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THE COLLEGE VOICE

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, APRIL 18 2011

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SENIOR THESIS DANCE CONCERT

OPINION



MIGUEL SALCEDO / STAFF

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10

"Conn Is What You Make It" (But So Is Everywhere Else)

JOHN DODIG
OPINIONS EDITOR

Conn was my first-choice college as a high school senior. I liked it for a few reasons: because nobody from my high school had ever come here, there are no frats or sororities and I wanted to have a car on campus. I only knew one other incoming freshman as a new student, and I hadn't seen her for four years before matriculating, so I really didn't have any way of knowing what life at Conn is really like.

Due to this lack of Conn-tacts, I relied pretty heavily on college guidebooks like those put out by

Princeton Review and Kaplan and websites like Unigo, StudentsReview and College Prowler. These three sites boast reviews by actual students. It seems ridiculous now to think that I made such a big decision without even staying overnight in New London, but what may be more ridiculous is the fact that I trusted these reviews so implicitly.

I remember reading in the 2007 edition of the Princeton Review guidebook that Conn is full of "cool nerds." I remember that phrase especially, because at the time that sounded like the best thing imaginable.

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Academic Priorities versus Athletic Spirit

A critique of Conn's sports philosophy and values

JOHN KELLY
STAFF WRITER

Stepping onto the Connecticut College campus means stepping onto a campus that strongly adheres to the liberal arts tradition. The mission statement of the College strives for an appreciation of "the connectedness of the mind, body and spirit" through, among other things, both academic and athletic pursuits. The end result of this development of personhood is ideally that students will be "responsible citizens, creative problem-solvers and thoughtful leaders

in a global society."

However, at a school that is part of an academically rigorous conference, where students are inevitably going to be challenged in more than one area, a difficult question arises: Are their roles as varsity athletes and students equally valued? The philosophy and values that can be found on the athletics page of the school website claims that "student athletes are an integral part of our college community." But to what extent is this sentiment a reality on our campus?

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AOL CEO Tim Armstrong '93 discusses career path since Conn

ELLIE BENNER
WEB CONTENT EDITOR

To say that Tim Armstrong '93 is passionate about media is an understatement. The CEO of AOL recently worked out a merge merged with the Huffington Post in an effort to make AOL a more content-oriented company rather than an out-of-date Internet provider. Commentators and analysts thought this was a risky move, but it is all part of Armstrong's vision for an easily accessible news media with strong content. Combined with Patch, a site focused on providing hyper-local journalism to communities, AOL is now well on its way to providing an empire of necessary content to the American people.

Armstrong graduated from Connecticut College in 1993 with a double major in economics and sociology. His first job out of college was teaching at Wellesley College for a summer program called Exploration, which enrolls high school students in classes over the summer. His media career began when he founded a newspaper for young people in the finance community in Boston, MA. He later

created the first consumer Internet magazine at International Data Group, a Boston-based technology publisher. Before joining AOL, he was the Vice President for Advertising Sales at Google.

Since his days playing lacrosse at Conn, Armstrong has become one of the loudest voices in the debate about the future of journalism. I spoke with him last Monday on his way to work.

Do you have any professors or classes that you felt shaped your experience at Conn?

Yeah, I think there are a couple — one was Professor Cruz-Saco, in the economics department. I did my senior thesis with her on the eradication of the cocaine trade in South America, and that had a big impact on me. Professor Gay was a great professor.

What sports did you play?

I played lacrosse for four years and then I rowed crew for a couple years, freshman and sophomore year, and then I coached the women's ice hockey team. Fran Shields, the athletic director, was my coach.

What dorms did you live in while

at Conn and which was your favorite?

I lived in the Plex for three years. I lived in Wright, Marshall and Morrison. My senior year I lived in Harkness on the first floor right by the green, which was great. I felt like I earned it after three years in the Plex.

Can you talk about your involvement in Patch and how you see it evolving in the future?

Patch was something I started on a personal level that I funded and co-founded with another person who's at AOL with me now, Jon Brod. Basically, Patch was formed because in my community [of Riverside, Conn.], we had a real lack in information. As the economy got worse, there was less and less journalism in my town and there was a lot of missing information online. So Patch started as a personal project to see if I could help solve the issues in my town. As we got going and realized it was broader and broader, we decided to ramp up and do a much bigger project. I think Patch is in about 800 communities across the U.S. It will go up to 1,000 communities this

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Floralia Lineup Announced

Matt & Kim • Hoodie Allen • Wicked Peach • Shake the Baron • Dom

RACINE OXTOBY &
KRIS FLEMING
A&E EDITORS

Ah, Floralia. That solo cup sea of debauchery, henna tattoos and mosh pits. For many Conn students, this end-of-the-year event is something to anticipate, especially when it comes to which big band is scheduled to perform. This year, the anticipation started as far back as autumn, when a Facebook page

created by Matt & Kim revealed they would be coming to Conn. The page quickly disappeared and the official news has only just been announced.

Here, we in arts and entertainment bring you the details on who the bands are, and why you should get pumped. To get you ready for this exciting cornucopia of Pitchfork-approved hipster rockers, here's the low-down on all of them.

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ABROAD PHOTO CONTEST



1st Place: Dana Wilson; Victoria Falls, Botswana. For 2nd, 3rd place and Honorable Mentions see thecollegevoice.org

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THE COLLEGE VOICE

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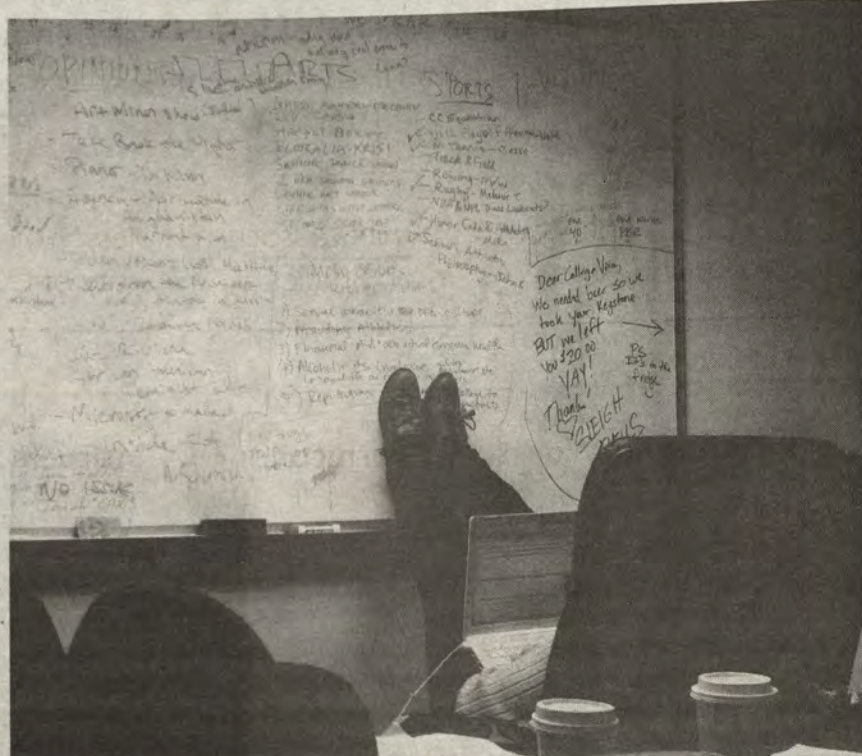
goodbye and good luck
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Editorials

This morning I awoke to my own voice mumbling, "Wake up. Wake up." My dream was nightmarish: I was sitting in a fancy dress, drinking wine at a graduation party on the night of May 22nd. Members of my graduating middle school class were walking around with adult bodies and kid faces. My friends from the class of 2012 had just won an Emmy for their award-winning television show, and my fellow graduates were wandering aimlessly, bumping into walls. Everyone collapsed drunk and tired on the floor of the same bedroom, and the next morning, still in my dream, I was trying to stir them awake. "Wake up!" I was yelling at them. "What are we going to do today? What are we going to do tomorrow?"

I have heard several times too many that graduating college means entering the "real world," a world "outside the gates" that is bigger and broader than this one. This exhausts me. It suggests that we've taken a four-year departure from reality and will be shoved mercilessly back into it, sheltered and undefined. It suggests that the day after graduation, we will enter a world more real than the one we've experienced so far. Granted, there are many aspects of life at Connecticut College that contribute to the surreal sensation of living in an aspiring utopia. We live amidst an impeccably maintained arboretum, on an oval campus with set boundaries. Our buildings face in towards the center like the common green of a puritan village. We have been hand-chosen to pursue a shared goal of intellectual development, and so find ourselves bound up in the unspoken understanding that we will all be active members of this community. Thus our speech is littered with trademark terms like Napkin Notes and Camel Cookies, acronyms like CELS and CAT, the AC, KB, JA, '41, '62, and SAC. The trajectories of our days align: class time's till four, often interrupted for lunch around 11:40 or 1:05, gym's after 4, Harris floods at 6:30, the library overloads around 9. From the *Conn* to the *Can*, we are constantly faced with invitations to involvement, and in turn prompted to reevaluate our relationship to this college and to each other. Here, in this graspable-sized community, we have a safe place to try on different roles—leader, activist, athlete, scholar.



It's insular on purpose.

What counts as the real world, anyway? Surely the time before college wasn't the real world either—we were sheltered by home and high school. When we start raising families, we'll be creating a comfort zone for ourselves, busy sheltering others. When we're old and diapered, we'll be sheltered by retirement homes and grandchildren. The cliché "when you step out into the real world," should really be "when you step out into this transitional period that will probably only last between five and fifteen years," but then, that doesn't sound nearly as sexy or dangerous. The hardest part for me is the shift in title, not lifestyle: I've defined myself as a student since before I could read. That part of my identity will be gone, at least for now.

To use the term "real world" fails to do justice to the depth and breadth of our experiences at Connecticut College. In this oval village I've felt worried, proud, overwhelmed, in love, unsafe, stagnant and stimulated. We are living, breathing participants of this world, and have hardly been immune to the tumult, confusion and span of emotions native to the broader one at large. Our experiences here at Conn have been as real to us as next year and the year after and the

year after will be. We are functionally prepared for what is just a transition into a different, but equally real, period of our lives.

The next issue of the *College Voice* will be led by next year's Editor-in-Chief, the talented and passionately determined Jazmine Hughes. She, like I, joined the *Voice* as a freshman, and I remember her as a young face with big ideas and a confident writing voice. I'm proud of our staff, and the things we've accomplished this year: we publish twelve pages week after week, full of well-written, well-designed content. We blog and tweet and copy edit like it's our job. Our office is bustling on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, and we have fun together. Our contributors are curious, talented students, not working for credit or for pay. And I have no doubt that Jazmine will take the paper to bigger places.

Although I still get nervous about leaving, it's easy to predict my reality the morning after graduation. I'll wake up in my childhood bed in my parents' house. I'll read the front page of the *Times*, watch music videos and make scrambled eggs. Whatever comes next, I can handle after breakfast.

'Til next time,
Lilah

Free Speech

To the editor:

It was with great disappointment that I read Sam Norcross's piece "A Left Without A Right" (4/11/11). As the 2002 co-founder and Vice-Chairman of a vibrant, 200+ member Conn. College Republican Club until 2005, at which 30-40 people often appeared at our weekly meetings, it is hard to believe there is no organized conservative presence on campus. Our club was heavily involved in the political issues on and off-campus in the early part of this decade. We brought the then-U.S. Congressman for Conn's district, Rob Simmons, to campus to speak, and brought conservative authors as well. We also

volunteered for Simmons's 2002 and 2004 campaign victories, as well as successful candidates for New London municipal offices and statewide. We held debates with the College Democrats (formed in response to our vocal presence), and promoted widespread and spirited debate on a variety of hot-button issues, not the least of which was encouraging—we thought with success—a campus that promoted and appreciated diversity of thought and opinion along with more conventional diversity issues. Unafraid to speak out, we made Conn a more aware, less apathetic place. While conservatives have had little reason to cheer developments since those years, this may be changing, and more importantly, in fair or foul politi-

cal weather it is extremely important that a moderate to conservative perspective on the issues of the day be heard above the overwhelmingly liberal perspective generally on offer at Connecticut College. I implore those of a moderate to conservative bent at Conn to re-organize and again foster the civil and political discourse we introduced to campus in our day. If you can articulately state and defend your position, you will almost certainly be shouted at, but you will never be shouted down.

Owen A. Kloter, Esq. '05
New York, NY

Voice Reunion



In an act of nostalgia and an effort to reconnect with our history, the editors of *The Voice* hosted an editors' reunion, inviting twelve members from past decades to return to the College and share their experiences as both staff members and students. In a panel, the editors shared with us memories of typesetting an issue and of "staging the news," of the novelty of co-education and of letters containing instructions of where one should keep their horse on campus. Their stories all carried a theme of dedication, gratitude, and delight. We feel the same way.



THIS WEEK

APRIL 18, 2011

tuesday

Lecture: The Intersection of Race and Gender in American Elections

1:15 PM

Charles Chu Room

Guest speaker: Evelen Simien, Associate Professor of Political Science and African American Studies at University of Connecticut.

wednesday

Student Lecture/Panel: LGBTQ in the Prison System

4 PM

Charles Chu Room

Learn about issues affecting LGBTQ people in the prison system, including several guest speakers.

