry Fierstein-led charity Parade of Hope finds that Smoochy will not accept their sponsorship because of his dislike of corporate connections. However, at the top of the list of Smoochy-haters is Randolph himself who becomes increasingly obsessed with bringing humiliation, then death to the man he views as his usurper.

He succeeds temporarily by luring

Smoochy to a Neo-Nazi rally by telling the Rhino that it is a children's benefit concert, but when the ruse is revealed, Smoochy only comes back more popular and powerful than ever.

Smoochy, reinvigorated, returns with a new agenda and finally pushes both the old guard and Randolph too far.

Along the way, we meet Randolph's former and Mopes' current agent, the double-dealing Burke (DeVito), a heroin addicted kid's host turned vagrant turned assassin (Vincent Schiavelli, most recognizable as the ghost in the subway in *Ghost* who teaches Patrick Swayze who to move objects), an extremely punch drunk boxer, Spinner Dunn (Michael Rispoli), and his Irish mobster family led by matriarch Tommy Cotter (Pam Ferris).

The seeming incongruity of these characters living and interacting in the same universe is mirrored in DeVito's direction, which plays the bright, garish colors of children's programming off the grime of New York City and shadowy bars, offices, and alleyways.

At first, these clashing directions seem to overwhelm the film. The first fifteen minutes, in which we meet the fallen idol and the rising star, are awkward and difficult to watch as the elements just do not gel. However, the moment Mopes enters the world of Kidnet everything just seems to click. From that point forward, the movie is hitting on all cylinders.

This is not to say, of course, that it is a perfect film. As one can tell from the synopsis, many of the characters seem to be pulled directly from the Big Book of Character Cliches and hoisted on to the screen. Stewart, a very funny man who no one



seems to know what to do with in movies, is largely untapped. And the gag about Schiavelli's inability to stay awake is, if one forgives the pun, tired from the first time it happens and yet it still happens several times after. The movie is clearly not for everyone and for every person, like myself, who enjoyed it, you will find someone who hated it just as equally.

That said, the majority of the performances are top-notch. Keener's Wells is perhaps the biggest cliché of all, the Dragon Lady producer who has slept her way up the chain of command. However, the reason for it, that she is trying to find the "real deal," a children's host that makes her feel as safe as the singing hippo of her childhood, breaks her out of a one note prison.

The real news though is Robin Williams and Edward Norton. Williams indulges in his anti-social side as he screams, curses, destroys, and eventually falls apart. Yes,

Randolph is essentially a horrible cartoon, a potty-mouthed caricature of a human being, but Williams chews scenery so well as him that it does not matter. It is just wonderful to see him cut loose again without the need to be squishily sentimental and teach us all a lesson about love or some other nonsense.

Edward Norton, on the other hand, wisely chooses to under-act the idiot hero that is Sheldon Mopes. The hints of an angry man underneath, revealed for brief flashes, are all the more effective because Norton does not overindulge in them; they are noticeable, but never over the top. This, along with throw-away references to an anger management class in college, combine to produce an excellent bit of foreshadowing of the path that Mopes is soon to traverse.

All in all, my dad's quote describes it best: what a weird little movie.

## Dance Club Performs Semi-Annual Concert

BY HEATHER DE BARI  
STAFF WRITER

I recently had the wonderful opportunity to watch the Dance Club's latest production, "Everything Sacrum." Student-produced and choreographed, the dancers perform eleven individual pieces featuring ballet, tap, hip-hop, and modern styles on April 4, 5, and 6 at 8:00 P.M. in Meyers Dance Studio in Crozier-Williams. The club has at least fifty dancers who not only perform, but are responsible for setting up the stage and changing lighting jells.

Dance Club started over twenty-five years ago, and from speaking with the dancers and choreographers, I realize that there is still a great deal of motivation and enthusiasm among the members of the club. Before they rehearse, an aerobics instructor or faculty member usually warms them

up. Several dancers have stayed on campus during Spring Break in order to practice their program and to make sure the stage will be properly set on the nights of the performances.

One of the co-presidents of Dance Club, Alexis Miller, informed me that the title of the dance program, "Everything Sacrum," is a play on words for the phonetically similar "Everything Sacred." The sacrum is the lower part of the spine where the last few vertebrae fuse. The first two pieces set the tone for the entire show. One, more upbeat than the other, was full of energy. I felt that they did a good job of choreographing. Their positions on the stage did not interfere with the dynamics of the program. There were several small dance solos throughout the piece, enhanced by dancers coming from both sides of the stage and joining in the lively music. The second piece, whose music was much softer, consisted of slow,

elegant movements. I really enjoyed the dramatic music of this piece. It was during this time that I recognized the purpose of the title: most movements consisted of keeping the pelvis and legs still while making circular movements with the upper body. The sacrum is the vertical center of the body that allows for such slow, graceful movements. Such movements involving the sacrum were an integrated part of the eleven pieces of the show.

I was impressed with the performance, and in watching them practice at the beginning of the week, it became apparent how dedicated Dance Club is in making sure that the concert runs just as they intend. Admission is only \$3 for students and \$5 regular admission, so catch "Everything Sacrum" this weekend.

Jordan Geary

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# Holy Moley That's Spicy Guacamole!

By COLEY WARD  
STAFF WRITER

Zavala is the new hot restaurant in New London. The salsa is hot, the quesadillas are hot, and the guacamole is ridiculous. Offering what is touted as "authentic Mexican cuisine," Zavala does not disappoint and does not mess around.

The restaurant, which is located adjacent to the train station, offers a casual atmosphere and a bar located at the entrance provides a chance to unwind with a margarita or another mixed drink. The décor is traditional Mexican — a rainbow colored archway is located at the entrance to the bar and tables are decorated with

candles. Our first course was a bowl of black bean soup— a subtle, dark, creamy starter that offered a pleasant respite from the fire that raged in our mouths from the first few bites of fried pasta and salsa (fried pasta, which has an airy consistency similar to a Cheeto, was served in place of tortilla chips).

The appetizer was a bowl of guacamole and chips and quesadillas. We were warned when we ordered that the quesadillas were not the usual American cheese and fried tortillas. Here, the tortillas were thicker, though still light and crispy, and were served with a green sauce and lettuce.

The guacamole was very good,

but not for the weak of heart. I established a policy early on in the meal of trying to stay one step ahead of the spice. This was the kind of spice that would wait a few moments until after the swallow and then creep up on you. I decided that as long as I didn't pause after swallowing, and instead continued to shove in mouthful after mouthful, I would be ok. It was a marginally successful concept.

The service at Zavala was attentive and friendly and did their best to ensure that patrons' glasses were always full of water. I drank my water faster than the servers could fill my glass, but they tried hard. The bartender got a nod for mixing what

was perhaps the finest Shirley Temple I have ever tasted.

When the main course finally arrived — stuffed peppers — my mouth was on fire and I was not sure if it was up to handling two giant peppers, but the entree was surprisingly mild and tasty, a refreshing change of pace. Stuffed with subtle cheeses and covered with a sweet tomato sauce, the peppers hit the spot.

