A Memo To Our Readers

In this volatile world, we can no longer sit back passively and allow the succession of momentous events to occur without voicing a word.

Western democracy depends on informed and knowledgeable public. To remain a democratic system, instant mobilized opposition must exist entrenched within the establishment.

Groups with dissenting views and interests must be allowed to remain free of constraint for the health of society.

In this society it is important that the press retain its independence from the governing forces. Just as it is important to have a free and independent press, so it is on this campus.

Once an organization founded upon this principle, allows itself to be absorbed by the government, it is rendered impotent and no longer fulfills its purpose. It is the express belief of this paper that The College Voice no longer meets the needs of those it serves.

According to republican principles, interest should rival interest in society. At Connecticut College, multiple groups have diverse interests at stake, however, one group’s interests have prevailed, those of the administration.

What is at stake is independence thought. Time has come for a student to have a vehicle to voice their concerns.

Freedom of dissenting views was precisely what those who asserted the freedom of the press two centuries ago sought to protect. The expression of dissenting views is precisely what arouses hostility from those in power.

With freedom, this paper, henceforth known as The College Republic, takes on the responsibility of presenting and uncovering pertinent topics for discussion and debate.

Security?

Harassment in Marshall

tom Libassi

During the early morning hours of November 29, an intruder entered Marshall dorm and proceeded to the upper floor. He barricaded himself in a room before entering the room of a fourth student, where he waited until the female occupant returned. All four girls escaped the dorm however, it was in the third floor room that the sixth case of harassment this year.

Security arrived within five minutes of being called. They conducted a thorough unsuccessful search of Marshall. Paul and Jane, and took a description of the man.

Available information is that the incident has yet to be reported to the New London Police. "Although "Marshall" residents" man has been seen on two other occasions. According to sources, Campus Police were not called in the previous two incidents.

Incidents of assault and harassment have risen dramatically this year. They have already surpassed last year's total.

Director of Campus Safety, Joseph Bianchi, will not acknowledge the fact that there is a security problem on campus. Dean Watson has no comment on whether there was a rise in crime on campus or a problem with campus security's performance.

Surge In Crime

dave Tyler

"Connecticut College is not an "Ivy Tower," according to Dean Watson. "It is a small faction of the real world, with its own share of problems," says Watson. However, the college does have its share of problems as recent statistics indicate.

There has been a dramatic spike in the number of assaults on campus this fall. Figures on crime covering the last six weeks have equalled or surpassed the totals for all of last year.

Official statistics indicate that for a total of five assaults this fall as compared to four for all last year. Six cases of harassment thus far have occurred in comparison to last year's five and the year before's two.

Campus Safety has received three cases of sexual offenses every 12 days this fall. If this trend continues there will be at least 18 assaults and 30 cases of sexual offenses in the remaining months of the school year.

Director of Safety, Joseph Bianchi, says that he has already surpassed last year's totals.

"The number of assaults and harassment are both up, so far," says Bianchi. "We have already surpassed last year as far as crimes go."

"Safety is a concern that is on our minds," says Bianchi. "We are doing everything in our power to keep this place safe." The college has increased the number of police officers on campus, as well as the number of security personnel.

Value of a Liberal Arts Education

by Chris Horrock

At this time of year it is necessary to make public a letter written to the Editor of The Connecticut College student's paper this fall. The editor, in response to the letter, wrote the following:

"What is the motive behind your move away from one side of a page to the other if you: 1) do not comprehend and 2) lack the will to understand? Why write a paper-rewriting it and yourself the whole way- on a subject that you realize is meaningless to you?"

But how much is the student at
Fieldhouse: A Definite Yes

by Mark Jordan

Just recently, the College Voice placed a procrastination poll in our mailboxes. One of the questions dealt with whether this college was making a sufficient commitment to its athletics. What was your answer? The question was addressing the administration's policy towards this college's athletic program. The solution is to go ahead with the current proposal before S.G.A., the faculty and the administration, to construct a new field house facility for this campus.

The Athletic Department would agree with any positive move towards such a facility. The administration needs to know how the student body feels about the project before any further action is to take place. Strong support of the students would lend feasibility to the possibility of success.

Now some may ask, why a fieldhouse here at Connecticut College? Does this mean that our art, dance, music and conventional academics are going to suffer just for the sake of expanding the Athletic Department? Not at all. It could make the College more competitive. So the more people, the more competitive the College would become.