Oh Megan Workshop: Fornication 101 instructed by Megan Andelloux

8 PM

Ernst Common Room

Expose and educate yourselves on topics like "petting kitties" and other anal adventures. Oh Megan is Megan Andelloux, a certified sexuality educator, who travels the country teaching about safe, happy and sexy sex. Participation is highly encouraged.



thursday

Tea-Time with Dean Claudia Highbaugh

4:30 PM

LGBTQ Resource Center

As part of the annual celebration of "GAY-pril," Dean of religious and spiritual life Claudia Highbaugh will discuss religious views of homosexuality.

Daniel Martin Magic Show

9 PM

Evans Hall in Cummings

A magic man comes to campus.

**Curator's Talk: Professor Barbara Zabel on Contemporary Portraiture**

6 PM

Lyman Allyn Museum

Dr. Barbara Zabel, Professor of Art History and Curator of "Face Off" at the Lyman Allyn, will address the issues of portraiture raised by the artists included in Face Off. Her talk will be followed by a tour of the show. \$5 members and students, \$10 non-members.

friday

Faculty @ Work: Charles Hartman

Hood Dining Room

11:30 AM

Professor of English, Charles Hartman will be presenting his research during his sabbatical in Greece. Hartman will discuss how translating poems discovers the intimate behavior of words.

FNL: Hood Internet

10:30 PM

1962 Room in Cro

Monster mash-up duo Hood Internet promises to "have you dancing all night long." See for yourself!



saturday

Drag Ball

10 PM

Alice Johnson Room

Drag yourselves to Cro.

ongoing

FACE / OFF**Portraits by Contemporary Artists**

April 10 - September 18, 2011

Lyman Allyn Art Museum

The show includes portraits from the museum's collection as well as loaned works by Benny Andrews, Alice Neel, William Wegman, David LaChapelle and Barkley L. Hendricks, among others.



NEWS /// FEATURES



Candles burn during the Luminaria ceremony.

AMANDA LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

Conn Hosts Third Annual Relay For Life

EMMA WITTENBERG
STAFF WRITER

Despite the abnormally cold April weather, last Saturday's Relay For Life attracted a huge amount of support from the Connecticut College community. This year marked the school's third annual Relay, which raised a total of \$24,000 toward the fight against cancer.

The event was co-chaired by Koreen Shoham '13, Lauren Manning '12 and Sean Hackett '12, with a total of forty-one teams of participating students.

The night kicked off at 6 PM when cancer survivors from both the Connecticut College and New London communities walked their first lap around a track on Tempel Green, followed by students and other supporters.

Following the opening ceremony, many on-campus performance groups showed their support, including several a cappella groups, the improv comedy group N2O, DJ E@zy and the school's gospel choir.

One highlight of the evening was an energetic performance by Run For Cover, a cover band composed of Connecticut College faculty. They played hits like "Stacy's Mom" and "Walking on Sunshine." The Relay for Life committee filled the night with activities and games like "Birthday Party" at 3 AM and Bingo at 6 AM to keep participants busy. Throughout the night, the Relay For Life committee provided food and hot beverages for sale under the main tent, and all proceeds were added to the school's overall donation.

Although many students chose to come and go

throughout the evening, Relay For Life continued until 8 AM, and some dedicated team members stuck it out until the end. Anna Williams '13, a captain of Team Justice, was up all night and was impressed with the amount of people of all ages who stayed awake. "There were so many people taking laps around the track all through the night. It was really heartwarming to watch."

One of the key aspects of Relay For Life was an event called Luminaria. Participants began by buying small white paper bags and decorating them with the names of loved ones who are either fighting cancer or have been lost to cancer in the past. The bags were covered in pictures and memories and small candles were put into the bottom of the bags before they were placed on the ground lining the entire track. Once participants created their bags, they took a silent lap around the green, taking time to read the bags lining the pathway.

Shoham explained that it was the impact of this ceremony that inspired her to help lead the event. "I was the logistics chair for Relay last year and I was at the event when it was raining," said Shoham. "I saw how dedicated everyone was and then I watched Luminaria. I was overwhelmed with a sense of pride and appreciation. That was when I decided to lead this year's event."

Though the event has already passed, Shoham explained that the Relay For Life committee is still working toward raising as much money as possible, and donations for this year's Relay will be accepted through August. To show your support for the fight against cancer, go to www.relayforlife.org/conncoll and donate. •

Professor Profile

CANDACE TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Heidi Henderson, Assistant Professor of Dance, is one of the most fascinating human beings I have met. You may have seen her wandering around campus with her cat eyes glasses, an outfit consisting of at least three different patterns and seven different colors, and bright orange Converse sneakers. Here is an interview of the lovely Professor Henderson that will give you a glimpse of the "epicness" that I, and the rest of the dance department, am so lucky to be exposed to on a day-to-day basis.

What's your history? What events have shaped you and molded you to be the Heidi Henderson we see today?

I found dance in college at age 19. I discovered how to really work while trying to catch up to folks who had been dancing since they were three. I learned to love effort. I am still learning every time I do this thing.

How long have you been here at Conn?

Eight years.

What do you like most about the college and working here?

I like the atmosphere of engaged learning. I love the notion that students take my experimental class precisely because they have heard that it is weird and challenging. I love the students that take the class to satisfy a Gen Ed requirement and then come to embrace (literally) each other and play as a creative process. I also love the students who dare to dance and to make art in this world, which more often prizes activities and careers that are safer.

Have you always wanted to be a professor?

For a long time, I was a working dancer and that was completely satisfying. I taught many high energy master classes on tours all over the country and the world. After a while, I wanted some feeling of longevity in my teaching life. I wanted to stay with the students for more than two rocking hours and see that the lessons were sinking in more deeply, to witness change over time.

What do you love most about teaching?

I love seeing expressions of amazement on a student's face when she or he discovers something through movement, touch and

experience, or seeing a community form through the experience of moving together, or seeing two male team players end a contact improvisation class holding hands. I love dancing to the beautiful music of Richard Schenk. I love figuring out again and again how to stand on my feet.

Let's say because of some bizarre series of events the teaching profession becomes extinct, if you could choose any profession in the world what would your new one be?

I have more jobs than teaching: making dances, making costumes, writing, being a mother, walking the dog, and planting pansies in pots outside the house today. If all of those jobs become extinct, I would like to go back to painting and I would like to learn to sing.

What's your life like outside of Conn Coll?

I have two beautiful children, one naughty dog, and one lovely husband. (The adjectives may be switched according to the day.)

What's a fun fact about you that your students would be surprised to learn?

If there is anything left that students do not know about me, I would be very surprised.

What's your favorite hobby?

Besides dancing? Contact improvisation, oops, that is dancing... skiing, hiking, sewing, baking...

What are the three things that you cannot live without?

Hugs, chocolate, sunshine.

What's your favorite pick me up activity when you are just having a not so great day?

Hugging, chocolate, sunshine, breathing, dancing, talking with Aimee, the dance department assistant.

What is the greatest thing you have ever done, so far?

Each time I am completely present in "the small dance," a standing position of complete neutrality where the body is simply directed by the pulls of gravity, it feels like the greatest thing.

Name one goal you have for the future.

Make a dance.

Any words of advice you would like to share with Conn Coll students?

Stay open, find time to dance, eat the French fries at Mr. Gs., keep in touch after you leave because there is always more advice. •

AOL CEO Tim Armstrong '93 discusses career path since Conn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year. We've hired about 1,000 journalists. I brought Patch into AOL when I came to AOL.

There's a Patch in New London. I always see a guy with a Patch sticker on his laptop at Bean & Leaf, so I know someone's working on it.

I'm happy to hear that. That makes me feel much better.

What would you say is the biggest success of Patch so far?

Just at a macro level, the success of Patch has really spotlighted how important communities are. I think that we probably put the largest investment in local communities outside of what the Obama administration is doing. I think at a more micro level, Patch has done everything from help people find lost dogs or animals all the way through to improving transparency in the government and community.

What does Patch still need to work on?

I think one of the things that I'd like to see Patch do a better job of is being more interactive. I think Patch is in a place where it's having a big impact on the community, but I think it could be a lot more community focused. By that, I mean community members talking to each other. Right now, it's more about us putting out the content. In the future it has to be about both the community putting up content and us putting up content.

The AOL-Huffington Post merger happened in early February. Can you talk about what's happened since then?

First of all, Huffington Post is one of the fastest growing sites on the Internet. It grew faster than Twitter did last year. It was a big opportunity for multiple reasons, the main reason being we really think that brands are important in the future of information; Huffington Post is a big brand and AOL is a big brand. Since we've closed the deal, we've integrated Huffington Post into AOL, we moved all their employees in, integrated the advertising products, and we launched an entirely new newsroom.

What do you mean when you talk about the importance of brands?

If you think about the way consumers live their lives, the average consumer uses about twenty Internet sites a month. When they use the sites, they typically use brands that they trust. So they use the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Huffington Post and so on. So we bought TechCrunch, the technology site, we have Moviefone, Mapquest, some really big brands. We think as important as the information is, the brands are as important as well.

What do you see as the biggest success of the merger?

First, with Huffington Post and Patch, we're the only company on the Internet that has national and local news all bolted together and I think that's a big success. The second thing is that Huffington Post has been very good at pulling together social distribution. So I think a lot of companies are good at putting information out so Google can find it, but I think Huffington Post is one of the best companies

in the world at using social distribution, Facebook, Twitter, to share news and information. I think that's really something that has a big impact. We've already applied some of those social networking type attributes to AOL and we've seen a really strong growth in our traffic from social networking so I think that will be a huge success.

I know that AOL laid off about 1000 employees in March. Were those layoffs a consequence of the merger or were there other reasons?

It was a partial consequence of the merger because we had overlapping responsibilities between the companies. But the other piece of it is that AOL has been in a turnaround situation. We're constantly forced to make decisions to make sure that the company is very successful in the future. Unfortunately, part of those decisions are bringing the cost structure down at the company. The worst part of being at AOL is having to reduce jobs. But we've been adding jobs, I told you we've hired 1000 journalists. What we're doing is updating that employee base to where the future of the internet is going.

What advice do you have for current college students and recent grads about how they can be a part of the movement to better journalism?

I would really look at the growth industries of where to focus for job searching. First and foremost, start your hunt in areas where there is growth potential. Second thing I would say is be flexible. Even if you don't get your ideal job out the

gates, you'll learn regardless. The third thing I think is, follow your passions. If you're passionate about something, even if you don't get paid for it, you should get involved in it. One of the big opportunities today is the fact that you can have your own blog or you can contribute to other people's blogs. There are hundreds of companies that will take content from people, so if someone is interested in journalism or being in the media business, even if you don't get paid you can try it out now. I think that experience goes a long way.

What do you see the news media looking like in five years and what will have changed?

The news will be much faster than it is today, and cleaner. What I mean by that is if you watch a half hour local TV show there's about ten minutes of content and the rest is ads or non-content related things in the program. I think you're going to see those value gaps go down to where the real value is. And then the second thing is the brands for the next century are getting created now - what brands do you turn to get your news? The historical brands I think will still remain popular, but I think there will be a whole new crop of brands that come out.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Hopefully at a Camel lacrosse game outside Harkness. I hope that five years from now that AOL will be a much larger, global provider of information for people. One of the things I've learned working in the Internet for so long is that five years

is more like fifty years, so hopefully we'll figure out a lot more creative stuff to do and I'm open to what the future looks like.

What has been your favorite part about working at AOL?

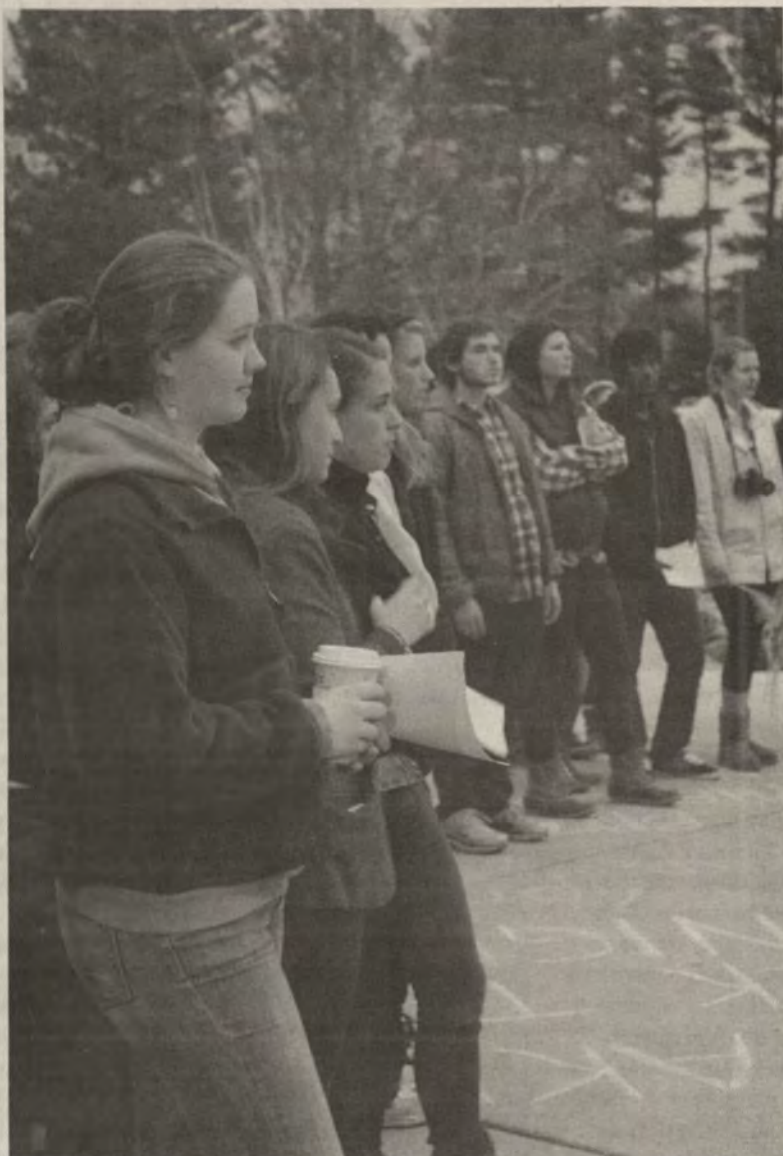
I think it's the people, the fact that we've got very motivated group of people and we've really been an updog so we have people who really like to work hard and who are creative. I think at the end of the day regardless of what company you work at typically it comes down to people - I really like the people I work with.