Prices for entrees at Zavala range from \$11 to \$14, appetizers are generally \$5, and soup is roughly \$4. The restaurant is located at 2 State Street.

## Life After Harris



By JESS DESANTA

One of the most appalling phenomena of college life is the certainty of being denied culinary fulfillment. It's pathetic but true. Ask any dining hall veteran: you line up every night, stomach empty, heart hopeful, ID in hand only to leave less than sated and often guilty about the three M&M blondies you ate attempting to make up for the lack of palatable fortification. Our own humble Harris extends a noble effort to please that goes above and beyond most university dining services, and this should not go unnoticed. Still, at home dinner is a mind, body, and soul-nourishing event. It is nutritional closure for the day. It's love manifested in mashed potatoes and pot roast. At school, dinner is the date who had to get home before things even became interesting. Add to the anticlimax that is mass-production the tray- and- silverware ritual and what you get is a dining experience that is institutional at best and purely life-sustaining at worst.

Conn's answer to this universal collegiate plight comes in the form of a monthly opportunity to partake of catered cuisine in a decidedly non-dining hall setting for only six dollars, unquestionably the best bargain on campus (although for \$35, 625 a year I feel like we should be eating this way every night). Knowlton on the Green, an event my friends and I discovered within months of our first semester at Conn and one to which we have henceforth been salivating devotees, may just be the juiciest of the school's best kept secrets. Need a little history to whet your appetite? In the spring of 1999, General Manager of Catering and Cash Operations, Frank DeCaro entered Knowlton on the Green in the NACUFS menu contest. Knowlton received second runner-up in the contest, only after competing with other specialty college restaurants in the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Not too shabby, eh?

The most recent "Knowlton," as I have lovingly come to refer to the event, was held last Wednesday and Thursday, March 27 and 28 in the respective dorm's dining room. My adventurous quintet and I arrived promptly at six-thirty, ready to be pampered. After being led by one of the student waitresses to a table set with candles and refreshingly clean and unbent cutlery, we were served fresh bread with a mysterious, hummus-y condiment my well-cultured friend Cecile identified as pimento dip. The pimento was innovative and even mildly intimidating at first, but it turned out to be a satisfying complement to the bread and a totally workable alternative to plebian butter. Given a choice of appetizer, as is custom, the majority of us requested mushroom caps with sausage stuffing while Katie, the maverick of the party, selected the black bean soup. Though the mushrooms were enough to make my Knowlton experience worthwhile, they were so rich that a few of the less hearty among us weren't

able to finish. Katie seemed to enjoy the soup, contributing in her charmingly laconic way that it was "like chili." Next came the salads, though it is an injustice to insult them with such a prosaic label. I am talking about meticulously arranged creations involving greens, goat cheese, hazelnuts, and strawberries, medleys that looked as if they should be shellacked rather than eaten. The cheese, nuts, and berries, though quite the eclectic combo, made for a delectable meshing of tastes, and I would like to extend kudos to the great mind behind that one. Stomachs already swollen, we prepped for the culmination main course. This time, it was Cecile who strayed, ordering the stir-fry while the rest of us partook of tortellini with red-pepper cream sauce. Cooked just right, the pasta lived up to the standards of its previous courses beautifully. The sauce was indulgent, but light enough to be a far cry from the heart-attack- on- the- plate cream sauces that less enlightened establishments use. Finally, we were presented with ginger pudding, a parfait of whipped cream (the real stuff) layered with gingery mousse, sprinkled with ginger cookie crumbs and garnished with tendrils of ginger in its purest and most pungent form. In the movie A Bronx Tale, Chazz Palminteri's character claims that every man is allowed three great women in his lifetime. Well, if the same theory can be applied to desserts, this one was undoubtedly my second great one. (Special thanks to our heroine, Katie, for gracefully volunteering to sacrifice her ginger pudding for soulless sherbet so that the rest of us could savor the four remaining parfaits).

My friends, eating can and should be so much more than caloric intake and nutritional homeostasis, easy to forget when we are numb to the inherent sacrifices of residential college life. As your food writer and peer I would be doing you a disservice if I did not wholeheartedly recommend that you treat yourself to Knowlton on the Green as often as possible, or at least that you try it once before you graduate. Just check the Contact for upcoming menus. Complete with a multi-course gourmet meal and loads of atmosphere, Knowlton on the Green will make you feel like the angora in the commercial who eats out of a crystal goblet. Even if Easy Mac and PBJs are more your style, everyone needs an occasional break from drinking out of the toilet bowl.

## Point/Counterpoint: *Panic Room*

### 'Panic Room' Fails to Deliver Thrills

By NANCY DINSMORE  
ASSOCIATE A&E EDITOR

#### *Panic Room*

**Rated: R**

**Length:** 1 hours 52 minutes

**Starring:** Jodie Foster, Forrest

Whitaker, Jared Leto, Dwight

Yoakam, Kristen Stewart

**Directed by:** David Fincher

**Summary:**

With a cast headlined by Academy Award winning actress Jodie Foster and directed by David Fincher ("Fight Club" and "Seven"), "Panic Room" seemed like a surefire winner. I walked into the movie with high expectations and was unfortunately disappointed. This mediocre thriller suffered from a flimsy script and major plot weaknesses that even an actress such as Foster could not overcome.

The movie starts out well enough, with suspenseful music and ominous views of a threatening New York City. Foster stars as Meg Altman, a woman who has recently separated from her husband and now has to care for her somewhat resentful teenage daughter Sarah (Kristen Stewart) on her own. In the beginning, the audience sees the tension between mother and daughter, but this is never played out as well as it should be. Foster finds a fabulous and spacious apartment in the middle of the city that comes conveniently equipped with a "panic room," a hidden, impenetrable steel room where one can hide if burglars should happen to break into the house. The room is outfitted with surveillance cameras of almost every inch of the house, as well as food, a toilet, and other supplies. As it turns out, the panic room also contains millions of dollars that the previous owner had hidden. Only the impossibly whiny nephew of the previous owner, played by Jared Leto, knows this and he has hired the security expert who built the room (Forest Whitaker) and a street thug (Dwight Yoakam) to help him extract the hidden millions.

From the moment the villains begin to break into the house the movie starts its slow descent into mediocrity. These villains are so bumbling it is impossible to be truly frightened by them. They break into the house not knowing that Meg and Sarah Altman have already moved in because Leto's character is confused about the number of days the house was supposed to be in escrow. That this minor detail escaped him is a bit difficult to swallow, because he has gone into such meticulous detail about other aspects of the break in. The presence of Dwight Yoakam's character is also confusing. He is clearly the crazy, evil villain of the trio, but adds nothing to the plot except that he will kill anyone and everyone for the money. What is confusing, however, is why the nephew feels the need to hire a street thug to break into a supposedly empty house.

