The College Voice
Special 1995 Commencement Issue
Volume XVIII, Number 19 May 23, 1995

New York Times columnist to speak at 1995 commencement

BY JENNY BARRON

Russell Baker has promised himself that he will try not to give advice when he addresses the senior class at the 77th Commencement. The New York Times columnist will be the keynote speaker at this Saturday’s ceremony and will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the college.

Baker graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in English Literature. But, he says that college did not really teach him anything about the “real world.” Baker started learning those lessons as a police reporter for the Baltimore Sun following graduation.

Baker did, however, point out that education is right now. He said that the nation is being divided into two countries: those who have the education to make it and those who don’t.

Baker worked in the newspaper’s London bureau and witnessed the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He then returned to the US to report on the White House and Congress first for The Sun and later for The New York Times. Baker has written his “Observer” column for the Times since 1962. But, his most recent endeavor takes him into a different sphere. When Alastair Cooke retired as the host of PBS’s “Masterpiece Theater” last fall, Baker was asked to step in.

From Saturday morning conversations with Lyndon Johnson, to covering Eisenhower’s heart attack while in office to examining society twice a week in his Times column, Baker has seen many aspects of American society. But, don’t ask him to sum it up. “People who want to sum it up are people to be avoided,” Baker commented.

However, he did speculate on the present problems facing America. Baker pointed to the lack of overall leadership as a cause for concern. “We don’t seem to have any direction,” he commented. Baker noted that the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt. He talked about how Roosevelt could make people move in the right direction even in the hardest of times. “We don’t seem to produce leaders like that anymore,” Baker said. “You have to go back pretty far before you find a strong leader.”

For over thirty years, “Observer” has appeared on the Op-ed page of the New York Times. But, Baker says that there is no real pattern to writing the column each week. “I don’t think about it until the day comes to write it,” he explained. He often considers what he would like to read about as well as what his readers might find interesting. “It’s a bit or miss proposition,” Baker commented.

His column has often been said to take a humorous approach to the issues of the day. “Humor is a device by which you can say serious things,” Baker said. He explained that he likes to draw people in by making them laugh before he needs them with a more serious message. People must be entertained enough to want to read the column, but Baker hopes that his writing will also expose them to his view of the world, this view in then theirs to either agree or argue with.

But, after this lengthy career in journalism, what does Baker have to say to someone looking into this field? “Go study physics,” Baker advises.

Jeffrey MacMillan/Aloneness Theatre
Russell Baker will address the class of 1995 during graduation on May 27.

Commencement Degrees for four shining individuals:

College bestows honorary degrees on four distinguished individuals

BY JENNY BARRON

Connecticut College will recognize the outstanding achievements of individuals at Saturday’s 77th Commencement ceremony. The college will award four honorary doctorates: two of humane letters and two of laws. Honored with these degrees will be keynote speaker Russell Baker, Wendy Kopp, founder of Teach for America, Drew Days, Solicitor General of the US Justice Department, and Alvin Adams, US ambassador to Peru.

Wendy Kopp is the founder of the New York-based Teach for America. The program recruits, trains, and sends college graduates to teach for a year in inner city schools. In three years, she raised $17 million and placed 1,800 graduates in a dozen communities. Teach for America is a result of a senior thesis that Kopp wrote while at Princeton. One of her associates described her as “incredibly committed and persistent, with tremen-
dous idealism, drive, energy.” She will be awarded a honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Drew Days is currently serving as Solicitor General. He works within the US Justice Department and represents the government before the Supreme Court. In addition to being a former law professor at Yale, Days was the lawyer to the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of the NAACP during the 1970’s. For his first arguments as solicitor general, Days picked cases that are thought to force a new look at the 1991 Civil Rights Act.

Former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall headed up that organization and Days seems to be following in his footsteps. Marshall was also named solicitor general before he was nominated to the supreme court. Similarly, Days is also thought to be a future nominee to the high court. Days is also a former professor at Yale Law School. He will receive an honorary doctorate of Laws.