The toughest part about working at AOL?

I think the toughest part has been turning around the culture. AOL was really in trouble for many years and it's really taken the last year or two to get the culture back to a winning culture. Having to do layoffs and those things makes it a very challenging situation. We won't be successful if we don't make those changes but it's also not what anyone would choose to do.

Anything else you want to say to the Conn community?

I would really underline what a great school Conn is in terms of the type of students who go to Conn. Many of my friends who went to Conn have been very successful across a whole range of different fields on a global basis so I think that Conn is one of those schools that has a culture that will make people very successful. I am very proud of CC overall and the progress the school has made. It's nice to be an alum. •



Students gather to protest and discuss sexual violence.

TANAH SIMON/PHOTO EDITOR

Students March and Pledge to Eradicate Sexual Violence

JERELL MAYS
STAFF WRITER

The mood in Coffee Grounds was uneasy as Liz de Lise '13 tuned her guitar during a lull in conversation. The chairs in the familiarly cozy environment were arranged in a circle to encourage discussion. De Lise offered musical interludes to facilitate the dialogue. Just then, the tension physically manifested itself as one of her strings snapped. Nervous laughter rippled throughout the room; the scene was the opposite of what had occurred only a half an hour earlier. Students had gathered in front of Cro on April 12 at 7 PM despite the threat of rain in order to take part in the annual Take Back the Night march. Take Back the Night is held around the world in protest against sexual violence and abuse.

The first march was held in October 1975, after a young woman in Philadelphia was murdered near her home. The marches are marked by loud cheering and hollering in an effort to, according to the website, "shatter the silence" around sexually based crimes. Candlelit vigils are often held, as well as group discussions. The crowd outside Cro grew as bells, whistles, clappers and other noisemakers were handed out from a behind a table.

After a few minutes, Darcie Folsom, the Coordinator of Sexual Violence Education and Advocacy, and Colleen Bunn, REAL Central Campus Area Coordinator, got the attention of the group and announced that the march would be preceded by a performance by the Shwiffs. Conn's oldest a cappella group sang two numbers, including Natasha Bedingfield's "Unwritten," just as the rain began to fall. Students began marching and cheering from Cro, and moved down past Branford and Smith, around the soccer field, circling around the back of Cro, past Harris and finally ending on the Larrabee green. The march concluded with another performance, this time by Vox Cameli. Afterward, some of the crowd dispersed, and the rest filed into Coffee Grounds for

the group discussion portion.

The space was declared "safe and anonymous" by Darcie Folsom. The group was encouraged to open up about their experiences with sexual violence, whether personal or otherwise. In attendance were members of One in Four, an all-male group dedicated to the prevention of rape. An inevitable silence occurred. After the exuberant energy of the rally, the atmosphere abruptly changed to one of solemnity. Slowly, however, people began to speak and share stories about their experiences with family and friends, the powerlessness they felt about helping and about the frustration concerning the size and scope of the issue.

Soon the topic of the talk changed to more fundamental issues. Perhaps, the real source of the problem, someone suggested, was a failure of communication between men and women. Traditional dating rituals, such as the coffee date, have been largely lost in lieu of hook-up culture on college campuses. One boy expressed his frustration at the fact that most attempts at connecting with a member of the opposite sex were often met with accusations of being "creepy." This statement seemed to resonate with everyone.

Ironically seated in a café, students began to realize that this social meeting ground was being forsaken for non-committal, hastily-made relationships that widen the communication gap between men and women, forcing them to rely more on alcohol to make social interaction bearable. One girl told the story of how she had seen another girl stumbling and confused following tent dance. Not wanting to leave her in such a vulnerable state, she walked up to the girl and introduced herself, and offered to walk her to her room, which she did.

While this small contribution might seem minimal, the room agreed that it is small acts like this that can mean the difference between cases of potential sexual abuse. •

LGBT Muslims in the Era of Globalization

DAVID SHANFIELD
STAFF WRITER

"Did you all know the Coast Guard Academy is right across the street? The Coast guard is, like, very gay, just F.Y.I.," began Faisal Alam in the Charles Chu room last week.

Alam is a "queer-identified Muslim activist of Pakistani descent" according to his website. Alam came to Connecticut College to give a presentation titled "Hidden Voices: The Lives of LGBT Muslims" as part of Conn's "Gay-pril." More than ten different groups, departments and individuals on campus sponsored Alam's visit, including CISLA, the sociology department, the dean of student life and the LGBTQ center.

Alam began by asking the audience what thoughts came to mind in regards to Islam. At first, students were hesitant to respond, giving only the most politically correct answers, such as "peace," and "the veil." Alam then expanded the question, asking, "What do you think that other young people think about Islam?"

This time, students responded with "conservatism," "Islamic law" and "terrorism and violence."

Alam then asked, "and what about queer people?" The audience had no response, and Alam seemed to voice the audience's silent thoughts, saying that "queer" and "Islam" seem like contradictory terms."

Alam spoke of the association between Islam and homophobia, explaining that in 2003, former president of Egypt Hosni Mubarak gathered those who identified with the LGBT community and subsequently tortured and displayed them on show-trials. He spoke of two Iranian boys who were executed with the consent of Iranian President Ahmadinejad in 2006 because they were thought to be gay.

"What I want to do today," continued Alam, "is juxtapose this side of Islam and show you another side, a side that most Muslims don't even see."

The next few slides in the presentation, one of which was titled, "Fierce Women from Iran," showed how modern society and Islamic faith are not necessarily at odds with one another. Alam showed images of women in headscarves modeling not-so-traditional Muslim attire on a runway. He explained that European designers, such as Versace, have found a market in the wealth of high class Muslims, and are able to sell \$3,000 designer headscarves.

"It's very interesting seeing the two worlds coming together," said Alam "It's fashion globalization."

Alam also spoke excitedly about the Burqini. "Is it a burka or a bikini?" he asked. "It's a little bit of both."

He used this article of swimwear as an example of how Muslim women can participate in athletic activities without necessarily violating their faith.

"I believe that all Abrahamic religions are patriarchal and sexist by nature," said Alam, but he continued on to describe gender equality and equity as the next frontier in women's roles in both religion and society.

Alam proceeded to present a series of video clips. The first was from a British documentary, which briefly told the stories of two gay Muslims living in London. The first, a middle aged man, explained that he no longer felt welcome to pray at his own mosque, despite being a devout Muslim. He was also denied visiting rights to his children by his ex-wife after coming out.

The second person interviewed was a teenage girl who, after coming out to her parents, was kicked out of her own home. "My sexuality and religion are both integral parts of me," she said, "I cannot abandon one for the other."

The next clips were footage from news stories in India, after sodomy was decriminalized in 2009. The law, which had been in place since 1860, a remnant of British colonization, threatened imprisonment for life if it was to be broken. While much of the film showed the activist and protestors celebrating in the streets, there was also footage of several religious leaders of different faiths coming together to publicly denounce the law's decriminalization.

Alam himself struggled with the apparent conflict between his sexuality and religion in his high school and college years. When he was ten, he immigrated with his parents to a small town in Connecticut. As he described it, his high school was comprised of 500 students, 495 of which were white, and four of which were black.

"I was the only brown person, the only Asian, the only immigrant, the only Muslim," he said.

Every week Alam attended Sunday school at a mosque in Hartford, where he learned that "homosexuality was forbidden within Islam, without any ifs, ands or buts." Because of this, when Alam first started to think that he might in fact be gay, he felt extremely confused. "It didn't make any sense to me. How can I be gay if God doesn't create any gay people?"

Alam oppressed his sexuality and instead focused more than ever on religion – that is, until he went off to college at Northeastern University, where he "exploded out of the closet."

"I could no longer live my lives separately," said Alam.

He eventually came to the realization that he couldn't be the only gay Muslim out there, and through massive group emails he started an email list for gay Muslims, which eventually resulted in a retreat, bringing together people from across the globe.

Faisal Alam's goal was to prove that modernity, faith and sexuality could coincide, and through his own story, others' experiences and Burqinis, he did exactly that. •

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OPINIONS

“Conn Is What You Make It” (But So Is Everywhere Else)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As a high school senior who was getting into comics and was already really into *The Lord of the Rings* (among other things, of course), it was an attractive description to somebody desperate to escape a sports-centric all-boys school. However, I think even my high school self knew the difference between the actual cool people and the ones who knew seventy-five percent of the dialogue from *The Empire Strikes Back* by heart.

“Cool nerds” meant to me “nerds who think they’re cool and who actually are cool to other people who really like playing *Super Smash Bros.* and going to school.” Having said that, I was and am self-aware enough not to think that’s actually cool. What I haven’t retained from my high school days is the tendency to trust everything I read, which is why I was so surprised in revisiting these college search websites.

College Prowler, one of the most popular of these sites, is full of straight-up lies. In a section called “Inside Scoop,” the editors of the site compile a list of “facts” about Conn, some of which are

obviously not about Conn: “Dandelion Day: Nicknamed D-Day, this is the all-time favorite tradition at UR. Held on spring weekend when classes end, an all out fiesta will ensue on the main quad in front of Wilson Commons, the student union. Security is lax on this day, and students are allowed to be on the quad with alcohol without much of a second glance...There are rides, games and a band each year.”

Sounds dope, but what the hell is UR? Also on the list are things like “Painting the Tunnels,” which I assumed referred to the KB-Larrabee tunnel (it doesn’t) and “Meliora Weekend,” which I thought was a horrific misspelling of Floralia (it’s not). It turns out they’re all activities at the University of Rochester. For some reason, the College Prowler version of Conn is a strange hybrid of UR, Dartmouth, Wesleyan and Conn circa 2001.

Comparably, the student activities list is at least five years old, including clubs like SOUL (replaced by Spectrum), CCBA (replaced by CCCR), STING, SAVE, the Zionist Organization of America and something called Stitch ‘n’ Bitch. It also omits

clubs formed since I arrived here.

The student write-ups on the sites are reflective of the wishy-washiness that I’ve come to know and love here: campus safety is too strict, they’ll never break up your party, they’ll chase you from party to party; the library is huge, the library only has four floors; classrooms are beautiful, classrooms are old and the desks are uncomfortable; New London leaves a lot to be desired, New London is full of hidden gems; parking is ample, it’s impossible to find a spot; students are stuck on campus if they don’t have a car, the Camel Van and Zipcars are really useful; drugs are becoming a problem, not enough people do drugs; the network is really reliable, the network is really unreliable; the student population is really internationally diverse, everyone is white here; everyone plays sports, not enough people pay attention to athletics; the Plex dorms are sterile, the Plex has air conditioning and big rooms; the dining halls are “terrible,” the dining halls are “the greatest thing ever”; the campus is beautiful, the campus is cut off from everything; student body is made up of activists, everyone is apathetic; students are “down-to-earth,” students are “dull and snotty.” The only thing Conn students agree on is that not having Greek life on campus is a good thing.

Why did I ever think looking at this site was a good idea? Like College Prowler, Unigo and StudentsReview feature both nostalgic reviews by alumni who loved their stints here and scathing reviews by embittered students who transferred out halfway through their first year, which makes sense: when people evaluate

something, they’re either dissatisfied and looking to vent or they’re so happy that they want the world to know. The vast majority of reviews come from blissful freshmen and sophomores who paint a picture of Conn as a utopia, and that’s not surprising, either. For most people, college is infinitely better in almost every conceivable way than high school. It was these reviews that convinced me Conn was where I belonged, but

Nobody can distill four years of residence and over thirty courses into four sentences, but that’s not something I was able to understand four years ago.

in hindsight, any college would have looked great compared to high school.

The phrase that kept popping out at me is, “Conn is what you make it.” It appears dozens of times across these websites, typically in very flattering reviews of the school. But to me, that’s true of any competitive liberal arts college; it’s what you say when you don’t really have anything else to say. It’s a way of rationalizing: students who “make it” great—the ones who do well and graduate happily—get to celebrate their perseverance in dealing with Conn’s shortcomings and inadequacies. Let’s be real, there are more than a few. At the same time they can look at the ten percent of their peers who bounced after freshman year and write them off as having not put forth enough effort, overlooking real complaints like our school’s

location, size, endowment and lack of course offerings in a lot of areas.