The house is not empty, of course, and Foster is lucky enough to realize that there are people in the house and get herself and her daughter "safely" into the panic room. The panic room turns out to be anything but safe, however, since the burglars make it clear that "what [they] want is in that room." To complicate matters even more, Foster forgot to hook up the phone in the room that connects them to the outside world (not to mention that her daughter is diabetic and will soon need another dose of insulin, which is of course outside the panic room). The movie reaches a stalemate when it becomes obvious that the criminals can't get into the panic room and Foster and her daughter won't come out. Due to a number of plot twists (including the aforementioned phone and insulin situations), Foster ventures out of the panic room to get a cell phone (but oops, no signal from a steel room!) and the insulin. This allows some suspense and action to be thrown into the mix, as well as for interaction between the thieves and their hostages. It becomes clear that Whitaker's security expert is the "good" bad guy who is only there because he was desperate for the money. This generates inevitable conflict between the thieves, especially Whitaker and Yoakam, which makes the characters appear blundering and humorous.

The movie does have some very interesting cinematography, with sliding camera shots that snake around the house and through the walls. The acting is also not bad; it is merely undermined by the flimsy script. The dramatic situations that are the most interesting, such as the relationships between Foster, her daughter, and her ex-husband (who is drawn into the plot only to be beaten into a semi-coma when Foster manages to cut into the phone line and call him over) are not sufficiently explored and take a back seat to the formulaic suspense plot. This plot hinges on a number of hard to believe situations, such as 911 putting Foster on hold and the cops showing up hours after her husband calls them.

"Panic Room" held the promise to be much more than what it is, but in the end it fails to deliver a truly thrilling scenario.



### Thin Plot Does Not Impede Tense Thriller

By TIM STEVENS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you are searching for the David Fincher of *Seven* and *Fight Club*, with their hyper violence and constant sensory assault, you are better off looking elsewhere. However, if you are hunting for Fincher of *The Game*, simply his style without his trademark overindulgence, or just a well-crafted thriller, then *Panic Room* does not disappoint.

Erecting a movie on the flimsiest of scripts from David Koepp is a daunting task and it is understandable why some critics, who have come to expect some sort of overarching social message and numerous layers with Fincher's films, left theaters disappointed. The fact is, however, that it just is not that sort of movie. This is not social commentary disguised as an anarchist film or a serial killer film. It is just a straight thriller and if done correctly, there is nothing wrong with that. This is one done correctly.

Jodie Foster, paradoxically both as beautiful and as basic as she has looked in years, and the sexless Kristen Stewart as recent divorcee mother Meg Altman and her daughter Sarah are a realistic family unit. Sarah is exactly the sort of daughter you would expect a woman like Meg to produce. Their interactions, bordering on more friend-friend than mother-daughter, are the kind of relationships single parents often lapse into with their children just following a divorce. Prior to the home invasion, as Meg and Sarah eat their first dinner in their new home, Sarah offers to her morose mother, "F\*\*\* him," to which Meg responds, "Don't...I agree, but don't." The scene is so no frills, no bells or whistles real it is absolutely heartbreaking.

It is because of this foundation that the subsequent hour and a half, while the home invasion unfolds, works so well. What begins as a story of two frightened women hiding in a metal box slowly evolves into an illustration of the lengths a mother will go to protect her child.

The criminals, Burnham, Junior, and Raoul, (Whitaker, Leto, and Yoakam respectively) play off each other well, both partners and antagonists in the crime. Burnham is the quintessential criminal with a conscience who would like nothing more than simply to take what he has come for and leave without laying a finger on anyone. Played with sadness and intelligence by Whitaker, he is a cliché, but a well-played one. Raoul starts off cold and disinterested and ends up a variation on Jack Torrance in *The Shining* (right down to a shot directly reminiscent of the Kubrick's film rendering of the story). Yoakam does such an excellent job embodying this role that there is never a moment where the viewer thinks, "Hey, isn't he that country singer?" Finally, Leto's Junior is a whiny rich boy with a drug habit and cornrows who lends the film much of its early dark humor through both his lines and what happens to him.

Fincher reins in most of his stylistic tendencies without sacrificing, resulting in an interesting looking film. His one mistake is the excessive use of a trademark of his, the moving-along-through-objects shot, best exemplified in the nerve impulses shot in *Fight Club*. Here, most likely attempting to fill up time, it is as if Fincher tells the audience, "Ever wonder how propane travels through a hose? Well, it might look something like this." It is impressive at first, then uninteresting, and finally occurs enough to qualify as self-parody. A meatier script could have prevented this needless overuse of an otherwise effective technique.

In the end, however, the film's success falls squarely on Foster's performance as she fulfills her end of the bargain. Foster plays Meg wounded, panicky, crafty, and enraged and hits each characteristic perfectly. Without her, the ending of the film, a pale attempt at a happy wrap-up, is unforgivable. With her, it is merely unfortunate.

## MOVIE TIMES

### Hoyts Waterford 9

High Crimes (PG-13) Fri-Thu (1:10 4:00)  
6:50 9:40  
Big Trouble (PG-13) Fri-Thu (12:05 2:10)  
4:30 7:15 9:25  
Clockstoppers (PG) Fri-Thu (12:00 2:30 4:50)  
7:20 9:45  
The Rookie (G) Fri-Thu (12:20 3:20) 6:30  
9:20  
Panic Room (R) Fri-Thu (1:00 3:40) 7:10  
9:50  
Blade II (R) Fri-Thu (12:40 3:15) 7:00 9:35  
E.T. the Extraterrestrial (PG) Fri-Thu (12:30  
3:30) 6:45 9:30

Showtime (PG-13) Fri-Thu (12:50) 6:35  
Ice Age (PG) Fri-Thu (12:10 2:20 4:40) 6:40  
8:45  
Resident Evil (R) Fri-Thu (3:50) 9:15

### Hoyts Groton 6

National Lampoon's Van Wilder (R) Fri,  
Mon-Thu (5:00) 7:30 9:50, Sat-Sun (12:40  
2:50 5:00) 7:30 9:50  
High Crimes (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:50)  
6:50 9:30, Sat-Sun (1:15 3:50) 6:50 9:30  
Panic Room (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:45) 7:00  
9:35, Sat-Sun (1:00 3:45) 7:00 9:35  
The Rookie (G) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:15) 6:30

9:15, Sat-Sun (12:30 3:15) 6:30 9:15  
Clockstoppers (PG) Fri, Mon-Thu (5:10) 7:20  
9:40, Sat-Sun (12:45 3:00 5:10) 7:20 9:40  
Blade II (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:00) 7:15 9:45,  
Sat-Sun (12:50 4:00) 7:15 9:45

### Hoyts Mystic 3

Kissing Jessica Stein (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (3:45)  
7:00 9:30, Sat-Sun (12:45 3:45) 7:00 9:30  
Death to Smoochy (R) Fri, Mon-Thu (4:00)  
6:45 9:25, Sat-Sun (1:00 4:00) 6:45 9:25  
Monster's Ball (R) Fri-Thu (3:30) 9:20  
A Beautiful Mind (PG-13) Fri, Mon-Thu  
6:30, Sat-Sun (12:30) 6:30

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# Professor Hybel Receives Fulbright Scholar Award

BY ELIZABETH KNORR

STAFF WRITER

Professor Alex Hybel of the Connecticut College Government Department has recently been named the recipient of a Fulbright Scholar Award in Japan. The distinction includes a teaching grant that will allow Professor Hybel to live in Japan and to teach at two Japanese Universities during the 2002-2003 academic school year.

