A Note To Freshmen

by Fernando J. Espuelas-Axenjo
Managing Editor

Why is Connecticut College like? As freshmen, you’ve probably asked yourselves this question a hundred times.

In order to help you answer this question and some others, we’ve put together this special issue which will hopefully shed a little light on what goes on here at Conn.

By combining reprints of last year’s key issues and ideas concerning the upcoming year, The College Voice hopes to give you a cross section of life in this community.

As a senior, I look back at freshman year as if it were yesterday. Understandably, seniordom seems quite distant to freshmen. Believe me, it goes quicker than you can imagine.

One of the reasons why time here goes so quickly is the unending opportunities presented to you as a liberal arts student. You'll find yourselves presented with more new situations and experiences than you can imagine. Herein lies the beauty of the liberal arts education: constant challenge. Through this type of education, the student’s mind is sharpened and has the potential to analyze, question and understand and adapt to their surroundings.

But there is more to a liberal arts education than classroom attendance. This is especially true for Conn. Cultural and extracurricular offerings abound. Everywhere one looks, something of interest can be found.

But all these opportunities are wasted if not taken advantage of.

So hopefully this issue will give you a glimpse of how people think and react at Conn. College, of what’s available and of what’s possible. Good luck.

Editor-In-Chief
William F. Walter

Who Are Your Student Leaders?

by Ellen Bailey
News Editor

The Student Government Association, known as SGA, is an organization which you will quickly become familiar with. SGA governs all extracurricular and dormitory life on campus.

This encompasses everything from all-campus parties to the Honor Code and voicing student opinion to the college administration.

SGA is divided into several branches of government: the Student Assembly, Judiciary Board, Student Activities Council (SAC), classes and dormitories.

The Executive Board oversees Student Government, and its officers consist of the SGA president and vice-president, Finance Committee Chairman, J-Board Chairman, SAC Chairman, Public Relations Director and Secretary.

The Class of 1989 In Profile

Jim Crowley, a senior Economics major, was elected to the post of Vice President/Finance Committee Chairman in the only contested race.

The Finance Committee recommends the entire budget for the Student Activities Fund. Crowley now has an additional responsibility to the Constitution Committee which ensures that all student organization constitutions are upheld.

Crowley stressed that one of SGA’s primary concerns should be “finding out what you Connecticut College students want.” According to Crowley, student goals will be more effectively met this year if SGA places emphasis on campus opinion and if it has a more “result-oriented efficiency.”

Junior Yaw Gyebi is Judiciary Board Chairman and he majors in Economics and History. Known to most students is the Freshman class comes from as far away as California (18), Peru (1), and Greece.

One third of the freshman class ranked in the top decile of their graduating class, “55-60%,” the report says, “is good in the top quintile.”

The SAT scores averaged 542 for the verbal test and average of 580 for the math.
Perelman in Concert

Arts & Entertainment
Concert & Artist Series

The Connecticut College Concert & Artist series has been one of the college's cultural highlights. Once again, students, faculty, and the surrounding community will have the opportunity to see some of the finest performers in the arts at our own Palmer Auditorium. In addition, this being the 75th anniversary of our college, a special surprise has been planned to complement the series.

Last year's series recorded sell-outs in three of the concerts. Dizzy Gillespie's opening concert was such a smash that another Jazz legend will open the season in September.

On Friday night, September 27, Connecticut College will have the opportunity to enjoy an exciting one for the arts at our college. Armin Jordan and solo oboist Heinz Holliger on Brubeck's own choral compositions. The Academy of Ancient Music and its Director Christopher Hogwood have made an important impact on classical music with their remarkable performances on original instruments. They are Britain's foremost chamber ensemble and therefore Britain's most recorded chamber ensemble. The Music Library has many of their most recent recordings. The Academy will present an all-Vivaldi program on October 22.

The Orchestra de la Suisse Romande will continue the tradition of appearances of the world's greatest orchestras. Based in Geneva, the OSR is Switzerland's most respected symphony. Connecticut College will host this excellent orchestra with conductor Armin Jordan and soloist Mary Zahler. This year promises to be an exciting one for Connecticut College. Appropriately, the arts will play a major role in that excitement.

THE COLLEGE VOICE

Only The Very Best

We want serious journalists. Simple, right? Well not really.

To us, a serious journalist is not necessarily the best writer or the best artist. A serious journalist is willing to work at becoming the very best. This is the key.