The biggest problem I see with these sites is the huge role they play in shaping prospective students’ views. They go to great lengths to self-promote in their mastheads as “The only college guides written by students for students [boldface in original],” or the place where “College students and experts tell you what colleges won’t.” While these taglines aren’t necessarily false, they’re certainly misleading: it should be evident by this point that no two college students are even close to the same. College search sites let visitors sort reviews by majors, but even that distorts reality. Speaking from personal experience, I’m not close friends with many of my fellow English students, but as a high schooler I’d assumed the opposite. User reviews of colleges are a lot different from user reviews of an iPod: nobody can distill four years of residence and over thirty courses into four sentences, but that’s not something I was able to understand four years ago. Instead, I read the reviews that appealed to me and pretended the others didn’t exist. When I got to Conn, I didn’t find the Steve Buscemi Club I was promised and I didn’t find very many “cool nerds,” but I also didn’t mind.

I have a deep affection for Conn and I will be forever grateful to the school for facilitating some wonderful friendships, but I’m not willing to admit that I couldn’t have been happy anywhere else. I lucked out and found a place that works for me, but College Prowler and Princeton Review don’t deserve any of the credit. •

IMAGE FROM COLLEGEPROWLER.COM

Report Card

Academics	A-	Greek Life	N/A
Athletics	B-	Guys	B-
Campus Dining	B	Health & Safety	B+
Campus Housing	B+	Local Atmosphere	C+
Campus Strictness	B+	Nightlife	C
Computers	C	Off-Campus Dining	B
Diversity	C	Off-Campus Housing	D-
Drug Scene	B-	Parking	B+
Facilities	B+	Transportation	C
Girls	B+	Weather	C-

College Prowler’s report card for Connecticut College.
Grades are assigned based upon student ratings.

Nineteen Years in New London, One Year at Conn

JERELL MAYS
STAFF WRITER

On the morning of August 31, 2010, as I filled the back of my best friend’s car with bags and belongings, I remembered my guidance counselor from high school who had, a few months earlier, made diabolical attempts to ensure that I didn’t go to this school. “Conn’s a really tough college,” he had said. “No worries if you don’t get in.” He didn’t seem particularly worried, as he proceeded to “forget” to send in several application papers on time. I only applied to two schools, Conn and UConn, and somehow he managed to get UConn’s requirements in just fine. Combine that with the fact that his father had once taught at Trinity, a fact he never let me forget, and it became clear whose side he was on. I wanted to pin the acceptance letter to his forehead when I got it. Instead I waved it in his face and danced a little (in my head, anyway).

Now, roughly seven-and-a-half months later, I am waist-deep in work, responsibilities and financial aid papers that should’ve been handed in months ago. Last week during class registration, I slept past the 7:30 AM scramble period (and still got everything I wanted), and I am currently dorm-less in the fall, having been relegated to the singles waiting list. On my bookshelf are at least twenty more books than I had packed on the morning of August 31. Most of them are pretty good, and some I will probably never get around to reading. Taped notes hang on the desk in front of me, as well as winning fortune cookies from Harris that I can’t bring myself to throw away (“The man on top of the mountain did not fall there,” “An old love will come back to you”). I have measured the exact amount of time it takes me to get up, get dressed, get breakfast, and walk to Blaustein for a 9:00 AM with the precision of a laser, allowing me to sleep in to exactly 8:05

AM most days. I haven’t traveled a mile from my room in almost a month. I sleep better in my bed here than I do at home, and that’s fine with me.

In other words, I belong here. Having been raised in New London for most of my life, my memories of growing up are inextricably bound to this place. I’ve lived on State Street, Bank Street, Michael Road, Ocean Avenue and Crystal Avenue, which pretty much covers most of the city. The only place in New London that was really a mystery to me was Connecticut

I haven’t traveled a mile from my room in almost a month. I sleep better in my bed here than I do at home, and that’s fine with me.

College. I had spent hours in the arboretum as a child, but every time I stood in front of the gate with my grandmother and brother, getting ready for the walk back to Gordon Court, I would look across the street and think, “I wonder if I’ll ever go to that school.”

Sure enough, I did end up going. Also, I didn’t realize it until a recent conversation with my mother, but it turns out I had already attended Connecticut College’s pre-school program as a kid, so I guess I was destined to return or something. In any case, I’m here now, and what has it been like? It’s been a blast. I’ve seen and done things that I thought people just talked about doing. I’ve met people I never want to forget. For the first time since maybe elementary school, I actually feel like I’m learning things that I will remember and use later in life. It hasn’t been perfect, but nothing is.

Still, my roommate’s recent trip to Trinity, the school my guidance counselor secretly wanted me to attend, got me thinking: what would my experience at another college have been like?

Would I have been as pleased with any other college as I am here at Conn? I suppose I could’ve interviewed a student from another college to find out, but why do that when there’s websites like College Prowler, which give colleges letter grades based on (hopefully not too biased) reviews from the students?

I checked out College Prowler and Conn’s grading seems pretty fair. We got an A- on academics, and B’s on most everything else. The only areas where students seem to think we’re lacking are things like weather, transportation and off-campus housing, which are literally all beyond the control of the students and faculty.

Just out of curiosity I checked out Trinity’s rating, and wasn’t all that surprised to see similar reviews. One thing that stuck out in a couple reviews from both schools was the sentence “it is what you make of it.” This is probably true of just about any college in the world. In regards to the party scene, I asked my roommate, Zach Balomenos ’14, what he thought of the party scene at Conn as compared to Trinity, and he said, “Take the craziest night at Conn, and you don’t even have the quietest night at Trinity.”

That’s probably got a lot to do with the fact that Conn lacks frat houses, something I personally

couldn’t be more grateful for, but that’s beside the point. I for one cherish my right to, if I so please, sleep peacefully on a Saturday night.

Conn might be one of the most expensive schools in the country, it might be regularly accused of generating hipster apathy and family members still ask me how my first year at UConn is going, but all in all it really has been good to me. I can’t really offer a total retrospective on my first year here because it technically isn’t even over yet. What I can say, however, is that I’m already looking forward to next year. •



Since 1946, door-to-door sandwich sales have fallen out of favor, but Jerell has still managed to make friends during his freshman year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CONN COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Bathroom Stall Literature Under Attack

NICK RODRICKS
STAFF WRITER

Last month I entered the men's bathroom on the first floor of Fanning and was greeted by the smell of new paint. I banged open the nearby stall door and found hastily-applied brown brushstrokes slapped oppressively on the stall walls. The paint thickly covered what had been some of my favorite stall literature on campus. It was here that I had once found quirky, perhaps meaningless phrases like "and the pontoons came first" or the large etched face of a joker with the phrase "Why so serious?" carved below. Those walls were the original Conn Coll Confessional, an anonymous male forum for anyone armed with a sharp ballpoint or, more fortunate, a felt tip marker.

Physical Plant's dull brown hues had sent me into frenzy. I quickly scanned the rest of campus to see if more damage had been done. A prime source of entertainment and campus culture was being exterminated. The doors of Cro had been saved but all others had met similar fates. The bathrooms in New London Hall, Blaustein and the Library had all been washed out with bland shades of white or brown.

There is a difference between

genius stall remarks and run-of-the-mill profanity. This is an important distinction. Some people choose to write the most unoriginal junk one could possibly conceive and call it stall writing. These people are not true stall writers, and are most likely the same brand of person that still

Stall walls were the original Conn Coll Confessional, an anonymous male forum for anyone armed with a sharp ballpoint or a felt tip marker.

thinks Ed Hardy is cool and were enthralled by "The Decision" of 2010. True stall writers are the witty ones, the ones who leave jokes in the library or emblazon the wall with unique quotations, seeds of intelligence.

For example, had I never used the men's bathroom on the first floor of Cro (one of the bathrooms fortunately saved from the campus Big Brother) I might never have read T.S. Elliot's poem "Hollow Men." In this bathroom you can find the quotation "The world ends not with a bang but a whimper," the final line of Elliot's poem. Google quickly led

me from quote to poem.

Similarly, had I not seen Fidel Castro's quotation, "History will absolve me," inked onto the wall of a library bathroom, I may never have downloaded the four-hour speech in which this line was delivered. Fortunately I caught myself about thirty-eight seconds into this speech and realized that not only is it four hours long but that I also don't speak Spanish. Nevertheless, I am calling myself better for having sought it out.

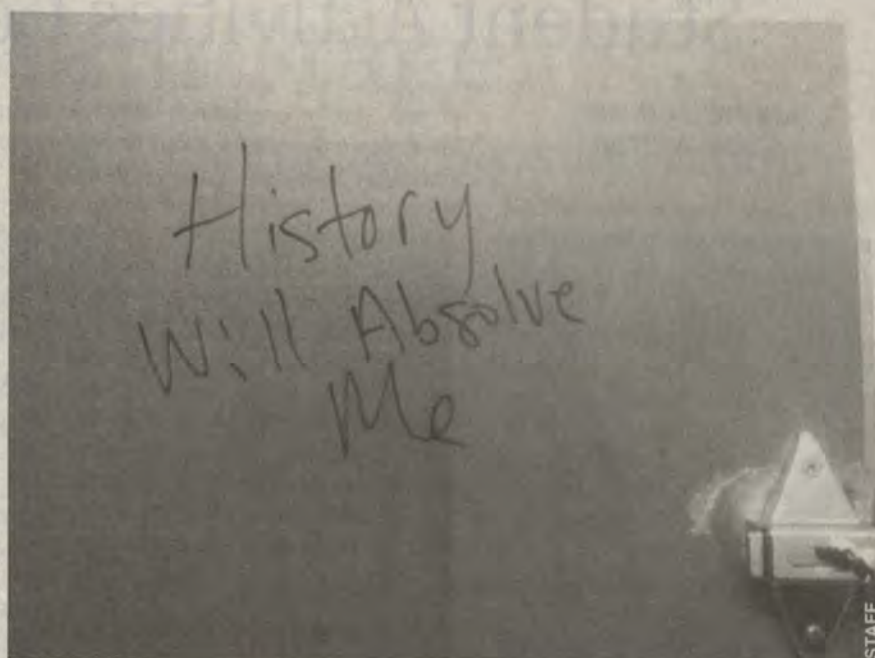
All one needs is an inquisitive mind to take the best stall writings and turn them into something bigger. I am speaking of the currency of ideas, ideas intended for circulation. Thoughts should be handed from person to person through a network with near limitless opportunity, one connecting the aspiring musician to the aspiring playwright. Amateur and degrading stall writers can leave their pens at home but the ones with true potential are the Johnny Appleseeds of campus creativity. Our campus stall writings could

be orderly, neat and precise, a far different brand from the typical scribbles in movie theaters or bars. Each member of our community has something to offer the stall-writing front, and with the proper amount of discretion our stall walls could be something of pure genius.

Thus I say, let the campus battle begin. I am not talking of a full-scale graffiti, spray cans running in the street type battle. I am simply talking about branding bathroom stalls, the most tempting of canvasses, with the pure

imagination that makes life on a campus so great. Fifty percent of the campus is exposed to these blank walls and I deem it our job to choose any path but a boring one. Naturally, ideas on bathroom walls will lead to a reemergence of Physical Plant's earth tones, but stall writers should not despair, there is opportunity in all of it.

Arm yourself with a pen and leave us all a message. It's not vandalism; it's just a contribution to a community seeking inspiration. •



An anonymous artist quotes Castro.

Freedom!

EMILY BERNSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

When I go home over break, I usually spend most of my time reveling in the comfort of private bathrooms, normal-sized beds and vegetables that have not been steamed or drenched beyond recognition with mayo-based dressing. These comforts can keep me shut up in my room for days on end. But there is another reason not to leave: in my tiny suburban town, I will inevitably run into a mom, or teacher, or a former boss who will engage me in my most-rehearsed conversation.

"How's school? What are you majoring in? What classes are you taking?"

I hate the sound of my own voice, drooling the over-spoken answers. I can't remember what I just said and get nervous that I'm repeating myself. Usually, I rush off to an imaginary appointment for something a more responsible, more together college-aged person might be doing.

But before I can make my escape, my interrogator usually tries to find some tenuous connection between my college experience and theirs. As they tell me about their eccentric art teachers or senior pranks, their eyes take on a familiar wistful glaze and I can almost see their glory days playing across them. "Such an exciting time," they say. "So much freedom."

Freedom is a tricky word, especially in America. It's also the name of Jonathan Franzen's new book, which has become a favorite of many great Americans, including book critics, President Obama and Oprah. In the book, freedom is not all it's cracked up to be. The characters who fight the hardest to free themselves from obligation to others end up being the most miserable. Franzen suggests that freedom does not lead to happiness. Rather, happiness is found in a sense of belonging—to a person, a community or to a cause.

If the success of Franzen's novel is any indication, this message seems to have struck a chord with readers. It's interesting that in a country that seems to consider its very nature to be synonymous with freedom, so many people feel conflicted about it. It is also interesting that college, a word that has the power to reduce any respectable adult into a long-winded mess of nostalgia, is similarly connected to freedom.

Over the weekend, I attended "Con-

in Print," an event hosted by the *Voice* editorial staff featuring a panel of former editors of the school newspaper in all of its forms. They shared some of their favorite memories of working for the paper and what the role of the publication has been over the past five or six decades. What they all had in common was an apparent love of and passion for the *Voice*. But aside from working on something that informed and united their peers, they also loved being a part of the staff. They laughed about working late on Thursday nights, laboriously assembling the layout by hand (which used to be done in Norwich and Mystic) and staying up into the wee hours of the morning to deliver papers personally to each dorm. One editor referred to these tasks as an integral part of "the best four years of [his] life."