The U.S. government in 1946 to facilitate international educational exchange and to promote understanding between residents of the US and people from other countries created the Fulbright Program. The grants given by the Fulbright Program allow selected participants

to engage in teaching and research while observing the political, cultural, and economic institutions of a foreign nation.

Professor Hybel will teach three courses in US foreign policy and international politics to Japanese college students. One course will be taught at the University of Tokyo, which is a public institution, while the other two courses will be taught at the private Sophia University. Though the grant is designated for teaching, Hybel will also be conducting some of his own research in Japan, as well as traveling to South Korea and Taiwan.

Speaking of his goals, Hybel says, "I hope to learn how Japan responds to developments in the international environment and the

effect that Japan's political, social, and economic systems have on its foreign policies."

As a professor of government, Hybel has a special interest in international relations, US foreign policy, and Latin American politics. Courses that he teaches at Connecticut College include International Relations, Democracy in Latin America, and US Foreign Policy, among others.

"As a professor of international politics," said Hybel, "I believe strongly that in order to present a perspective that goes beyond the United States, you really have to assimilate as much information as possible."

Hybel has been able to use the perspectives he has gained from his

experiences abroad. He notes that he is especially empowered in teaching courses on Latin America because of his extensive travel in that area, and he says that it is this same "perfect opportunity to relate first-hand experience" that he hopes to gain from his time in Japan.

In the past few years, Hybel has developed an increased interest in Asia, but he notes "That is the one region of the world that I still do not know well." For this reason, he chose Japan as his destination when applying to the Fulbright Program. He feels the Fulbright Program was very interested in selecting people with a limited knowledge of Japan and an interest in substantially broadening their knowledge.

Hybel will travel to Japan in

mid-August with his wife and two daughters, ages ten and fifteen. They will reside in an apartment provided for them by Sophia University and his daughters will attend The American School in Tokyo. The family will return to Connecticut in mid-February.

This marks the second time that Hybel has attained the distinction of Fulbright Scholar. In 1989 Hybel received his first Fulbright Scholar Award and taught at the University of Uruguay Law School in Uruguay.

His other distinctions include a National Science Foundation Award in 1986 which he used to do research for the book *How Leaders Reason*, two Pew Foundation Awards with which he did research using case studies on relations in the

US and two Central American countries, and a Carnegie Foundation Award. In 1995 he was named the Susan Eckert Lynch Professor of Government at Connecticut College. In applying to the program, Hybel put special emphasis on his newly published book, *Made by the U.S.A. - The International System* (2001). His previous books are *The Logic of Surprise in International Conflict* (1986); *How Leaders Reason: U.S. Intervention in the Caribbean Basin and Latin America* (1990); *Power Over Rationality: The Bush Administration and the Gulf Crisis* (1993).

## Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Begins Students Discuss Reverse Racism

BY NATALIE BOLCH

STAFF WRITER

This week marks the beginning of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a period of thirty days devoted to familiarizing students across the country with the accomplishments of Asian citizens in America.

The Connecticut College Asian-American Student Association (CCASA) is responsible for organizing all programs involved with the month at Connecticut College, and has planned a variety of events from art exhibits to speakers to musicians.

The CCASA organization focuses on a different theme each year. During the upcoming month they will explore the topic, "The New Generation: Moving Beyond Stereotypes." According to CCASA Chair Reynaldo Punzalan, the college is trying "not to focus on the traditional Asian fields such doctor and lawyer." In order to achieve this goal, Connecticut College is welcoming visitors such as world-class musician Anoushka Shankar, and filmmaker Renee Tijima-Pena. Shankar has been playing the sitar since the age of nine and was taught to do so solely by her father; she now composes music of her own, and plans to discuss her pursuits with students before her performance.

It is an honor for the college to host Renee Tijima Pena, an award-winning writer and director of the Asian film *Who Killed Vincent Chin*. Punzalan expressed his desire to broadcast the fact that Asians are successful in many fields beyond those with which they are habitually associated.

Not all of the month's events center around guests to the college. Aim Sinpeng, an international student and the freshman ATLAS representative, conveyed a true sense of satisfaction with this week's art exhibit, which she contributed to,



Korean Drummers perform outside of Unity House as part of the kick-off to Asian Pacific American Month (Punzalan).

with works of her own. Many other students supplied pieces of Asian artwork that they brought from home, helping to more closely connecting the entire college community to the Asian culture.

Besides being a tradition at Conn, Asian American Heritage month is also a yearly staple on campuses throughout the United States. According to Aim Sinpeng, the organization's objective is not only to educate those students who are not of Asian descent, but also to further inform second and third generation Asians about their background.

"Many Asians hold onto their roots," said Sinpeng, "but many others have completely lost touch with their identity."

Cesar Palana '05 added, "Said's Orientalism

expresses the notion that Westerners tend to fabricate the idea of what a real Asian is." It is his hope that Asian Pacific American Heritage month will help to inform the college community as to the true lifestyle of Asians and Asian Americans.

CCASA is also proud to co-sponsor many of the events taking place this month with other campus associations including the campus Film Society, On Stage at Connecticut College, and the anthropology department.

"We work really hard to get other programs involved in our events, whether it be financially or even politically," Punzalan stated.

According to the CCASA Chair, co-sponsorship is yet another way to encourage campus-wide participation in events.

## Connecticut College Student Attacked

continued from page 1

working with the FBI to apprehend the man. The student described her attacker as a six-foot tall Caucasian of medium build, with short brown hair, a scruffy face, and in his thirties. While the police were able to trace portions of the suspect's flight, they ultimately lost his trail.

"The FBI and the police have given us reason to suspect that this person may be linked to other dangerous crimes," said Catherine WoodBrooks, Dean of Student Life. "The suspect appears to prey on women."

This is the second such assault in New London within a week. Last Tuesday, a man fitting a similar description raped a New London

woman in her forties.

That man was described by the Day as about 6 feet tall, thin, unshaven, and between 35 and 40 years old. According to the Day's description, that suspect has brown eyes and light brown to reddish hair in a military-style cut. That man also approached his victim from behind.

WoodBrooks urged students to be "on very high alert," and said that the college has been in contact with the Coast Guard Academy and Mitchell College.

"I'm urging people to lock their doors, to walk in pairs in well-lit areas, not to walk or jog alone," said WoodBrooks. "Campus Safety is always available for an escort." WoodBrooks also urged students, even when jogging in pairs, not to

wear headphones. Because the assailant seems to approach his intended victims from behind, headphones would limit a person's ability to hear him coming.

Gallows Lane, where the student was attacked, is adjacent to Williams Street and is close to the college's arboretum.

"Gallows Lane runs along the arboretum, it's a really isolated road," said WoodBrooks. "I have always said all along that I think the arboretum is a place where people should never go unaccompanied."

WoodBrooks said there was no truth to the rumor that a Connecticut College student was raped near the Coast Guard campus last semester. However, a few days ago the Coast Guard Academy did notify

Connecticut College that a woman on the Coast Guard campus had been chased.