In addition to currently serving as the US ambassador to Peru, Alvin Adams is the father of graduating senior Lex Adams. Ambassador Adams has served as a Foreign Service Officer for twenty five years. Before he was assigned to Peru, he was Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti where he made significant contributions to human rights and to the first free, democratic elections in that country’s history. In 1992, Adams received the State Department’s Award for Valor for saving the life of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

He has also been assigned to the Vietnamese Embassy, the National Security Council, and a variety of tours at the Department of State in senior management and operational positions in counter-terrorism and staff support to several Secretaries of State. Adams will be recognized with a honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.
Seniors receive fellowships and internship opportunities

by Jennifer LeVan
Editor in Chief (Magazine) ex officio

All their hard work has finally paid off for several seniors who have been awarded fellowships and internships for research during the summer and next year. These students have to go through a grueling application process after writing an initial proposal, submitting it several times, going through a group interview process, and then individually interviewing, senior Alison Bragg said.

Bragg, an environmental studies major who studied in St. Petersburg, Russia for seven months last year, was awarded a Watson fellowship.

According to Bragg, the Watson fellowship is awarded from a fund set up by the Watson family in 1969. Thomas Watson, Jr. was the chairman of the IBM corporation, Bragg said, and money is awarded from this fund to sixty students.

After participating in the CISLA program, Bragg said that she is looking forward to working in St. Petersburg, Archeangel, and Naryan-Mar next year.

Bragg intends to focus her work and research on the quality of drinking water in these cities.

"It's going to be hard," Bragg said, "I've heard stories from other students... they give you money and then you're on your own. But it's a great opportunity."

Other students were also awarded scholarships and fellowships.

Jeffrey Turco was awarded a Fulbright scholarship.

Turco will teach English in a high school in Gera, Germany Turco will set a precedent as the first foreign student to teach in this high school.

June Yun was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to research and attend class in Japan.

Patrick Ghidirim, a senior economics major, won a fellowship to attend the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. The two-year fellowship will allow him to study international relations.

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We would like to give special thanks to Jen LeVan.
We could not have done it without you.
An A&E expert reflects on arts and entertainment through the years

BY CARLI SCHULTZ
Associate A&E Editor

Arts and Entertainment at Connecticut College. I spent four years covering it, but I barely scratched the surface. The campus brims with entertainment if you look for it. It has to since there is absolutely nothing to do off campus on a weeknight, or for that matter, a weekend. Unless of course you hit the New London bar scene, which most students limit to the El N' Gee. However, if you expand your horizons and take a short jaunt to the two gay bars within a block of the El N' Gee, things can get exciting. If you're gonna go, try a Saturday night, because Saturday is when all the drag queens show up to perform at Frank's, and the downstairs of Heroes becomes a leather bar, not a sight to miss.

But anyway, the last four years have been blessed with all sorts of art and entertainment, and some of it has been taken away during the process. Take that white block thing in the center of Cummings. There's a terrific sculpture under that. My tour guide when I was a prospective called it "The Bagel." Then it got covered over since it was old news, and other work is hung on the walls of the box that covers it from sight. What a waste. Art doesn't go out of style.

We lost the old Coffee Grounds as well. The senior class is the last class who know the darkness, the smoke, the wooden tables and raised wooden stage of the old Coffee Grounds. That place had STYLE. You couldn't see a thing, you couldn't breathe for all the smoke in your face, you could barely get seat, let alone a booth. I went there once wearing just a trench coat. I tripped over my own feet and did a face plant. Yes, the dim lighting was a plus at the old Grounds.

Saddest of all, we lost Laz. The end of Laurus house began when the college accidentally ripped up the floor in the dorm living room, not the house fellow's living room where they were supposed to, replacing a beautiful wooden floor with linoleum. You couldn't beat a Laz party. And sure, all those orgy rumors are true. Really, They are. But oh, how we gained as well. We got Captain Stubing's pride and joy as a student center. The Free Speech wall in the KB-Larrabee tunnel. The giant snow penis on Harkness green that you could see clearly once a Monkee, my tour guide in the hazy days of '93. Not bad for the trailer to New Cro. So much change through these four years, so much to see, so much sadly fading away. These are things I'll remember more than that Chinese Rock Art lecture I covered back in the hazy days of '93. Not bad for the small college on the hill. I'm going to miss the Cube at Cummings. I'm going to miss it all.

The class of '95 even got a semester of the lovable Dr. Neiring as President of the College. We saw Olin being built from start to finish, The class had WCNI from Old Cro to the trailer to New Cro. So much change through these four years, so much to see, so much sadly fading away. These are things I'll remember more than that Chinese Rock Art lecture I covered back in the hazy days of '93. Not bad for the small college on the hill. I'm going to miss the Cube at Cummings. I'm going to miss it all.