The reason the *Voice* (formerly *ConnCensus* or *Satyagraha* [Sanskrit for "truth-force"] among others) was so valuable was the sense of belonging it gave them. They all slipped into that familiar nostalgic stupor as they told us about the school's mammoth first typesetting machine and working with the first boys allowed to attend their beloved Conn College. After living at home for most of one's life, college is exponentially freer. But that's not what we love about it. We all love the niches of obligation that we find here—be they with the newspaper, a cappella group or a sports team.

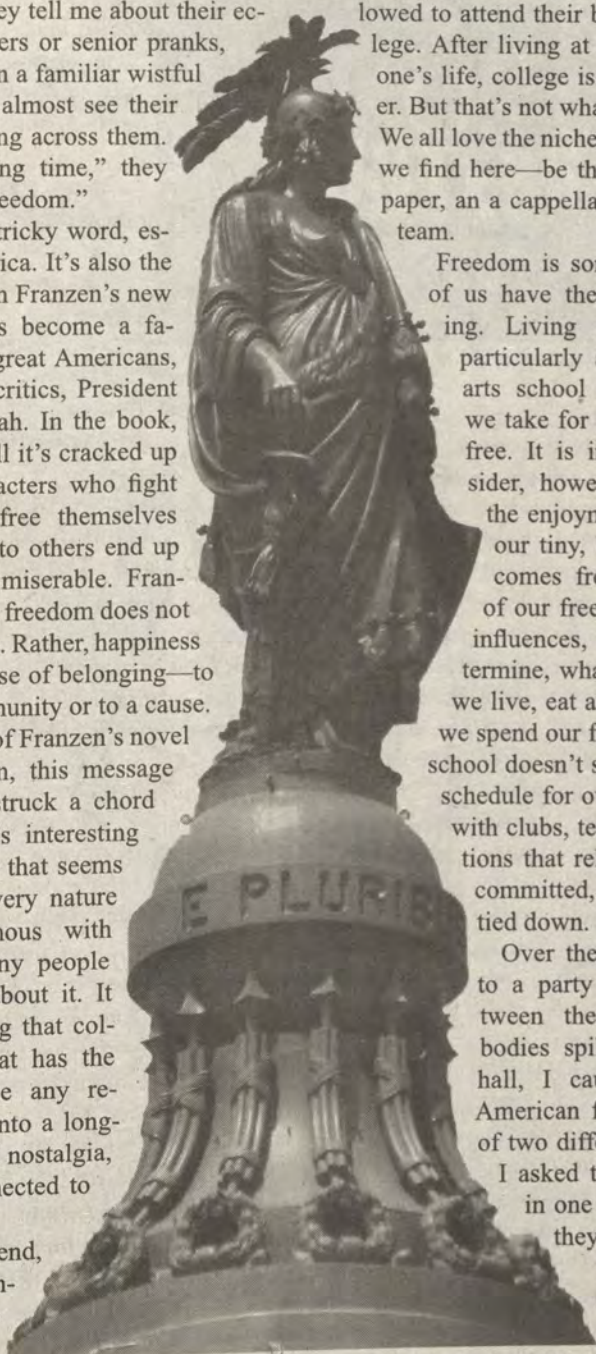
Freedom is something that most of us have the luxury of ignoring. Living in America, and particularly at a small, liberal arts school in the Northeast, we take for granted that we're free. It is interesting to consider, however, that most of the enjoyment we get out of our tiny, loving community comes from the restriction of our freedoms. Our school influences, if it does not determine, what we learn, where we live, eat and study, and how we spend our free time. What the school doesn't schedule for us we schedule for ourselves: meetings with clubs, teams and organizations that rely on us, make us committed, responsible and tied down.

Over the weekend, I went to a party in Freeman. Between the densely packed bodies spilling out into the hall, I caught glimpses of American flags on the walls of two different dorm rooms.

I asked the boy who lived in one of the rooms why they were so patriotic.

"It's Freeman," he said. "Freedom!" •

After living at home for most of one's life, college is exponentially freer. But that's not what we love about it.



"Freedom" atop the U.S. Capitol building. IMAGE FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Cape Town, Cairo, Conn College

SAM NORCROSS
STAFF WRITER

There have been a few posters around campus displaying the *College Voice* article about the takeover of Fanning in the 1986. The sit-in was a protest aimed at making Conn as culturally diverse as the country surrounding it, and it worked. Negotiations were made via a piece of paper passed between Fanning and Blaustein and the students succeeded in their aims, thus helping to make our college a more culturally diverse place.

Have their efforts held up? The answer is yes, but some might tell you no. It seems to me that many students on campus consider Conn a milky white homogenous mixture. I won't get into the statistics, but it's not hard to see that we represent a wide range of races and backgrounds. It's events like Cape to Cairo, put on by the African Student Union (ASU) last Friday, that emphasize the culture that adds color to our campus. It showed off some of the amazing culture and talent our student body has to offer.

It's hard to classify exactly what Cape to Cairo was. It wasn't quite a performance, and it most definitely wasn't a presentation. "Experience" is a bit broad, but that's what fits best: the experience of Africa on campus. Walking into the 1962 room in Cro, we were greeted by nicely set tables scattered around the room. A small stage had been set, flanked by two projector screens displaying pictures of Africa. The first event was an "authentic African dinner." All I recognized from the buffet were the fried plantains, but I tried a bit of everything and it was all delicious.

Once it seemed that most of the audience had finished eating, the show began. It was a pleasant mix of seriousness and fun, featuring all the cultural performances that you would expect from a show about Africa, as well as many acts that helped to break some preconceptions audience members might have had. The dance performances ranged from traditional to a few different modern styles, many of which you might not expect to come out of Africa. There were spoken word poetry recitals in English and Swahili, and a gospel choir. Two fashion shows featured both men's and women's clothing from the continent and, in an act simply called "Gumbo," club members performed an impressive synchronized dance; the only music came from the thwack of their rubber boots hitting the stage.

These were all fascinating, but my favorite act and the funniest of the night, was entitled "How Not To Write About Africa." In this presentation, three ASU

members acted as academics giving tongue-in-cheek advice to journalists and authors aspiring to write about Africa.

"Never show a picture of a well-adjusted African unless they have won a Nobel Prize."

"Make sure you show that Africans have rhythm and soul and only eat things no other human would eat."

"Always start your book with a quote from Nelson Mandela."

It was a surprisingly varied event worthy of its expansive name, and after it was over I felt much more aware of African society and culture. The turnout was surprisingly good, despite the other events with which ASU had to compete that night. At the end of the show, we found out that half of the proceeds from ticket sales are going to be sent to an orphanage in Zimbabwe, which can't even afford beds for the children it houses. The other half is going to a hospital in Ethiopia that treats women whose bodies have been debilitated from giving birth at too young an age.

Rarely can you find an event on campus with this trifecta of entertainment, information and charity. It was a pleasure to experience, and the type of event that Conn could do with more of. I desperately hope that more students would have wanted to experience it, too. Diversity is something that once had to be fought for on campus. Now we take it for granted. Clubs like ASU, and events like Cape to Cairo are important for our campus because they help to assert our community's heterogeneity. •



Tanzanian student Ines Muganyizi performs at the African Student Union's Cape to Cairo event.

Putting the “Student” Back in Student Activities Council

ANDREW CRIMER
STAFF WRITER

Editor's Note: Andrew Crimer is the current chair of SAC's Friday Nights Live committee.

If you're like me, you've been to, maybe, three Cro Dances ever. They're not my thing. Too many people I don't know quote-unquote dancing to music I don't like, et cetera; these are all arguments you've heard and quite possibly made before. But that doesn't mean I'm not grateful that they happen – evidently, many people find them perfectly acceptable and entertaining weekend activities. If it were me planning them, I'd definitely come up with a few wacker themes: post-apocalypse dance (trash can fires, costume = mud & rags), Soviet dance (brass band, long lines for no snacks), and my much-maligned but constantly suggested Eras of Bowie dance. But it's not, and probably if I were in charge of dances, far fewer people would come, or at least understand how they were supposed to dress for them.

So I could understand why you might think you hate SAC, or that you could totally do without it, but truth is, you really couldn't: we plan Floralia, for one thing, as well as about three events in any given week; we cosponsor event after event put on by clubs whose normal budgets can't cover their ambitions; we provide tech rentals to countless dinners and concerts. There's a lot going on.

As is par for the course for an organization that serves a population larger than, well, one person, every event leaves someone out in the cold. But every single one of those people has an opportunity to change what's going on. For one thing, the emails you receive every week from your dorm rep provide you with a specific person to whom you can make suggestions, and, believe it

or not, these suggestions actually make it into discussion at our weekly meetings. You can come to those, by the way. They're at 7:30 in Ernst Common Room.

Even before I was a SAC member, nobody seemed to like my dance themes, but I digress.

The best opportunity you have to change the way SAC does or does not address your dreams and desires occurs once a year, at your first dorm meeting: to get involved. I recognize

We're not here because we wanted to ruin your Saturday, we're here because, if we weren't, you wouldn't even have anyone to complain to.

that you might think you're too busy, and you may even think that SAC is a totally lost cause, but I'd encourage you to reconsider.

The excellent thing about democracies in which the entire campaign takes place in fifteen minutes is that it's incredibly easy to be elected. Many SAC members step up simply because nobody else does, as I did. Yet despite my opportunistic ascent to office, I immediately found a whole host of great openings in the SAC structure for me to step up and help out, and in each of these instances I earned a little more say in what was going on. I went from helping to lug the speakers around to booking a year's worth of concerts basically because I wanted to.

For skeptics, I'd like to point out that the degree of involvement is mostly up to you. If you're too busy to help out some week, we're generally understanding, but if you want to throw your hat into the ring and take initiative, you can usually bring your brainchild idea to fruition (unless it's Bowie-themed, as has

been discussed). There's also the resumé-building angle – employers are bound to be impressed when they find out that you've proven your ability to manage thousands of dollars of someone else's money.

But to my mind, the most rewarding aspect of being on SAC is the knowledge that I tried. It's really, really easy not to go to a dance, and maybe it's even fun to smugly drink elsewhere and consider yourself too good for it (I know! I've been there! It can be great!) At the same time, it's definitely more rawsome to spend your night watching something you've planned come together, to watch people come into the door and not immediately wheel around on their three-inch heels and stalk off in search of mozzarella sticks, and to know that you didn't waste your night, even if you aren't the target audience for the event you helped with.

It's not our money, it's yours. It's not our event, it's yours. We're not here because we wanted to ruin your Saturday, we're here because, if we weren't, you wouldn't even have anyone to complain to. If you feel unsatisfied, you owe it to yourself to try to change what's going on. So next September, just raise your hand and give it a shot. The worst that could happen is that you'd wind up just as bored as you are already – and let's be honest, you're not really all that bored – or better yet, you could wind up like me, and be leaving with a tidy resumé credit and two years of Fridays spent working to keep you and I from being bored in the first place.

And if you are bored, maybe you should come see The Hood Internet in the 1962 room on Friday at 10:30? Like nearly everything else SAC puts on, it's free, and if you don't like it, we still don't have an FNL Chair for next year. So there's your opportunity. You owe it to yourself and all your friends to see what you can do. •



A Cro dance.

J-Board Chair Talks Honor Code

CONOR WALSH
CONTRIBUTOR

I'm about to go out in Charleston, South Carolina and I'm hoping that Changing of the Guard back at Conn won't be too eventful. Of course I want everyone to have fun, but with just a few weeks until graduation, I feel like I shouldn't miss an epic night on the hill.

Last night, on the later side, I remember thinking to myself about the school I was visiting and the kids getting absolutely sauced around me. The scene here is a bit ridiculous and southern hospitality only seems to apply when people are sober. President Higdon was here at the College of Charleston prior to Conn. They have a Higdon Student Leadership Center and talk about him as if he were the one that got away—he is legend.

I started thinking about Conn. The realization I had was that, for the most part, a pretty good bunch of kids go to our school. When I think about my four years here, I can easily say that my favorite thing about this school is the people who are a part of this community. When friends visit Conn, one of the things I constantly hear time and time again is how friendly our school is. The first time I heard it, I found myself pleasantly surprised. Now I'm just proud. We are all members of a really incredible community that I haven't really noticed anywhere else. It shouldn't be taken for granted.

The Honor Code we live by is not about self-scheduled exams. It is not about J-Board. It is not about rules, nor is it about breaking rules. Sure, these are aspects of the system we have constructed, but the Honor Code must be considered in terms of that which we value. The unity that exists within this community stems from our devotion to the school and its betterment. Until next year, having a beer underage and taking a sandwich out of Harris are considered violations of the Honor Code. Previously, we decided for ourselves that this didn't make sense and disregarded such trivial infractions of the code.

However, no student should ever be forced to define their own personal code. Though the Honor Code may benefit the individual, it exists for the betterment of the community as a whole. When we officially make a distinction between the Honor Code and college policy, we are simply being realists. The *College Voice* joked in its April Fools issue that nine hundred students reported themselves for breaking the code for drinking underage. I'm happy that this joke will have no merit next year.