The last time there was an assault on a woman by a stranger on the Connecticut College campus was 10 years ago. The woman, who was not a student at the college, was walking with her two children in the arboretum.

Anyone who sees a man matching these descriptions or behaving suspiciously should call Campus Safety at extension 2222 or 111. Do not approach the suspect as he is considered dangerous.

## Alumni Discusses Breast Cancer Research

continued from page 1

"While 12.2 percent of all women will develop breast cancer, the risk increases significantly to 50 - 85 percent if any one of the two breast cancer genes BRCA1 and BRCA2 is diagnosed," explained Cash during the lecture.

The second part of the presentation discussed treatment, which can involve surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy.

"60 percent of breast cancers express Estrogen Receptor," he explained as he used a stool from beside the podium to represent a camp set up by cancer in the body. "Interruption of this pathway is important for the treatment of ER positive breast cancer."

According to Cash, Tamoxifen is the most commonly used inhibitor, but another anti-estrogen, Rapamycin, is being studied for Tamoxifen-resistant patients.

The last segment of the lecture centered on "treatment toxicity." This is especially important in the case of the left breast due to its proximity to the heart. Cash described how respiratory maneuvers during treatment might be used to reduce the chance that cardiac volume will be affected. The lecture ended with a question-answer session in which the audience sought answers to queries related to the field of breast cancer research.



Ethian Cash '97 discussed recent advancements in breast cancer research (Sultan).

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# The Wisdom of Sacredness

BENJAMIN CARMICHAEL • PRELUDE



As I sat, googling and oogling in baby jargon at one of my teacher's baby boy, I was reminded of the incomprehensible joy of life – of how not only each one of us seems to defy logic, but that all of humanity, all that we deem earthly life, so defies statistics that we are lead to believe that we were meant to be. Though he has not been taught anything academic, though he cannot either speak or walk, and though he does not even yet recognize himself as a distinct human being with responsibility in this life (the mere word life means nothing to him), we laughed together, me of eighteen years and he of not even one. It is remarkable to me how children, and even infants, need not be reminded of the fact that life is delightful. Indeed, often it is they who, with a tug at our shirt-sleeve and a mere gesture towards a butterfly or flower, remind us of the details that embody the beauty inherent within this life.

It is human nature to consider humanity sacred. One need only consider all the world religions to be reminded of this fact. The language of religion imbues human life with significance, rendering the human body an object composed not of atoms, but of clay molded by the delicacy of a craft-man's fingers. Although the modern world is becoming increasingly secular and thus interpreting religious texts in a more secular manner, humanity refuses to be reduced to particles and animalistic muscle. Modern idioms such as "heart and soul" suggest that we, as a human race, associate the locus of emotions and thus manners of being with various parts of the body. Regardless of how much physics or biology the majority of us learn, it is in our nature to be constantly reaching for something more, for something sacred in humanity.

The inviolability of the sacredness of humankind is currently facing its greatest opponent in all of history.

With the rise of biotechnology, stem cell research has promised to cure many of humanity's most deadly diseases, the decoding of the human genome has promised to do nothing short of change human nature, and the cloning of animals and humans alike has promised to change our notion of

humanity.

Replacing a person's heart has become common practice; it has required that we slightly alter our concept of the heart as the seat of love and human emotion. Likewise, the use of mood changing drugs has required a modification to our notion of emotional freedom (Dr. Fukuyama of Johns Hopkins University has questioned whether or not either Napoleon or Caesar would have felt compelled to conquer all of Europe had Prozac been available). However, the gray or black area, depending on your perspective, comes when the intervention of modern medicine into natural preservation reaches the level of replacing parts of someone's brain, or, what is worse, of cloning someone so that they may, in old age, create a "replica" of their youthful body into which they may place their brain and so live perpetually. I realize that this latter portion is merely science fiction, but the point remains; how can we continue in the current scientific vein while it promises to undermine our concept of humanity, and negates the sacredness of mankind?

We are all familiar with the premise of being able to genetically design a child – of being able to select hair and eye color, of ridding them of disease, of giving them a high I.Q., etc. Similarly, I hope, we are all familiar with that ominous foreboding that we feel in our stomachs as we hear of such things. We react this way because we were to do such things, all the sacredness of human life would vanish. No longer would conceiving and raising children be an act defined by the triumph not only of human life, but also of human love. No longer would life be defined by that wonder of life felt so acutely in the presence of young children, emblems of the innate beauty and magnificence of life overcoming all odds.

We must take as truth Democritus' assertion that "medicine cures the diseases of the body; wisdom, on the other hand, relieves the soul of its suffering." At a certain point scientific knowledge ceases to aid in the preservation of mankind, and serves only to destroy that which we are so fortunate to possess. We must have the medicine to help those who are suffering, yet we must have the wisdom to acknowledge and preserve the sacredness of mankind. To think otherwise, to think that we are wise enough to change human nature without deconstructing all that we hold sacred in this world, is the ultimate act of ignorance.

## Spring Offers Chance to Rediscover Arboretum

of the lesser-known facts is that the entire campus now qualifies as the Arboretum. This encompasses several plant collections including many of the trees on campus, the Mamakoke Island and Bolleswood Natural Area.

Another is the Caroline Black Garden, which is a "wonderful secret," according to Garvin. Recently named a "Garden for Peace" by the Atlanta-based "Gardens for Peace" non-profit organization, this garden is located across from the College's main entrance.

The various arboretum areas of campus are utilized by many different groups, and facilitate teaching, research, conservation study, recreation, and public education. The most heavily maintained ones include the Native Plant Collection,

the Caroline Black Garden, the greenhouse, and the trail systems on campus. Different kinds of upkeep including pruning, raking leaves, and cleaning have been going on throughout the winter to keep the Arboretum looking its best and maintaining its health.

According to Smith, the lack of snow this year was good for Arboretum workers who were able to do their work almost uninterrupted. However, the current drought concerns Smith, but he believes that the main collection will help it get through this relatively "waterless" period.

The Arboretum offers a variety of events and programs designed to involve people with nature. Free tours begin on Sunday, May 5 at 2 PM and continue every Sunday through the end of

October. On the first Sunday of every month, tours of the Caroline Black Garden are available. A campus walk is offered on the second Sunday of every month, and is a great opportunity to learn more about the many plants including American Witchhazel, Grand Fir, Weeping Beech, River Birch, and the beautiful cherry trees among others. On all other Sundays, volunteers lead tours of the Native Plant Collection.

This spring, a Wildflower Garden walk, a lecture presentation on herb gardens, and a gate-building workshop will be featured. There are also many brochures outside the Arboretum Office located in Olin 107, which provide instructions for self-guided tours.

# College to Adjust Faculty Positions

continued from page 1

ing majors on campus," said Phillip Barnes, Chair of the Zoology Department. "We've been putting in proposals for the last five or six years...There have been years when we've had so few courses that there have been sophomores who haven't been able to get into life-sciences courses. You're frustrated but you have to look at the college-wide situation. If a tenure track position is going to move from one department to another you've got to have a very strong argument for that move."