The College Voice offers a unique opportunity for you to grow and develop your talents. Only if you consider yourself able to work at becoming the very best and enjoy being challenged in a professional atmosphere, should you apply for a position on The Voice.

Simply, we are looking for potential greats. Be it reporters, artists, ad sales people, lay out workers, or even distributors, The College Voice would like to speak to you, listen to your ideas, and grow with you.

The Voice is now accepting applications for the following positions: Staff writers for the News, Features, Arts and Entertainment, and Sports Departments, Ad Sales People Distribution Coordinator, and Lay Out Personnel. Pick up an Application at The Voice Office, located in Room #212, Crozier-Williams Student Center. Applications are due in the 5th of September.
Social Awareness

Last year a series of events aimed at increasing social awareness on campus, raised great interest and concern amongst students. The aim of the venture was to "educate the community about social issues and provide an opportunity for students to air their feelings about minority, gay/straight, male/female issue." Two of the topics covered were sexual awareness and racism in American society.

American Realities

Nearly 700 students and faculty viewed the harsh realities of America's oppression of minorities, during the multi-media presentation of "American Pictures." "American Pictures" was a compilation of slides and narration collected by Jacob Holdt whilst travelling amongst the socially underprivileged of America. During his journey he was arrested twice (once by the F.B.I.), physically attacked numerous times (once almost beaten to death), shot at repeatedly and threatened by many of this country's intolerable racist organizations such as the K.K.K. and the American Nazi Party. When his journey was completed in 1974, twelve of the closest friends he made in this country were dead.

He exposed a side of America many had never seen, or perhaps had chosen to ignore. Some felt overwhelmed and numbed by this facet of America's reality—its ugliness, its blatant racism, its poverty and violence.

King: The Dream Goes On

On the same theme of racism, Dr. Charles King, a noted civil rights activist, held a seminar to explore the way in which we as individuals deal with racism. Using methods which at first seemed intimidating he created a role reversal in which the audience were made to feel the experience of being black and being a minority. It eventually became apparent that we all harbour racist tendencies even though we tell ourselves we don't. According to King, realizing this takes us half way to feeling what it must be like to be a black who is discriminated against in his own country.

Sol On Sex

"The Ten Facts That College Students Don't Know About Sex" was the title of Dr. Sol Gordon's lecture on sexual awareness. His unique manner of speaking, described as heated, comical and emotional, and the issues which he addressed, proved very interesting for the audience. His concerns ranged from sex education and the reduction of teenage pregnancies to gay rights and the religious right.

Tenure Uncertainties

One of last year's most controversial issues on campus arose when the administration's procedures for granting tenure to professors was questioned. The problem around which the audience were made to feel the experience of was dividing the faculty into pro and con professors who many felt merited the position were refused without what they believed was due cause. As a result of continued interest in the case of the Professors Artinian (French) and Deredita (Hispanic Studies) it became apparent that the school had acted quite arbitrarily. Many letters of protest and attempts to reverse the decision failed to achieve a reversal of the college's position.

Shain's Anonymity Ended

After nine years of anonymity, Connecticut College's "New Library" has been named. The library was named the "library for former President Charles E. Shain whose presidency lasted for twelve years during the often turbulent years of 1962 to 1974.

President Ames named the "many accomplishments of President Shain's administration" and "his outstanding leadership" as reason for the Trustees' decision. Former President Shain commissioned the study for a new library, had architectural plans prepared, and he with the Board of Trustees launched the fundraising campaign which raised nearly half of the funds for the library by the summer of 1974. The library was officially opened in 1976.

Bookstore

As of April 19th, 1985, Connecticut College's bookstore located above the post office, was leased to an outside vendor. Brennan College Services, of Springfield, Mass., took control of the college bookstore which previously had been run by the school.

The bookstore was hailed by both faculty and students as one of the few scholarly shops in the area. Many feel that the leasing to a commercial vendor may sacrifice the quality of merchandise available to the community.

By leasing out the bookstore, the college will receive a percentage of Brennan's earnings. An increase in clothing, food and other goods will be available with a decrease in the number of title books.
Dean Atherton On Advising

by Dean Herbert Atherton

This last academic year a Task Force on Advising undertook a comprehensive review of the pre-major advising system at Connecticut College. Composed of faculty, students, and administrators, the Task Force made a number of findings and recommendations, which will influence the various constituencies of the College this semester for consideration.