Why do we benefit? The integrity of the Honor Code is no longer diminished by our decision to disregard repeated infraction and we can finally be serious about the code in its entirety. Should we have altered our habits rather than the code? I like realism.

We are smart, responsible, ethical adults. We like to have fun, but we acknowledge the lines that must not be crossed. I am not above what goes on this campus. If I were, I wouldn't have taken this position. Nevertheless, I must say that there is no room for vandalism, fighting or driving under the influence at Connecticut College. Too many instances have occurred this year and students need to respond to their peers when such violations occur. Will these changes lead to an immediate improvement in our respect for the Honor Code? I can't be certain, but it is a step in the right direction. If we are going to have an Honor Code, we have to be in full support of it. Here's to a good end to the semester. If you can't be smart, be safe; if you can't be safe, be smart. •

A Tour Guide's Call to Arms for the Next Admitted Students Day

SHANNON KEATING
STAFF WRITER

I blame the weather.

For over a week I've been bothering some of my fellow tour guides about the rain-swollen clouds threatening Monday's little blue box on Weather.com. Clinging rather stupidly to hope, I woke on the morning of the first Admitted Students Day this semester with high expectations, only to find Conn wind-whipped, wet and blanketed by heavy fog. I pressed my forehead to my windowpane, glaring out at a slice of campus that just a couple days before had been bathed in spring sunlight.

The problem is, really, that I love being a tour guide a little too much.

Bouncing into admissions, I was happy it was clogged with people who hadn't been discouraged from showing up by the miserable weather. I helped herd them out onto the soggy lawn where they shuffled into groups, one per guide, and I whisked a small crowd onto south campus, gushing my congratulations to the newly admitted students. They half-smiled inexpressively and muttered.

I get it. It's always a bit depressing when I'm doing my spiel about how Tempel Green, as the center of our campus, is where students play, work and lie out in the sun when it's either encrusted with a foot of snow or rain-washed and muddy. But I thought admitted students could mentally peek

under the veil of fog and catch a glimpse of the beautiful college that could so easily be theirs (albeit in nicer weather).

Instead, they dragged their feet like high school juniors on the nineteenth of a twenty-school circuit.

I discovered that no matter how excited they may have been deep down, admitted students are people too, and people get bummed by gross sticky air and blasts of

It's hard to jump for joy when everyone's shoes are squelching with muddy water.

wind to the face.

This is an opinions article, but it's about a rather mundane and obvious opinion, and that opinion is that bad weather sucks. My own Admitted Students Day just a year ago was golden and green, loud with the sounds of flip-flops smacking the sidewalks and colored with crowds of kids outside soaking in the sun. It was idyllic. It was just so college.

Now, it's depressing to think of the bright, awesome people who may have been unconsciously dissuaded from sending in a deposit to Conn because of a blustery April afternoon. It's outright annoying to think of the way we are wired to be more glum and unenthusiastic when the sky is gray.

I blame the weather for this

dud of a day. The greeters waving signs, cheering at admitted students driving through the front gate and waking up nearly everyone in central campus are a testament to the zeal and hard work of all those involved in this day.

While I stood in Admissions last Monday, watching dejectedly as a tiny, disgruntled group embarked on the last drizzly tour of the afternoon with a single guide, I could not blame anything but the weather for the half-dozen gloomy faces, because Conn is awesome. So were all the people talking excitedly on panels, manning info booths and crouching in the rain to chalk the slicked sidewalks.

It's hard to jump for joy when everyone's shoes are squelching with muddy water, so it's my opinion and my suggestion, please, whoever may control the weather, that the next Admitted Students Day should be sunny and sparkly and springy.

As President Higdon likes to joke, "The weather is this beautiful all the time!" Of course it isn't, but since we have all experienced Connecticut College in both the bitter throes of winter and the incomparable loveliness of New England springs and falls, we have learned that Conn is always some sort of beautiful in its own way. Prospective students have not quite figured that out yet.

Regardless of the amount of sunshine today, I entreat all of you to make an appearance outdoors



EMILY BERNSTEIN / STAFF

A soggy prospie.

and smile at admitted students, give the hopelessly lost ones directions, and obnoxiously shout, "Come to Conn!" Admitted Students Days are important—not just to an overeager tour guide like

me. And maybe try to camp out on the green for a while, throw a Frisbee or two. There's just something about kids on a green at a college. I'm sure you know what I mean. •

Harvey Hits Main Stage

Students direct, perform classic performance about giant invisible rabbit

BAILEY BENNETT
STAFF WRITER

Harvey, a play written in 1944 by Mary Chase and directed this May by Kristin Kerr '11, is sure to bring audience members back to their childhoods of imagination and invisible friends.

When she was chosen last year for this spring's student directing position, Kerr knew that a comedy as silly as *Harvey* would be a perfect choice. She explained, "The rest of this year's theater season has, for the most part, been very dark and serious. Since the end of the year is already such a stressful time, it's a nice change to direct a show that is light and fun."

Logan Keeler '11, who plays Elwood, has also enjoyed the comedic process and the relationship he is able to have with Harvey, the rabbit. He said that so far the show is "a lot of fun because it brings you back to childhood when you had invisible friends that you could talk to and interact with. At the same time, it's challenging to see Harvey like Elwood does because I have to react to someone who's not there."

The play, which has also been made into a popular movie starring Jimmy Stewart, follows the antics of Elwood P. Dowd and his very real relationship with a 6'3.5" invisible rabbit named Harvey. Elwood's antics and imagination begin to drive his sister Veta, (Liz Buxton '13) and her daughter Myrtle Mae (Molly Shinko '13) to insanity, as they all live in the same home.

A hilarious comedy of errors ensues when Veta attempts to

commit Elwood to an insane asylum where they meet Dr. Chumley (Adam Berard '11), Dr. Sanderson (Conor McCormick-Cavanagh '14) and many others. The characters soon begin to question their own sanity and the existence of Harvey the rabbit.

Because *Harvey* is a student-directed production, the actors also have the experience of working on this show with a peer rather than an adult director. Kerr said, "I had to present myself differently from what I'm used to because I knew if I started off as 'one of them' it would never work out. It has become a strange balancing act of being both a friend and an authority figure."

Grant Jacoby '13, the show's stage manager, has known Kerr through working with her on previous theater productions. He asserted that it is wonderful to have "friendship and comfort as a support system when jumping into the deep end of stage managing."

Berard added, "The actor-director pairing adds a new dynamic to the relationship I have with Kristin, but she is a great director to work with."

Explained Molly Clifford '13, who makes her MainStage debut in *Harvey* as Betty Chumley, "The student-directing position



A scene from the 1950 movie adaptation of *Harvey* starring Jimmy Stewart.

is so important because it is one of the few opportunities that students have to direct and produce at Conn and it really allows them to flesh out their ideas about a show and put them into performance."

Although *Harvey* is shaping up to be a funny and entertaining show, it does have the competition of Floralia on its performance weekend. When asked if he thought that Floralia would have any effect on the show, Berard laughed before saying, "It's obviously a point of contention. We have struck up a deal with

Kristin because she wants us to have a great time at Floralia but also do our best in our final performance the Sunday after. I fully expect to see her celebrating Floralia with us!"

Keeler added, "I was a little disappointed that the show was scheduled the way it was, but I knew of the conflict before auditioning and I love the show enough to balance well between the two."

Despite the conflict with Floralia, the entire cast agrees that the show is more than worth seeing. Berard explained, "It's an

interesting play because it isn't necessarily an 'important' play that tackles the big issues, but it does look at small town problems and social pressures, which are things we deal with all the time at Conn." Keeler said, "It is a show that can be enjoyed by most everyone. It's so funny because my character is supposed to be the insane one, but by the end everyone is so quirky that I'm the one that seems sane." •

Harvey will be performed on May 4, 5 and 6 at 8 PM and May 8 at 2 PM in Tansill Theater.

Who You Gonna Call? Officer Shamus

Supernatural class investigates the paranormal in Palmer

MELANIE THIBEAULT
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, April 8, a group of students from Professor TJ Wellman's class "Vampires, Miracles, Ghosts and God(s): The Supernatural in American Popular Culture," gathered in Palmer Auditorium to try their luck at a little ghostbusting.

Despite its young age, Connecticut College has several buildings which are said to be haunted, notably Harris and Palmer, which was ultimately chosen as the stake-out spot for Wellman's class.

Recently in our culture, there has been an explosion of ghost hunting shows and shows about paranormal activity, such as the classic *Ghost Hunters* on Syfy. Viewers' fascination with the supernatural world has fueled the creation of dozens of ghostly reality shows.

"These shows have led to a surge in ghost hunting chapters throughout the country," said Wellman. It also inspired the class' experiment. "We're more interested in the staged nature of this. We're not going to confirm or deny, but explore what exactly it is."

Wellman believes in what he calls "open-minded skepticism." He's not a believer in ghosts, but he's also not completely opposed to the idea that some kind of supernatural being could exist. "A very large number of people seeing ghosts are just from mistaken identity or mistaken perception, but I don't know if we can assume that for all cases."

He added, "I believe that people have experiences that for personal and cultural reasons they interpret as ghosts. I am agnostic as to whether or not it's a being without a body and on top of that, if it is to be interpreted as



Jason and Grant, the founders of TAPS, on *Ghost Hunters*.

a dead person or a dead human being. There are some plausible explanations for why humans see these beings."

With these ideas in mind, Wellman brought his class to Palmer Auditorium in search of some answers from beyond the grave.

Students were scoping the scene for two "full-bodied apparitions" in particular—Ruth, a woman who still lingers in the auditorium long after her death, and an unnamed male professor who passed away there in the middle of giving a lecture; he's been sighted in the wings of the stage.

The ghost hunting process began around 9:30 PM, at which time Wellman and Campus Security Officer Shamus Denniston led the group of students through the auditorium, Denniston pointing out where the supposed hauntings occurred. Students were then separated into groups of six or seven and led into the auditorium.

"We spent some time study-

ing the environment to familiarize ourselves with the regular sounds and visual cues provided, and then stood watching to see if anything worth remarking about occurred. Officer Shamus also led a series of questions, which in a formal investigation, are usually recorded for "EVP" (Electronic Voice Phenomena). Allegedly the recordings of ghost voices that are not audible to human ears."

Groups stayed in the auditorium for roughly forty-five minutes at a time and then went back into the foyer to let the next group try their luck. No formal equipment was available for use, as all proton packs and slime blowers were already checked out of Shain, so some students brought their own digital cameras and recording devices. This didn't stop them from finding some spooky stuff.

According to Wellman, "Several people, myself included, reported some odd visual experiences, such as apparently

random momentary dimming of the running lights along the seating in the auditorium or dimming of the exit lights over the doors." Other people claimed to see random sparks of green, red or white light moving around the auditorium. Unfortunately, none of these creepy occurrences was captured on camera. Were they ghosts or just people's minds playing tricks on them?

"I don't feel that any of the experiences reported come close to what is usually considered paranormal in popular culture. The lighting issues, I think, were due to standing for a long time in darkness or low lighting, especially with a high degree of anticipation and situational creepiness," said Wellman.

Many students also said they felt pretty creeped out or full of anxiety, and some even claimed that their body temperatures were changing drastically. "The only thing people reported consistently was a creepy feeling, which is not unexpected when

standing in an empty auditorium at 2:30 AM looking for ghosts," said Wellman.

Students found no signs of Ruth or the professor. "Neither was seen, though most of the visual weirdness people reported was located in roughly the area where Ruth is supposed to be seen," said Wellman.

So no actual ghosts were found. Maybe they don't exist or maybe they were too shy to show themselves to a bunch of rookie student ghost hunters. Whatever the case, the experiment wasn't a total bust.

Said Wellman, "The students seemed to have enjoyed it, and it provided a great deal of primary experiential data for our discussions in class this past week about the rise of the ghost hunting activities in American popular culture over the past decade."

He added, "I was particularly happy that the students got firsthand experience of the investigatory methods commonly seen on TV, had a chance to think about what constitutes evidence in such programs and to experience (and reflect upon) the degree to which ghost experiences reported on those shows are set up (which is not to say that they are necessarily fraudulent) by the way that the investigation is conducted."

The night was entertaining, educational and eerie despite the lack of ghostly figures. I'm sure the ghost stories will continue, sightings will still be made and people will try their hardest to validate or debunk the creepy claims. Whether or not you're a believer, just remember, the next time you're getting ice cream at Harris and you feel a chill come over you, it's probably a famished ghost and not the chill from the freezer. •

Floralia Lineup Announced

Hot bands to perform at Conn's annual end-of-the-year event

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MATT & KIM: The headliner. The big one. The band probably guaranteed to have the biggest current fanbase pre-May. Although it's been general knowledge around campus that Matt & Kim were going to show up, it's still nice to see it confirmed by a wordsearch on the back of the Daily ConnTact. Matt & Kim's jangly, keyboard-driven power-pop songs have been everywhere, including *Entourage*, *Skins*, the promotional material and pilot for *Community* and a Bacardi commercial.

Their first single, "Yea Yeah," consists of a chorus that is meant to be yelled by as many people as possible for as long as possible. Their songs, including "Daylight," "Good Ol' Fashion Nightmare" and "Cameras," are brief, energetic and addicting. Matt and/or Kim are known to frequently crowd surf and get their audiences as amped up as possible. This attitude is conducive towards the type of songs the group performs.