The English Department's positions are two of those that will not be filled for another two years.

"We had three empty tenure line positions and we were not given permission to fill any of them," said George Willauer, chair of the department. "The college is under budget pressures and every department submitted requests, and we were turned down."

A department must undertake new searches every time it hires a new professor, whether or not that person has tenure track status.

"For the department," said Willauer, "there is just as much work for [filling] a part-time position as well as a full-time position."

Visiting professors, although qualified, do not advise students, and may not be as invested in the college community as professors in tenured positions. Yet visiting professors are less expensive than their tenure line counterparts. For this reason, some of the 10 tenure track positions which have been approved to be filled will have to remain vacant until the '03-'04 academic year, or be filled by visiting professors.

"It's a way of easing into the full cost," explained Maroni.

"We don't have the capacity to enroll these searches all at once," added Regan. Departments across the curriculum will lose visiting faculty, including science, foreign language, psychology, and an administrative position in Art History.

Possible effects of these cuts might be "a small increase in class size in some situations and some reduced availability in some departments," according to Regan. The drawbacks are counterbalanced by the hiring of new tenure track faculty. The challenge, said Regan, is for the college to find "a judicious balance between a small faculty and putting its resources in tenure positions."

The student-faculty ratio, which was adjusted to measure the student body more accurately, remains 11:1. Despite the constancy of this statistic, Regan said there could be a small increase in class size and reduced availability in some departments.

The college, which will add 30 more students to next year's freshman class, will then be at its current maximum capacity.

"The faculty doesn't have to grow," said Maroni, who explained that the only new hiring would be to replace faculty who leave or retire.

Regan stressed that the upcoming adjustments in faculty positions come as a result of hiring almost 40 new faculty members in the past four years. Regan described the adjustments as "systematic and thoughtful," saying, "We've reaffirmed our commitment to building a strong faculty."

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# Can We Be Trusted? Conn Chooses not to Renew AD's Contract

continued from page 10

one of the leaders of the group confronting President Fainstein.

And it was these events, and sentiments such as those of Host that has led to my questioning.

What was the reasoning for all of the confusing details? Why could they not deliver the straight facts? Why hide the truth? Why can we not be trusted?

In the spring of 2001, for a brief period of 4 hours the Connecticut College Tennis Program had been indefinitely suspended do to budget constraints. The problem with this situation was not the end of Camel Tennis, but it was the fact that at the meeting to announce the decision, no reason for why the tennis team was expendable over other programs was given, or the fact that the men's and women's tennis teams would not be allowed to raise the money to support themselves that was unsettling. And furthermore, the decision to suspend the programs was later rescinded because of a

communication break down between students and faculty on PPBC.

In the spring of 2002, the athletic Director was released. Again, the issue was that students were lied to about the situation even though they fully knew the truth, rather than given the honest truth.

I am not asking for anything great with this rant. I am not asking for the students to be involved with every important decision that the administration of Connecticut College makes. That would be a terribly naive demand from a simple sports' writer. However, most of us in the Connecticut College community are coming of an age where these types of decisions do not need to be hidden from us or distorted for our benefit. What I am asking for is that the administration to feel that they do not need to hide the truth from us for whatever reason. We can handle it. We may not like the decisions being made, but we can handle them. We, the students of Connecticut College, can be trusted.

## Female Dogs and Weight Sleds

continued from page 10

We banged out sets of an exercise called the dead-lift ("dead" nearly referring to my left big toe as I let my stance get slightly wider than it should have just before the weights crashed back to the floor). We then enjoyed a wonderful exercise inappropriately named "good-mornings" (no morning could ever be "good" for me if I woke up with that much weight attached to my back).

"But enough quads, lets hit the hamstrings!"

So we blasted the backs of our legs using a rubber band that elastic-fighters in a third-grade classroom would kill for, and a sled. Ah the sled... To me, growing up with New England winters, a sled was always something that I took pleasure from, not something that I dragged across

a parking lot with forty-five pound plates stacked atop it. And while carrying one of those numerous forty-five pound plates out to the parking lot Campus Safety Officer Mike saw me and simply stated, "By the look on your face, I'm gonna assume you are not stealing that." He assumed very correctly.

After "sledding," we took out the rubber bands again and blasted the abs. With Phil completely relaxed and under control and me doing my damndest to hide my fatigue, we compared our repertoire of "bar" jokes.

We laughed while we lifted, but were very focused at the same time. I was able to see how seriously Phil takes his workouts and his competitions (the next one being only a few weeks away in Texas. Wish him luck), and was also able to experience first-hand how serious one

would need to be in order to endure the, as previously described, "kinky" workout methods. Phil proved to be a great trainer and coach, pushing me through all the trouble spots while also motivating himself to new levels and to stronger weights.

So next time, when you see Phil in the weight room, or carrying his gallon of milk from class to class, show some respect. I didn't, and as I learned for myself, those exercises are not as easy or as crazy as they look.

Message to the kids: Learn from my mistakes that payback is not the female dog. The female dog is the nearly 400-pound sled that you have dragging behind you over rough pavement because you thought you were funnier than you actually were.

## Women's Lacrosse Poised for Rewarding Season

continued from page 10

"I have to say, we played really well, but we have been plagued by a lot of sickness and injury making some of these games even more difficult than normal. I wouldn't base the outlook of our season on these early competitions as there is much more to come," stated Hitchner.

After this tough loss to Trinity, the Camels headed north to the woods of Maine to play Bowdoin in an attempt to break the .500 mark on the season, but once again lost a good fight under the wrath of the Polar Bears 4-10.

At press time, these Lady Camels are holding a 2-3 overall record, but they hope to change that as they look forward to facing Wesleyan College. Don't let any of the above words defray you from support of this women's lacrosse team. They are a hard working bunch, and look as they will grow before our very eyes into a successful and confident bunch of players. At the moment the momentum may be down, but the wins will come and perhaps the next time you go to watch a game it will be moving upward and forward leaving you to hold your head high, knowing that this is Connecticut College's Women's Lacrosse Team.



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continued from page 1

Norman Fainstein in order to discuss the decision. Approximately fifteen students crowded into Fainstein's office on the Monday March 25th to air their concerns about the Athletic Director's review and to discern if, in fact, a final decision had been made. Fainstein told the students that no decision had been made and that no contract had been terminated as of that moment.

Host and Ayers came into possession of a letter, signed by Fainstein and dated March 11th. The letter informed McBryde that his contract with the college would not be renewed.

"The accuracy of [Fainstein's] statement came into question," declares Host.

Spurred by the discovery of the letter, Host and Ayers hastily organized students for another meeting with the President. This second meeting, however, did not take place in Fainstein's office. Instead, about 25 students walked over to the President's house and knocked on his door at about 8:45 on Tuesday night, March 26th.

"It is a little surprising," admitted Fainstein, "when fifteen or twenty students show up without calling."

The students presented the President with a letter asking for an investigation into the review. They also quizzed Fainstein about his statement the previous day concerning McBryde's status. He maintained that the process was still ongoing. "We [the administration

and McBryde] decided on how the process would work," said Fainstein. "I was not in a position to violate this agreement last Monday. I had agreed that there would be no disclosure and I did not want undermine the process."