The staff of the College Voice would like to extend the warmest thanks and best wishes for our graduating staff members:

- India Hopper
- Lina Ziyurs
- Chris Scott
- Carli Schultz
- Julie Granof
- Eric Streck
- Michelle Fortin
- Carl Lewis
- Sean Hanlon
- John Zaff
- Ed Metzendorf
- Angela Troth

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication. Good luck in the future!!
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Outstanding Seniors

Louise Brooks
Field hockey coach Anne Parmenter described Louise Brooks as the "mainstay of the midfield," as she held up the defense and offense for four years. Brooks has marked her at Connecticut College in both field hockey and lacrosse. After playing field hockey for thirteen years, it is appropriate that she was made captain of the team. She started lacrosse when she came to Connecticut College four years ago and now is one of five graduating seniors on the team.

Brooks plans to continue with field hockey in the future, and realizes "I'd like to coach." She plans to end her career in lacrosse when she graduates, however.

An Environmental studies major, Brooks will travel to Belfast, Ireland to teach at the primary level. She will concentrate on environmental education.

Brooks has faced many challenges this year as captain of the team. "It was a challenge because last year we were really bad," Brooks said. "This year we just clicked."

Brooks said that she worked to motivate the team, and that, "This year we worked together as a team."

Brooks said that last year was the first year the field hockey team was allowed to go to the NCAA's, so therefore it was disappointing that they "were just a hair away from going."

Sandra Caro
Selected by the Unity House Staff as an outstanding senior, Sandra Caro has been active on campus not only in Unity Clubs, but in the community as a whole. In a letter to the Unity Alumni Council, Caro said, "My goal throughout my four years was to be supportive and active in the Unity community. But as an extension, I found it important to reach out and represent students of color as a whole."

Caro was actively involved in Unity through La Unidad as a freshman and sophomore. She said that her activities ranged from being an active member, assisting with other events and Latino Awareness Month, supporting other Unity organizations, phone recruiting of minorities with Admissions, and hosting students of color.

Caro continued her participation in Unity as a junior and senior, and also participated in COOL, the Community Outreach Opportunities League, Centro de la Comunidad, and as a dorm representative for Class of 1995.

Caro was also the house fellow of Smith during her senior year.

Caro was the second Latina to be selected for the CISLA program, and was one of two house fellows who were of Hispanic descent.

Overall, Caro has worked hard to make students more aware of and active at Connecticut College.

Neelu Mulchandani
Mulchandani Mehrota was selected by Unity House as an outstanding senior for her many contributions to Connecticut College.

An Economics major with a double minor in Math and Government, Mulchandani Mehrota financed 100% of her college education through employment, scholarships and loans.

Catherine WoodBrooks, dean of Student Life, said, "She has taken the opportunity to get involved in different areas of the campus." WoodBrooks also stressed her assets of organization, management skills and the attention she pays to detail. As a junior, Mulchandani Mehrota was the Vice President of the Student Government Association and allocated received funds of $270,000 to over 72 clubs. In this position she also managed and audited the clubs, and served on the SGA Executive Board and the Student/Trustee Liaison Committee.

Mulchandani Mehrota also served as the Head Treasurer of the Student Organizations of Connecticut College, which she had been affiliated with for four years. As Head Treasurer, Mulchandani Mehrota managed all accounting for over 100 organizations.

Wes Simmons
Wesley Simmons has distinguished himself in many aspects of the Student Government Association during his four years at Connecticut College.

From presidential associate of SGA during his sophomore year, to being a student member of the Financial Strategic Planning team, to being a member of the Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee for two consecutive years, house senator his freshman and senior year, a two-year member of the Dean's term planning committee, and a Finance committee member, Simmons has been very committed to this college.

"Wes is the consummate team player," said Dean WoodBrooks, dean of Student Life. "He always has the best interest of the group in mind. He is just the kind of guy that you want to have on your team."

Simmons' commitment to the college has also gained him the respect of his peers.

"Wes is one of the few truly devoted student leaders on this campus. For four years he has given himself entirely to a variety of organizations whether in student governance, intermural sports or academic computing services," said Jesse Roberts, SGA Public Relations Director.

Malcolm Yoders, last year's SGA president, worked with Simmons on SGA for three years. "Wes has incredible dedication," said Yoders.

"Student government is one of the things I enjoyed the most. I would highly recommend it," said Simmons.

Rachel Waxman
Rachel Waxman was new to rowing when she came to Connecticut College four years ago, but now Coach Claus Wolter proclaims her as an "outstanding rower." Waxman described her position of coxswain for the junior varsity boat, "It's a lot like being a coach. I feel like I've grown a lot since learning about the sport."