HOODIE ALLEN: There was once a time when the term "white rapper" was negative. Maybe that's still true. Regardless, New York's Hoodie Allen (a play on Woody Allen and real name Steven Markowitz) looks like the charming, young Jewish man your grandmother would adore, if only he'd hide that rebellious leather jacket. In an interview recorded by the Indiana paper *The Republic*, Allen stated that he's "a pretty positive person, and I want to keep good times in the music." He accomplishes this in his mix-tape filled with pop culture references and fun anecdotes.



His beats are catchy and his samples are well-picked. He doesn't have much to play – only one EP and three mixtapes – but who knows? Maybe he'll be Conn's next B.O.B. "You Are Not A Robot" is a great choice for those wanting to introduce themselves to Hoodie Allen's music. You can check out and download one of his mixtapes, *Pep Rally*, at <http://www.timeforthepeprally.com/>.

DOM: This band is a little hard to figure out. I've yet to find a Wikipedia page for the Worcester-based group and their MySpace page is a little vague (perhaps that's on purpose – the lead singer, Dom, has a last name but he's not sharing). However, they list their type of music as garage and glam, which, as far as we're concerned, is a winning combination. Hailed as a band on the rise by the mighty Pitchfork roughly one year ago, Dom has certainly fulfilled that by playing at venues like Coney Island for the Siren Music Festival and touring with popular indie acts like Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti and the Flaming Lips.

One of their songs, "Beth," is reminiscent of the Ponys, while the song "Living in America" has a completely different sound; by using a synth as the main instrument, Dom is able to do their best attempt at New Order while still adhering to their tried and true formula (as a side note, you may recognize "Living in America" as one of the mash-ups used by the Hood Internet, performing this coming Friday for the 4/22 FNL). They sound interesting to say the least, and will certainly diversify the music scene.

WICKED PEACH: If there was any outcry not related to who the hell some of these bands were, it was that 80s-cover band Orange Crush, a Floralia staple, was not included. However, Wicked Peach, another cover band, has been here before and is just as loved. The choice of covers is not so limited, as the list of songs on their website ranges anywhere from Train's "Hey Soul Sister" to Bon Jovi's "You Give Love A Bad Name." Think of it as live karaoke. You never know, they might take requests.

SHAKE THE BARON: We recently covered this Conn band in the Voice when they played for the Founder's Day celebration. Comprised of Matt Addison '10, Andrew Oedel '10, Max Currier '10 and Jon Markson '12, the band has been making waves outside of the MOBROC scene. It will be cool to see these guys continue to grow to new heights and fame.



Besides these five, MOBROC bands are scheduled to play, although that mini-list hasn't been announced yet. The Best Band on Campus event, set to be held April 28, will determine one of the competing acts – Fleur de Lise, Williams Street Mix, Spiced Curry and Three-Play – a thirty minute set. If you want to be a part of picking one of the performing bands, check this event out and vote.

Until then, use this article as a helpful guide to who you'll be seeing come May 7. Get psyched. •

Photos of Matt & Kim, Hoodie Allen and Dom from web.

Record Store Day at the Telegraph a Hit

ETHAN HARFENIST
STAFF WRITER

Started in 2007, Record Store Day was intended to celebrate the rich culture surrounding independent record stores across the country and to prompt people to go crate digging. Various artists, including Daft Punk, Javelin, Pinback, Lady Gaga, Panda Bear, Cults and many more released limited edition and exclusive releases on Saturday that could only be found in participating independent record stores around the country.

Fortunately for our school,

the Telegraph in downtown New London was participating. The store was fairly packed while I was there and had a boat-load of exclusive releases. There was live music all day and the festivities lasted twelve hours. Conn's own Nixon Fingers played a set in the afternoon. The vibe of the store was bustling with excitement as music aficionados scoured shelves of vinyl in search for the perfect record. In my ideal world, every day would be Record Store Day (though I'd be broke by week's end). The day was a win for music and independent business. •



JON MARKSON / CONTRIBUTOR



New London toddler Greta shops at Telegraph with mother Kat Murphy.

Imprint

Photos of Connecticut College's Senior Thesis Dance Concert



Photos by Miguel Saucedo, staff photographer.

The 2011 NHL Playoffs

Who will win Lord Stanley's Cup?

NATE CORNELL &
CHARLIE LONAEUS
CONTRIBUTORS

When I drive home on the New Jersey Turnpike—the most beautiful road in the Garden State—exit 16W always stands out as a special exit. 16W represents not only the former home of the New Jersey Devils during the 90s, but also the number of playoff wins an NHL team needs to hoist the most sacred trophy in all of sports: Lord Stanley's Cup. The number sixteen often makes me reminisce about the Avalanche, Red Wings, Stars and Devils fighting (often literally) through triple overtimes for the Cup on ESPN.

While hockey's ESPN glory days are over, and my beloved New Jersey Devils are currently playing golf, sixteen teams are still vying to be the best. The Capitals are once again the top seed in the Eastern Conference, led by Alexander Ovechkin, the most electrifying player in the NHL. Because of this, I decided to consult Charlie Lonaues '11, the biggest Kolzig fan from DC that I know, to present our 2011 NHL playoff predictions.

The days of powerhouse teams from traditional hockey locales such as Detroit, Chicago and Colorado are fading along with the likes of Nicklas Lidstrom, Marian Hossa and Joe Sakic. The Vancouver Canucks, the most dominant team throughout the regular season, will unexpectedly see their Cup run fall short. Unlike last year's President's Trophy winners—the Washington Capitals—Vancouver will avoid a historic collapse, but will fall to the unheralded squad from the music city. Call us crazy, but the Western Conference will belong to the Nashville Predators in 2011.

Led by Shea Webber and Pekka Rinne, the Predators were able to collect 25 out of a possible 36 points against the four best Western Conference teams this year. We believe Nashville's dominance against these top teams will continue into the months of April, May and June.

The Eastern Conference has no clear favorite. Ryan Miller, Carey Price and Henrik Lundqvist are all goaltenders with the ability to single-handedly win a series for their respective teams. However, only American-born Olympic hero Ryan Miller will lead the Buffalo Sabers to an upset in their series with Philadelphia. With Chris Pronger nursing a hand injury and weak goaltending, the Flyers will be kicked to the philthy curb.

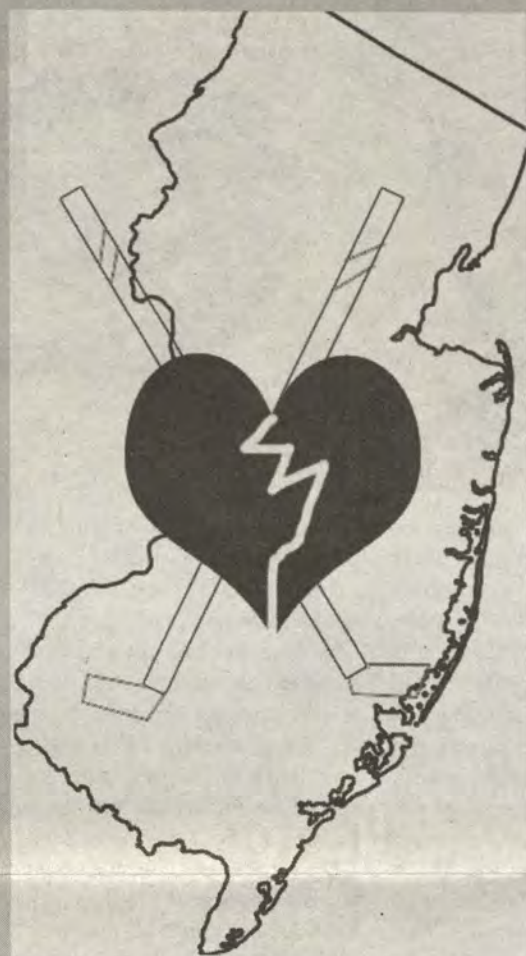
Goaltending will again highlight the series between the Montreal Canadiens and the Boston Bruins, as likely Vesina Trophy winner Tim Thomas

will out-duel Carey Price, causing riots in Montreal and celebrations in Beantown. Zdeno Chara and the Bruins will continue to ride the miraculous play of Thomas past the injury-depleted Pittsburgh Penguins, sending Sidney "Crysby's" squad home early.

Thanks to veteran leadership from former New Jersey Devil Jason Arnott and great play from the two Russian Alexanders, Washington will overcome their recent playoff disappointments to meet Boston in the Conference Finals.

In the regular season, the Bruins handily defeated Washington, winning three out of four games before January. Thanks to Capitals coach Bruce "bleeping" Boudreau's mid-season transformation of his team into a defense-first squad however, the Capitals will overcome their regular season struggles against the B's and reach their first Stanley Cup Finals since Olie Kolzig led them there in 1998.

While this season proved to be the end of an era for my beloved New Jersey Devils, it will be the beginning of a new period in the NHL as young teams like Nashville and Washington compete for their first Stanley Cup. •



Academic vs. Athletic Priorities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Such a trend implies a hierarchical structure of values as opposed to a holistic one. When you strictly value academics over athletics, the tendency for athletics to get pushed aside will inevitably continue.

A Difference in Philosophy

Athletics are generally considered a crucial part of the liberal arts education, but how does playing a varsity sport impact a student in terms of their education? The NESCAC Core Values hold that "athletics should teach and promote life skills including fair play, respect, preparation, teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship." These are all values that are arguably essential in the education of the whole person.

Drew Frazier '12, a coxswain on the men's rowing team, emphasized this point. "I think that sports should be treated as another class, as a certain amount of time where you learn lessons that you don't learn in a classroom," he said. "It would be ideal to be able to go through the day without being afraid of an inevitable conflict with classes and athletics."

Indeed, in an ongoing process of growth, athletes learn important lessons being on a team during their four years here, whether on the field, court, track or river. Moreover, as an important part of the education of the whole person, being an athlete also underscores the role of the coaches as educators at Conn.

Although they are not often thought of as having the same role as professors, coaches play an integral role in the education of a large percentage of the student population. They are dedicated professionals with faculty status, they put in long hours and they need to improve the performance of their teams, both for reasons of fulfillment and in order to keep their job.

When their athletes come late to practice because of conflicts with academics, a mixed signal is sent that challenges the value of their

position at this school. The resulting situation not only frustrates the coach, but also inevitably makes the athlete feel torn between his or her academic and athletic commitments.

If not equal, then what do the contributions of athletes and coaches actually mean to the mission of the College?

As a former coach at Yale and the coach of the men's rowing team at Conn for thirty years, Ric Ricci gave insight into the way the different approaches to athletics and academics at an institution can determine its overall atmosphere.

"At Yale, the general idea was commitment to excellence in academics was equal to commitment to excellence in athletics. I think the school's tradition was such that professors understood that and everyone worked accordingly," he said. "So the Harvard-Yale regatta was important, but so was your thesis; they found a way to make it happen and there was more of a holistic view."

This seems like a valid approach, given the success of the students at the school. If students are limited by an imbalance of values between athletics and academics, can they ever be allowed reach their maximum potential as athletes while excelling in their studies?

"I think it has implications for the spirit of the school, and the school is still not clear in terms of what the value of athletics is," lamented Ricci. "And that's not just winning, it's just about being able to do what you're doing as well as you can in the context of everything else."

In a recent conversation over lunch, Prophet was surprised when asked what he would have done if he had not participated in athletics over the last four years. He paused, somewhat taken aback by the question. "I still would have stayed active," he said. "I can't really imagine college without sports." •

"We Don't Prance Around Like Ballerinas"

An interview with CC women's rugby

MELANIE THIBEAULT
STAFF WRITER

I trekked to Dawley Field Friday afternoon to watch the Connecticut College Women's Rugby team practice. And by watch, I mean I was forced to participate in some of the plays in exchange for an interview. That's right; I took one for the team. During one of the passing drills, a player who will remain anonymous chucked the rugby ball at my hip for no apparent reason. One of the players had my back, saying, "We don't throw the ball at new players. We want them to stay." I felt like part of the team, and like my hip really hurt.

Despite this random act of violence, I think it's necessary to say that the rugby team is composed of some of the nicest, funniest people at Conn. Practice is really chill and casual; it's easy to see how well the players get along with each other. They're really welcoming to new people, though that may have something to do with the fact that a majority of the team tried to recruit me, unaware of the fact that I am both uncoordinated and weak.

Let's get straight to the point. Do you have a death wish?

Karina Hernandez '14: No!

Are you sure?

Hernandez: (hesitantly) No... I'm just kidding. I love rugby.

Ariann Holden '14: If you play rugby the right way, then you're not going to get hurt.

What's the best part about rugby?

Elizabeth Boyland '11: Taking bitches out.

Jill Marshall: It's a really fun sport. The fact that we can compete at the same intensity as boys is great. This is not delicate. We don't prance around like ballerinas.

Holden: I do prance around like a ballerina. When I first started playing rugby, I would

pass the ball and make this ballerina move.

Evelyn O'Regan '14: Basically being able to throw people to the ground. And the team is awesome. It's not some sport for pansies.

Anna Volpe '14: Tackling someone.

Allie Moehrke '11: It's the epitome of a team sport; you're putting yourself on the line and your teammates have to back you up.

Hernandez: I like feeling like a family. We're best friends on and off the field.

Is rugby as frightening as everyone thinks it is?

Elena Rosario '14: Once you get your first tackle down, it's amazing. You have an amazing feeling that you can do anything.

Boyland: It's not any more dangerous than any other sport.