Some students were frustrated by the results of this second meeting. "I really started to feel," Host says, "that there was a veil being placed over students' eyes and that shared governance was a joke. Decisions were made without student input."

"From the beginning," says Ayers, "the review process seemed to be handled in an unprofessional manner."

The administration, however, denies that the review was unprofessional. Regan feels that there were "no flaws" with the review process and that the questions asked were appropriate. Both Fainstein and Regan reiterated that students are not aware of all the duties of the Athletic Director and thus cannot be asked to comment fully on how his duties are performed. Student input was only one factor in the decision not to renew McBryde's contract.

An outline of the review process was created jointly by McBryde and the administration. Among the requirements specified in the review was the need to consult with members of the Student Athletic Advisory Board and to ask these members specific questions related to the Athletic Director and whether he/she would recommend the Athletic Director's reappointment.

Although the nature of the questions could not be revealed, Host claims "the questions in regards to the students were not directed at the duties or responsibilities of the Athletic Director. Nor was there any recommendation asked for, which was specifically stated in the contract."

Ayers, who, along with Host, serves on the Student Athletic Advisory Board, agrees: "In that meeting, it appeared that the review board had a set agenda. The questions that were asked showed their lack of understanding of the Athletic Director position. The questions were largely based on rumors and hearsay as opposed to our input concerning his performance."

Fainstein and Regan declared that there would not be an investigation into the review process and they do not expect a change in the review policy for such positions as Athletic Directors in the future.

Neither Ayers nor Host are satisfied that this issue should be put to rest and still feel that an investigation would be appropriate. "From my perspective," declares Ayers, "there were too many careless mistakes in a major review that would ultimately affect a person's career and livelihood."

The college will conduct a nationwide search for a new Athletic Director. Fainstein was careful to point out, though, that the change in personnel does not represent a shift in the athletic philosophy or goals at Connecticut College.

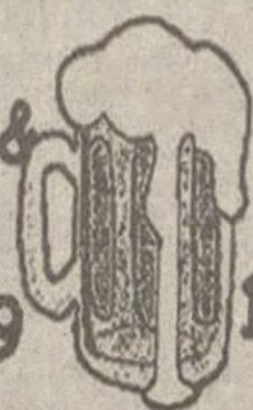
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# SPORTS

## Life Lesson #21502: Female Dogs and Weight Sleds

Everyone knows that a picture is worth a thousand words, but apparently the eight hundred thirty-five that I printed roughly two months ago painted the wrong picture. In an article about Phil Najemy and the rest of the throwers on the Conn College Field team (see Spicing Up Your Workouts, issue 14, 2/15/02), my futile approach to humor made the group's "different" approach to weight-lifting seem flat-out silly. Well I have learned my lesson, and I have learned it the hard way.

Shortly after the article was printed Phil called me on my misconception and, rightfully so, requested a follow-up article. For the rebuttal Phil suggested that I come try the exercises that I so playfully described. Request granted; what better way to take my medicine than to have it force-fed to me?

So on a Monday afternoon, during the weight room's prime hour of four o'clock, I donned a borrowed pair of blue, high-top Converse All-Stars (the flat-soles were necessary to safely execute some of what we were about to embark upon) and stretched carefully, trying to be prepared for anything Phil could possibly throw my way. As I stretched he whipped through his sets of squats, easily handling a weight so heavy that it warped the bar slightly, even before he took it off of the rack.

When he was done we adjusted (actually, mostly he adjusted, for I was not even strong enough to move the rubber bands that he had attached to add more resistance) the rack to prepare my power-lifting debut. Not as powerful as you may have thought.

The first few sets were about getting the form down, and, under good instruction from Phil, I took to it rather quickly. The next few were about sheer survival; the bar became heavier and dug into my shoulder blades creating the absolute enjoyment of metal-on-bone across my back. At first (and then again, at second) I could not hold it. Phil made two fantastic catches, saving me both the embarrassment of dropping the weights amidst an interested crowd (think: "Hey, who's that skinny kid playing with all of the strong kid-toys?"), and from the hospital bill after both of my arms were stripped from their sockets. Failure wasn't something I let stop me though, and I bounced back finishing my last two sets.

I was not going to let Phil break me. If he could handle the nearly permanent bruise that stretched across the back of his neck and shoulder blades from the weights he was using, than I could suck it up and battling through. Unfortunately, the more I battled the more the breadth of his exercise repertoire expanded; kept throwing exercises at me.

continued on page 9



**RYAN WOODWARD**  
Reading the Break

## After Slow Start, Men's Lax Anxious to Win

By BONNIE PROKESCH  
STAFF WRITER

The Connecticut College Men's Lacrosse Team may be lacking wins, as their record is currently 1-4 (0-3 in the New England Small College Athletic Conference), but they are not lacking confidence. After coming off of a loss to Bowdoin in overtime last Saturday, the Camels are ready to step up their play and are hoping to end up with a winning record. In fact, the men are striving to win every game for the rest of the season.

Last Saturday's game tested the team, forcing them to reveal their resilience to bounce back after a devastating 15-8 loss to Trinity. The Trinity game proved to be somewhat of a wake up call to the extremely confident Camels, yet they did not fold. As midfielder Mike Hasenauer '03, who scored 3 out of the 8 goals against Trinity, commented, "We came off of a really tough loss against Trinity, and we were disappointed in ourselves. The Bowdoin game was a measure of what kind of a team we truly are. Although we started out rough, we brought it back together in the second half and came back to bring a really good team into overtime."

Defenseman, and Pre-Season All-American, Clancy Galgay '03 added, "We came out really flat and struggled defensively in the first half, but we played well in the second half and brought the game into overtime. It was nice to see us come back after a bad game against Trinity and a bad first half. Hopefully we can carry that level of play, focus, and intensity throughout the rest of the season."



After a 1-4 start, Men's Lax is prepared to do whatever it takes to achieve a winning season. (Brown)

Tri-Captain Nick Marwell '02 reiterated the resilience of the team in stating, "I've been impressed with our ability to ride through the losses. Everyone is staying really positive."

The Camels revealed their focus and determination in the second half of the game last Saturday, outscoring

the Polar Bears 5-2. Although they ended up losing in overtime, the Bowdoin game restored the team's confidence and trust in itself. The men know that they can come back and have a winning record this season. In fact, many members are already promising a winning season.

When asked for his thoughts on the rest of the season, Tri-Captain Tyler Volpe '02 proclaimed, "We shouldn't lose a game from here on."

Galgay echoed Volpe, stating, "Everyone on the team expects to win the rest of our games. We think we can play with anyone in the

country, it's just a matter of coming out and playing like we know we can."

"Last year at this point, we were 2-4 and went on to win the rest of the games of the season, finishing 4th overall in NESCAC," explained Hasenauer, putting the season in perspective. "We are looking to follow what we did last year. Its time to start turning it on, and everyone's ready to do so."