Wolter said that she, as a senior, was put in the difficult position of not being put into the varsity boat. He said that the atmosphere was not always pleasant in the JV boat, but that Waxman rose to the occasion. "When she did assume her position, she jumped into it with two feet and took the beginners from the beginner's level to NESECAC Champions. If it hadn't been for her, this wouldn't have happened," Wolter said.

Wolter said that she was a role model for the JV team and most of the responsibility for their performance fell onto her shoulders.

One of two graduating seniors on the team, Waxman also coxed when she was studying at the University of Sydney and the University of Western Australia last year.

Waxman all in all displayed a great love of the sport regardless of who she was, Waxman said.

A sociology and psychology major, Waxman said that she might go into social work or psychology. "I just don't know," she said. Whatever she may do however, this would definitely be after she tours Europe with the Crew team this summer in England, Austria and Switzerland.
They helped us to all see how important a college center... it was very tough to be a dean of student life with no college center... morale was very low," said WoodBrooks. They have also seen a switch to improve the sciences by adding the new Olin Science Center, perhaps a little too late for them to truly enjoy, but exciting none the less. "We've been in two different worlds in terms of where the college is going... I think the student body has to change in terms of what they want to do on campus," said Yoder. These members of the class of '95 were freshmen when the Rodney King verdict came in. "It was at the very end of my freshmen year... I missed the day when they marched city hall because I was at my brother's wedding," remembers Susan Dutton, who took over CASE-I her sophomore year. CASE-I formed at the end of her freshmen year as a response to the Rodney King verdict. Dutton realizes it is harder to know if activism is less, or circumstances are different. "The Rodney King verdict was such a heinous act of injustice... now people have lost sight of what is going on. They are trying to figuring out where to put their energy," said Dutton. Dutton remembers being one of fifteen people to arrange a teach-in, in response to the verdict. The teach-in was a day long event where professors led panel discussions on activism in the past, present and future. "It was a crazy week. The fifteen of us were practically living in Becker House... it wasn't much [of a huge] event but for that week it was pretty incredible," said Dutton.

Dutton does not believe that the campus is apathetic. "I think people would come together if there were a reason," said Dutton.

Rembering four years of change

BY MICHELLE ROMANINE
Editor in Chief

The college community has gone through a lot of changes over the past four years. And the senior class has been there to, not only witness, but influence it all. They are the last to remember Cro before it was renovated, a time when the Coffee Grounds was dark and smoky. The last to remember the K.B. deli space before it was closed. "I didn't take advantage of it enough. I used a couple of times but it was really wonderful," said Schultz. The seniors recall a time when they didn't have to hike to the A.C. to take a swim because the pool was right here in Cro. They remember a time when the campus activism was high as the campus reacted in outrage to the Rodney King verdict. This is also the first class which Dean WoodBrooks has seen grow from freshmen to graduating seniors. "This class is of course very special to me," said WoodBrooks. The class of '95 is characterized by WoodBrooks as one that worked, since their freshmen year, to change the things they did not like. "This class is one that's politically informed and active... these are people that want to change the world," said WoodBrooks. There are many different opinions surrounding post-renovation Cro. There are people who whine and say it looks like the love boat, those who like the love boat look and still others who think it couldn't be better. "I think the new Cro is better except that it has no swimming pool. That was the only athletic thing I could do regularly... now I have to hike down to the A.C." said senior Carl Schultz.

Don't even ask her about the Coffee Grounds. "There is just no comparison... it used to be a coffee house," said Schultz. There are many seniors who agree. They like the new Cro but the Coffee Grounds is too sterile.

"We've been here at a time of tremendous growth," said Maritell Yoders, SGA president, citing the Cro renovations as an example. The senior class not only remembers the old cro, but they remember a year and a half with no student center at all. The student center proved to be very important to the seniors. They saw it as a central meeting place and noticed the absence.

Civil rights era veterans to address difference and diversity at convocation next school year.

BY JENNY BARBON
News Editor

Ruby Bridges and Robert Coles will formally share a platform for the first time at next year's convocation ceremony. Coles, a Pulitzer prize winning psychiatrist met Bridges in 1960 when the six year old helped to integrate a public school in New Orleans. The speakers will inaugurate the campus-wide theme for the 1995-96 year, "Human Difference and Diversity."