The Task Force report signals not so much a radical departure from our advising system but does represent a well-established tradition. Connecticut College has always prided itself on the easy familiarity between its faculty and student body and on counseling services. Soon after its founding the College had a career services office in place. In the 1920s a Board of Freshman Advisors (now Board of Academic Advisors) was created, whose function was "to counsel students during the freshman year in the matter of election of courses, and to advise and to aid students as need arose in many other ways." In "all cases," announced one of the early Catalogues, "the faculty wishes to render advice on any matter in which the student wishes to seek counsel.

The most recent review of our system speaks to this tradition, but it also acknowledges the increasing importance of academic advising in American higher education. The heterogeneous student population with different needs, confronted by a myriad of options, not only in their choice of courses, but in leave-taking and foreign study possibilities, internships, and other experiential opportunities, and more mindful than earlier generations of career issues requires more individual guidance and support. Academic advising is now the foremost concern on many campuses, responding to this need and to an awareness of the close connection between advising and retention, particularly in the first two years of college.

Our Task Force review has led to many recommendations, from better training programs and documentation to new patterns of relationships between advisors and advisees and a closer administration of the advising system. One recommendation, a new handbook for pre-major advisors, has already been implemented this year. Other changes, with faculty and student approval, should become a reality in the year ahead.

Some of these improvements will enable academic advisors to do a better job in meeting the needs of their advisees. Advising, however, is a tandem enterprise, in which the advising goes beyond the authoritarians figure and more to a facilitator, who provides a supportive atmosphere in which students can discover and realize their own aspirations.

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A Key To Conn

CRO: Known also as the Crozer-Williams Student Center. Here you may snack at the snack bar, gawk at the seniors in Cro Bar, swim, shoot some hoops in the gym, and dance in Conn Cave, the College party room. You will also find the Student Government office, the WCNI-FM radio studios, Campus Safety, Dean of Student Affairs, Margaret Watson's office, as well as The College Voice, the student newspaper.

P. Netti. Connecticut College alumnus whose name is graffitied liberally on various campus buildings, restrooms, and library carrels. His name was once sighted on the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Phalange-long Spring festival held in May. Rock bands, jugglers, comedians, and other entertainment in the Harkness Amphitheatre which is bedecked with balloons and flowers. It is surrounded by trees and creates one of the best parties of the year.

Norm's: 24-hour diner in Groton (Exit 86) which satisfies virtually all needs with hearty, inexpensive breakfasts.

Marge: Dean Margaret Watson. Marge is responsible for S.G.A., S.A.C., and many programs for the students.

Student Leaders

cont. from page 1

as "J.R.", Gyebi has the dual role of presiding over J-Board and serving on the Exec. Board. Primarily, Gyebi wants to raise student expectations of J-Board and to increase the utilization explanation and processes for incoming freshmen. Strong leadership is the key goal, Gyebi said, in order to make SGA a more viable and efficient organization. He looks forward to bringing "new insights" to his positions on J-Board and the Executive Board.

Social Activities Chairman Matt Charde, a junior English major, is responsible for coordinating all social activities. He also presides over the eight-member SAC Executive/Planning Board. As Charde puts it, his role is essentially "keeping as much of the Campus as happy as possible."

This year will be a year of great change for Campus social functions because of the Connecticut State Legislature's raising of the drinking age this summer. Charde stressed that the campus will not go dry. He will, however, continue the policy begun last year of a deemphasis of alcohol at events, stricter reinforcement of rules and promotion of responsible drinking.

Critical ingredient: purposes, decision-making. Learning to become an informed decision-maker is certainly an objective of a liberal education. That process began here with the choice of Connecticut College, among all the other choices people spend the next four years. It continued with the first summer's look through courses in the Catalogue and will carry on through those four years, as students ponder their educational objectives and begin to relate—however tentatively—the course selections of each semester to life and career goals.

Having to choose in the midst of diversity—it is not only, this is one of the principle blessings of a Connecticut College education: diversity in course options in extra-curricular opportunities, and, indeed, in advising resources themselves, for the student may call upon the assistance of deans, professors, housefellows, coaches, student advisors, and peers, and other counselors, as well as faculty advisers. Recent studies suggest that the success of whatever line, whatever stripe, one characteristic in common: the ability to choose wisely among options. to draw from the many opportunities available on campus, a program which is meaningful to the student. All that advising can do is provide the opportunity; it is not incidental or tangential to the educational experience. It is an essential part of good teaching, indeed, good advising is but another form of the "true liberal education." A key to Conn, therefore, is the ever-present idea: a liberal education is something each student must discover for himself or herself; it is not a received body of knowledge passively imbibed."

Greeley Alpha

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