Marshall: I got hurt more playing soccer than rugby. All that's happened with rugby is I hurt my pinky.

Moehrke: You can't play the game if you're afraid of getting hit. It's not for the weak-hearted.

Hernandez: Watching and playing are two very different emotions. When you're playing, you get this adrenaline rush and you feel like you can do anything.

Moehrke: Everyone when they first start is a little bit afraid, but after that first game, that first hit, you're like, "It's not that bad."

Do you enjoy tackling and/or wounding other people?

Marshall: Tackling, not wounding. One time, I tackled someone and ended up hurting them and I felt really bad.

Boyland: It feels good to tackle if you do it correctly. People think it's a crazy dangerous game but it's not.

Marshall: It's a sport where you can show you can kick people's asses. Most people are too afraid to come to practice and don't know how to get started.

Moehrke: Fuck, yeah. It relieves my stress. But I don't want anyone to get seriously injured.

Volpe: Hell to the yes. Tackling is good.

How well does the team work together?

Parinda Darden '13: Excellently.

Boyland: We work together very well on the field and off the field.

Hernandez: We're definitely all friends. We hang out on and off the field.

Moehrke: We're like a family. This is the closest team I've ever been on.

Volpe: There are a lot of new players this semester and we've really connected.

What's the worst injury you've ever gotten playing rugby?

Darden: I got clotheslined.

Boyland: I think concussions are the worst.

Marshall: When school comes first and then your head is whacked, it's not good. I've gotten a broken finger and multiple swollen knees.

Rosario: I haven't really gotten injured. I'm the most injured person ever, but not from rugby.

Marshall: Knock on wood.

O'Regan: My neck got really hurt and I sprained my ankle.

Moehrke: Someone stomped on my hand.

Holden: I got cleated in the face and it was awesome.

Paige Miller '14: I got decapitated. Just kidding. I don't play rugby. I don't even know why I'm here.

How do you feel at the end of a game?

Marshall: Awesome.

Boyland: Amazing.

Darden: Orgasmic.

Rosario: Ready to get it in.

Volpe: I feel like I got run over by a truck.

Holden: I feel relieved, like everything has been lifted off. You put everything into it, and then you wake up the next morning and your body hurts. But you get back up and keep doing it. You have practice the next day and do five million hill sprints.

In a few words, can you describe to a newbie how rugby is played?

Rosario: You get the ball and run.

Tess McGovern '13: Kill or be killed.

Boyland: No passing forward. Fighting for possession is really physical. Lift people by their shorts. Get crotch in a scrum.

McGovern: Rugby is the cleanest sport ever.

Hernandez: We have a hooker and a stripper. We scissor all the time.

Boyland: We rock all day long.

O'Regan: Throw the ball, run like hell and tackle people.

Volpe: Mess biddies up, get money.

Does anyone have any awesome nicknames?

Marshall: I'm Superfly. All my codenames for plays were superheroes.

Rosario: I'm Andy McDonald. Like the pro skateboarder.

Darden: We're also called Asian Power.

Holden: Rugby Ballerina. It's pretty awesome if you ask me.

Best song to play rugby to?

Hernandez: "Smang It"...No, I hate that song.

Rosario: We all rap on the way to games. And "All I Do Is Win."

Boyland: All Time Low.

(For some reason unknown to me, the team decided to break out into "Friday")

Moehrke: "Freaks and Geeks" by Childish Gambino.

Anything else you want to add?

Hernandez: I want five girls to join by the time this is in print.

Holden: We have an amazing coach and captain (Boyland).

Hernandez: I love practicing with the boys' team.

Volpe: We couldn't do it without them.

Holden: Yeah, we could.

Volpe: Yeah, I know. I was just being nice. •

Academic Priorities vs. Athletic Spirit

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Academic vs. Athletic Priorities

One issue in particular that challenges this claim is the frequent conflict that labs and other academic obligations present during the block of time from 4 to 7 PM, which is traditionally designated for athletic practices. "I really think [practice] is undermined...I think there are a lot of professors who are negligent of this fact," said Colin Gallant '12, a runner for all three athletic seasons at Conn.

The scheduling conflicts that arise between academic and athletic practices are by no means few and far between. "[Team-mates] will often get out of their lab at five when it should have been over at four; there is this whole overlay and I really think that's insensitive," said Gallant.

While a class can still function well to some degree when a few students are missing, it is crucial for players of varsity sports to be present in order to maintain the integrity of a practice. The level of interdependence on a team is significantly higher than in a lab or class, and absences can strongly affect the team dynamic.

In addition to scheduling conflicts, athletes have also expressed frustration over events that occur at times that prevent them from participating. The frequent guest lectures, which bring various notable speakers to our campus to talk about many academic and world issues, are almost always held at 4:00 PM, which is the same time athletes are donning their practice clothes and heading down across the Route 32 bridge.

"I think there would be a lot of athletes that would be happy, if given the chance, to go to these presentations," said Trevor Prophet '11, who plays both soccer and tennis for Conn.

Every year, an average of five hundred students here are varsity athletes, comprising approximately 25% of the student body at Conn. This means that by default a quarter of the school's population is excluded from events that many students see as an exciting part of their experience on this campus.

"It's a large majority of people and I feel like when they do assign guest lectures at



PHOTO FROM WEB

that time it's really kind of negligent of this 25% of people at Conn," said Gallant. Shouldn't the fact that such a large portion of the student body might like to attend these lectures be taken into consideration?

"For some people, sports are their main focus, but others would appreciate the option of attending some lectures and not having to worry about coordinating with a tricky practice schedule," said Molly Pistrang '13, a former three-season runner at Conn. "A more equal interaction of the two might create a more involved campus community."

Pistrang also expressed mixed feelings about her parting with athletics at Conn. "I

feel enriched by the activities and events I am now able to attend, but also miss the camaraderie of the team," she said. For those who remain on a team the question remains: why shouldn't I be allowed to do both?

Moreover, this issue also seems to be at odds with the Core Values section of the NESCAC mission. Titled History, Identity, Membership, it says, "athletic programs should be integrated into the broader life and fabric of our campuses."

On a broader scale, the question of how much Connecticut College values its athletics arises from both the apparent lack of sensitivity to practice times demonstrated by some professors and the scheduling of

guest lectures. Do varsity athletes at Conn feel equally valued for both their athletic and academic contributions? In terms of the liberal arts and the NESCAC mission, the answer would appear to be yes, but the aforementioned instances seem to imply otherwise.

The D-III Factor

The balance between academics and playing a varsity sport can often be a challenging one to maintain, and Gallant also expressed that, as a student-athlete, one cannot always view their sport as the highest priority. "I feel like most other athletes ought to know that they go to college to go to school; that's why you go to a Division III as opposed to a Division I college, so I don't necessarily think professors should try to schedule around us."

Is this true in all Division III schools? While athletes should by no means expect preferential treatment, shouldn't the student-athlete truly be allowed to excel equally in both areas at this small liberal arts college?

Professor of History Marc Forster, an athlete himself during college, emphasized the principle of equilibrium. "That's the point, you have to figure out a balance. I think difference between Division III and Division I remains this idea that we think varsity athletes should be treated and consider themselves just like other students in what they do academically or otherwise," he said sitting at his desk, a picture of a younger version of himself in a Swarthmore lacrosse jersey perched on a nearby shelf. "Athletics shouldn't prevent these students from using all the academic opportunities that are here."

This being the case, when students find academics encroaching on their teams' practice times, what message does this send to them about how the College values the sport to which they dedicate so much time and effort? If resolution of conflicts is often possible when students discuss the matter, what accounts for the frequency of its occurrence?

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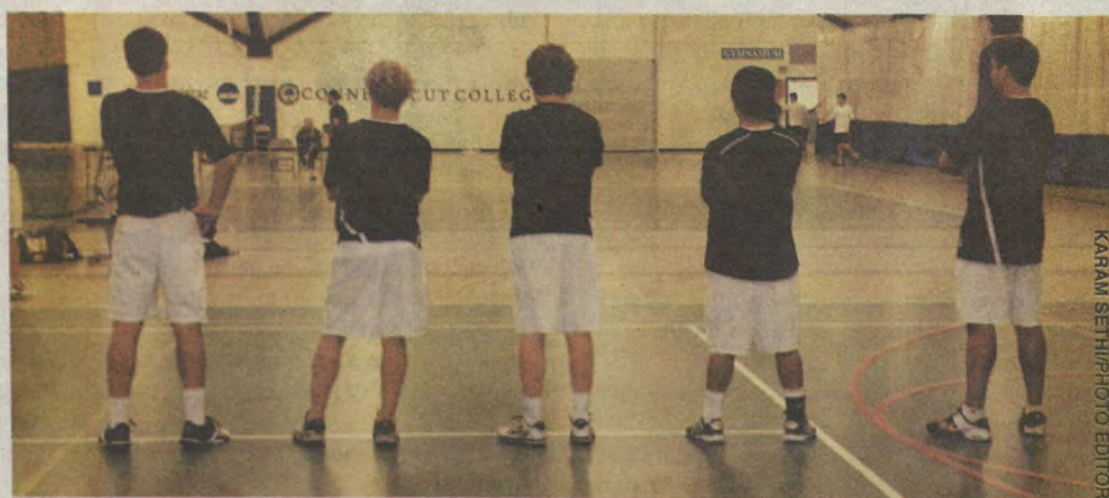
Camaraderie the Key for Men's Tennis

Trip to Arizona does well to bring the team together

JESSE MOSKOWITZ
STAFF WRITER

It was a dreary Wednesday evening as I sat down for dinner with members of the men's tennis team. They still carried their throw-over racket bags and continually wiped their foreheads with the sleeves and neckbands of their shirts. The team had just had a long fitness practice and everyone was excited to eat. As we devoured steamed veggies and engaged in friendly conversation, I could not help but notice one resoundingly apparent theme: this is a fun-loving group of guys who genuinely enjoy playing tennis together.

Although the squad has lost all four of their NESCAC matches this spring, they are determined to focus on the high points of their season and look toward the future. They have only lost one non-conference match and with four in-conference matches remaining, they're confident that they will pick up ground in their hard-hitting league.



Men's tennis team takes a moment to visualize success on the courts.

Throughout the offseason, the team focused on fitness and strength training in order to prepare for their tough schedule. "Coach had us working hard in the gym all winter and we can really feel the difference this spring," said captain Trevor Prophet '11. Head Coach Chris O'Brien is in his first full season with the team after taking over in the spring of last year. "Having a full year with Coach O'Brien has definitely helped us solidify

our identity as a team. He has a better grasp of our strengths and weaknesses and that's helped us develop as a tennis team," added George King '13.

The team got its first chance to display its offseason training over spring break when they travelled to Arizona for a ten-day, tennis-filled getaway. The team won all six of its matches over this time, including sweeps of Mesa Community College and Glendale Community College and a 7-2

victory over Division II opponent Grand Canyon University.

While they worked hard on the court, the team feels that the time spent together off the court was just as important to their competitive progression. Together with their coaches, the team went on hikes in the South Mountain Reserve, watched a Cactus League baseball game, shopped at malls, saw a scorpion and watched the 80s martial arts flick *Bloodsport*. "I liken our assistant coach Dan

Schoenner to main character Frank Dux of *Bloodsport*. They have similar attitudes, personalities and fighting styles," said King (affectionately referred to as "The Big Dog" by his teammates), followed by an eruption of laughter around the table.

Camaraderie is clearly a huge part of Camel tennis. "There's nothing like a clean spring afternoon with the boys," Prophet noted about his teammates. This chemistry has the members of the squad playing for one another on the court. "I really like the dudes on our team. They make me want to come to practice. I really enjoy hanging out with them. Life is good," said King. With this enthusiasm, confidence and team spirit, look for the Camel men to make some noise in their remaining NESCAC contests.

The Camels take on Wesleyan University on April 21 in Middletown and Bates College on April 23 down on the South Tennis Courts. •

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Men's Lacrosse (5-7):
4/16 Conn 5 - 6 Tufts
4/12 Conn 12 - 7 USMMA

Women's Lacrosse (4-8):
4/16 Conn 7 - 13 Tufts
4/13 Conn 17 - 3 E. Conn St.

Women's Water Polo (5-9):
4/9 Conn 8 - 7 Utica

Men's Tennis (9-7):
4/14 Conn 9 - 0 Springfield

Women's Tennis (6-10):
4/13 Conn 0 - 9 Tufts
4/10 Conn 3 - 6 Colby

Co-ed Sailing:
8th Place in the New England Dinghy Championship

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Men's Lacrosse:
vs. Wheaton: Tuesday, April 19 at 4:30 PM
vs. COLBY: Saturday, April 23 at 1 PM

Women's Lacrosse:
at Springfield: Thursday, April 21 at 4:30 PM
at COLBY: Saturday, April 23 at 11 AM

Men's Tennis:
at Coast Guard: Tuesday, April 19 at 3:30 PM
at WESLEYAN: Thursday, April 21 at 3:30 PM
vs. BATES: Saturday, April 23 at 2 PM

Women's Tennis:
at TRINITY: Wednesday, April 20 at 4 PM
vs. BATES: Saturday, April 23 at 10 AM

Co-Ed Sailing:
at BOWDOIN: Saturday-Sunday, April 23-24 at 9:30 AM
Thompson Trophy: Saturday-Sunday, April 23-24 at 9:30 AM in New London, CT