The coaches have devised a plan for success. The players, however, must stay on track and implement this plan. As Shane Kaiser '04

remarked, "We have great, more team oriented players than last year, but in order to be as successful as we can, we need to play within the structure our coaches have given us."

NESCAC is arguably the most competitive Division III conference for men's lacrosse, and the Camels' schedule remains difficult for the remainder of the season. With only two non-conference games (against Skidmore and Springfield) left this season, the team has a rough road ahead.

Nevertheless, doubts are virtually nonexistent. As Volpe remarked, "if we play right, we'll crush [our opponents]."

Hasenauer added, "We fought back after losses when a lot of other teams would have folded. We have the talent, the coaching, and the desire to win the rest of the games this season."

Kaiser captured the sentiments of the team, claiming, "We are as hungry for wins as any team who lost four in a row would be. I don't think we can be satisfied at this point. We know what we have to do."

The Camels are hoping to do what they have to do to pull off a win against Bates this weekend in one of their mere four home games of the season.

## Women's Lacrosse Poised for Rewarding Season

By NORA MIRICK  
STAFF WRITER

Well, spring has finely come to this little college campus. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, and it's time for women's lacrosse! Lead by captains Liza Hansel, Anna Hitchner and Anna Trafton, these ladies are ready for an all-star season. Comprised of an even 50-50 split of returning players to freshman, the team has an even balance of experience and youth to draw from, in addition to a new coach and assistant coach, Anne Crosby and Debbie Lavigne, respectfully.

Last year's season was a bit of a disappointment for most, and after the previously renowned program ended 2001 with a losing record, many changes were made in the program. These changes proved to get the ball rolling and inspire an extensive off-season of captains' practices and individual training. When it came for opening day, these players were more than ready to go.

"I don't want to say that this is a rebuilding season for us. The ratio of freshman to returning players is about normal, so I don't think that that will have an effect on us overall. We have a lot of talent and we are all dedicated to making this a good season. I really think we can make this happen," said Hitchner.

Another major change in the women's lacrosse program from previous years is in the coaching staff. Anne Crosby is the new head coach and has taken immediately to this energetic team, giving them more than necessary and pushing them to reach for the best within themselves.

"Both Anne and Debbie have been great," commented Hitchner. "They really work with us and will keep working with us until we get everything. The vast knowledge they bring really makes a difference and they are really dedicated to helping us and making us a better team."

The combination between talented, committed players, and dedicated, knowledgeable coaching has proved to be the difference for this team early on in the season as the Lady Camel's opened the season defeating Alfred University while down in St. Petersburg, Florida, 14-6. They followed this up with a 13-10 win over Colorado College. The Camels then returned to Connecticut with



Tri-Captain Anna Hitchner is one of Conn's veterans looking to avenge last year's disappointing season. (Brown)

a comfortable 2-0 opening record.

New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) competition began on March 23, as the ladies lost to Middlebury College, 5-17. It was a tough loss to begin the NESCAC season with, but what these Camels really needed was, "more practice working together," said Hitchner, "we are trying a new zone defense that we have never used before and it takes a little time to get used to."

It is also hard to judge the first real game of the season to harshly as the Camels were facing one of the top ranked teams in the nation.

Playing with a 2-1 record, the Camels took on Trinity College at home in the hopes of bringing the weight of the season more in their favor, but alas, victory escaped them as they fell 6-17.

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## Can They Trust Us?

By MATT PRESTON  
SPORTS EDITOR

Can we be trusted? Do the administrators of Connecticut College trust us, the student body? This is a question that has been thrust into my mind most recently in a meeting with Connecticut College President Norman Fainstein and Dean of the Faculty Helen Regan.

In my short career here in New London, and my even shorter career working for the Voice, I have covered two of the three sporting controversies that the Athletic Department has undergone during my tenure: the first being the termination and then re-admittance of the tennis program last spring, and now the issue over the status of now former Athletic Director Ken McBryde. While I do not expect people such as President Fainstein to treat me as if I were an intellectual equal, or feel the need to explain the reasoning and justification behind every decision the college makes, I would like that they not feel as if we need to be sheltered from such decisions.

As I left the President's office on Monday afternoon after sitting in on a discussion about the McBryde issue, as I did when I left the AC last spring after the announcement of the termination of the tennis program last spring, I was even more confused on the topic than I had been before. Each conference was delivered in a way that made it seem as though the goal of those leading the meetings was to discuss only procedures and who's who on certain committees, and never the simple, straight forward answer.

Case and point, the first question asked to President Fainstein last Monday by my colleague Dave Byrd

### Personal Perspective

was simply put: "What is the status of Ken McBryde, has he been fired?" Fainstein's response, right off the bat, was unclear, and to the effect of: "Well, yes and no..." After five short minutes into the back-ground of Ken McBryde, and the nature of the contract that he signed in 1997, the President came out with the more definitive answer of, "And after review [Connecticut College] has decided not to renew Mr. McBryde's contract."

And it is not just your humble sports editor who has gotten this type of treatment.

It was in a letter from the President written on March 11th that McBryde would find out his contract would not be renewed. In the letter, both the President and former AD decided that neither would make the letter, or the news contained within, public. Yet, for one reason or another, the letter was brought into the public light, and into the hands of several students. These students then questioned the president on the relevance of the letter and the decision to not renew McBryde's contract, fully knowing that he would not be with Connecticut College after June 30th. Yet, even though they were fully aware of the decision, President Fainstein informed the students that no formal decision had been made in regards to the review process that had been taking place all year.

"I really started to feel that there was a veil being placed over students' eyes..." said senior Tim Host.

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## Camel Scoreboard

### Men's Lacrosse:

3/27, at Trinity, 8-15  
3/30, at Bowdoin, 9-10 (OT)  
4/3, at Wesleyan, 4:00 p.m.  
4/6, vs. Bates, 1:00 p.m.

### Women's Lacrosse:

3/26, vs. Trinity, 6-17  
3/30, at Bowdoin, 4-10  
4/3, vs. Wesleyan, 4:00 p.m.  
4/6, at Bates, 12:00 p.m.

### Men's and Women's Rowing:

4/7, vs. Colby with Amherst  
4/13, at WPI with MIT and Williams  
4/14, Bearce/Tuneski Cup vs. Coast Guard  
4/20, at Holy Cross with Tufts and Ithaca

### Sailing:

3/31, The Duplin Trophy at Tufts, T9th of 12  
3/31, Boston Dinghy Cup at Harvard,

13th of 16  
4/6-4/7, Yale Team Race

### Men's Tennis:

3/29, vs. Tufts, 0-7  
4/1, vs. Wheaton, 5-2  
4/3, at UMass Dartmouth, 3:00 p.m.  
4/6, at Bates, 2:00 p.m.

### Men's Outdoor Track:

3/30, Connecticut College Invitational,  
7th out of 7

4/6, Trinity Invitational  
4/13, Wesleyan Invitational

### Women's Outdoor Track:

3/30, Connecticut College Invitational,  
3rd out of 6  
4/6, Trinity Invitational  
4/13, Wesleyan Invitational

### Women's Water Polo:

3/19, at Whittier, 2-7  
4/6, at Brown, 10:30 a.m.