The US supreme court ordered the desegregation of the country's public schools in 1954. But, it was not until six years later, under pressure from a federal judge, that the school system in New Orleans was forced to admit black students. This caused a boycott of classes at the William T. Frantz School by the entire white population; six year old Ruby Bridges was the only student to attend classes there in the fall of 1960. Coles, then undergoing psychoanalysis, looked on in horror as crowds of people waited for Bridges to come out of school each day only to shake their fists and threaten her. "I saw a mob of people standing and screaming. She came out of the school and... they told her she was going to die and they were going to kill her." Coles remembered. He befriended her, only to become confused by her insistence on praying for this hostile crowd each night before bed. When Coles asked her why she did this, the six year old replied, "because they need praying for."

Coles has since written several books, including an entitled The Story of Ruby Bridges, and is currently a professor of medical humanities and psychiatry at Harvard University. His books include a multi-volume work, Children of Crisis, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973. Bridges went on the become the Director of Student and Faculty Relations at James Lewis Extension Middle School in New Orleans. Convocation will take place on Thursday, August 31st.
WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

HOMECOMING '95

SEPT. 29 - 30
at Connecticut College

- Harvestfest
- Tailgating
- Post-Game Party
- Hall of Fame
- and More!
Congratulations!

Shane, you sure know how to successfully climb all kinds of Mountains!

We Love You,
Mom, Charles and Zoe

Parents, What’s A Kid To Do

Where did he come from this gifted child?
He was serious, quiet and never wild.

High School taught us he was more than a brain.
In the starring role of Star Light Express as ‘Rusty the Train’.

As a sophomore in high school his sports endeavor was to swim.
But he didn’t know how, his chances were slim.

But by his senior year he was Captain of the swim team!
Once again he was successful in capturing his dream.

Through his college years he has brought us much pride.
A history major with a political side.

Sketch art has always been a passion of his.
As Editorial Artist at political satire he was a whiz.

This Child, now a man, so handsome and tall.
Graduation from college, on to law school this fall.

What is life’s next challenge for him to achieve?
Federal Judge, Supreme Court, whatever he wants, we believe.

Parents . . . . What’s a kid to do when they embarrass you?
But you think you’re safe for know one knows WHO.

Eric Streck is the person, the source of our pride.
Who wants nothing more but to go now and to hide!

Congratulations Eric,
We love you.
Dad & Evelyn

Congratulations
Heidi

Wishing you much
Continued Happiness,
Success & Love !!!
Love Always,
Mon & Steve

Alexa Sanzone,
We congratulate you on winning the
1995 Sally Abrham’s prize for Fiction.
You and Christina are our prize creations!

Love Always,
Mom & Pop
CONGRATULATIONS

to the

Class of 1995

Claire L. Gaudiani '66
Marine Yodors agrees. "There doesn't seem to be a decline in activism. Students reacted to issues such as the Contract With America, it's at the same time activism with a a purpose," said Yodors. "It's just everything this place is," added Yodors.

Four years at Conn may at times seem a lifetime, but in reality they go by quite quickly. The graduating seniors are no doubt left wondering where did the years go?

"I don't know in the end if Conn changes... or if it changed me," commented Schultz. "The night before I came here I was scared because someone told me I would change, and I'm not the same person I was... and that's good."

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The Coffee Grounds. The way it used to be.

Conn College welcomes the class of 1995

Senior dance majors display their talent one final time for Conn.

Senior get what was once their first look at dormitory life.

Firefighters stop the blazing Cron.

Theater department performs Dracula.
The Year in Review

The Samples played to a packed Palmer auditorium last fall.

The Olin Science Center opened for the second semester, and a dedication took place in April.

Meredith the camel, constructed by Chuck Jones, '93, took her spot in the College Center's Connection.

Baba Tundi Ola Tunji played drums as part of UMOJA's Black History Month.

Cornell West, whose book Race Matters was part of last year's summer reading program, spoke at Parent's Weekend.

Karl Warner played guitar at Earth Day.

Comedian Larry Miles spurned controversy with his politically incorrect comedy routine.

Controversy struck over the band Bad Manners' refusal to play at the El' N Gee Club in New London.

Floria was once again bright and sunny, with headlining band "G-Love and Special Sauce."

Students joined Chaplain Steve for "Fun and Games on Harkness Green" during Orientation.

The Camel mascot enjoyed a barbecue at last year's Orientation.

Comedian Larry Miles spurned controversy with his politically incorrect comedy routine.