One of the most difficult problems regarding the handgun control issue is that of civil rights, as is the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states, "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," guarantee an individual's right to possess handguns! Opponents of handgun control believe it does, and that any other interpretation of this Amendment could clear the path for government tyranny. Gun-control proponents, on the other hand, argue that the possession of a "well-regulated militia" is amply served by the National Guard. According to the United States Conference of Mayors, the "right" guaranteed by the Constitution is meant in a collective sense: the people have a collective right "to bear arms in common defense." This view has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States in its opinion of May 1981. According to the United States Conference of Mayors, "statistically it is far more likely the intruder that will steal a firearm than be repelled by it." The National Coalition to Ban Handguns reports that at least 35,000 are stolen yearly from individuals.

The increase of crime in the United States is a source of national chagrin and anxiety. Although violent crime can be committed with any weapon, the handgun is certainly the most deadly. For it is the only concealable weapon which is effective at a great distance. Handguns are five times more likely to be fatal than knives. The predominance of handguns used in homicide is shocking: according to the FBI Uniform Crime Reports, "One half of the 23,944 Americans murdered in 1980 were killed with handguns. The majority of these murders resulted from non-feudal activity, from "crimes of passion" involving acquaintances, friends, and family.

One of the most difficult problems regarding handgun control is the issue of that of civil rights. As is the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states, "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed," guarantee an individual's right to possess handgun? Opponents of handgun control believe it does, and that any other interpretation of this Amendment could clear the path for government tyranny. Gun-control proponents, on the other hand, argue that the possession of a "well-regulated militia" is amply served by the National Guard. According to the United States Conference of Mayors, the "right" guaranteed by the Constitution is meant in a collective sense: the people have a collective right "to bear arms in common defense." This view has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States in its opinion of May 1981. According to the United States Conference of Mayors, "statistically it is far more likely the intruder that will steal a firearm than be repelled by it." The National Coalition to Ban Handguns reports that at least 35,000 are stolen yearly from individuals.

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From The Statehouse
Bill Cibes Comments
Conn. State Income Tax

Conn. State Income Tax

by William J. Cibes

In the central cities of Connecticut, families earning $250,000 a year pay about 15 percent of their income in state and local taxes. Families earning $50,000, however, pay only about 6 percent of their income in state and local taxes.

Why does such regressivity exist? Because Connecticut relies on a crisis-quity system of taxation which emphasizes the sales tax and the local property tax, and avoids any incire taxes except those which are selective and discriminatory in their application, i.e. capital gains and dividends tax, and an unincorporated business tax.

The lower a family's income, the higher the percentage of that income goes for sales taxes and property taxes. People earning $10,000 a year pay an average of 9.0 percent of their income for property taxes, while those earning $50,000 pay only 1.19 percent.

People earning $10,000 a year pay an average of 9.07 percent of their income for property taxes, while those earning $50,000 pay only 1.19 percent.

Relying on the regressively progressive property tax for almost 30 percent of the total revenues of state and local government (as compared with the U.S. average of 16 percent) has an especially severe impact on those with low incomes and who live in New London. Because the tax base of such towns is low, and service demands high, taxpayers in those towns must pay a far higher percentage of their small market value of property taxes than taxpayers in suburbs. Owners of homes and apartment buildings in New London, for example, pay more than 2.5 percent of the market value of their property in taxes, while homeowners in Waterford (where there are no apartments) pay only 0.95 percent of the market value in taxes.

The state government could provide payments to local governments to equalize such disparities, but the Bond-aid tax structure is not permitted a meaningful equalization. The so-called Guaranteed Tax Base formula for equalizing educational expenditures is not funded adequately, and is indeed but a weak shadow of a true equalization formula. And because of cutbacks in state grants to towns, state aid to property-poor cities actually decreased this year.

The situation of people in poverty and their cities is a substantial overlap - is exacerbated by the failure of state government to meet the needs of its citizens. Pinching pennies for ten years has kept equalization payments and state taxes relatively low, but the effects then the accumulation of a substantial "service debt." The Department of Mental Retardation is able to provide little more than custodial care for its clients. When challenged in court, the state's Attorney General has replied that Connecticut is not constitutionally required to provide rehabilitative services to its mentally retarded citizens.

A family of three receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children ("AFDC") were granted a temporary survival for a month on a state grant which would have brought them significantly above the officially defined level of poverty for 1975; the family would be able to find an apartment for $138.62 per month, the state calculation, to pay for water heating with $6.73, and to pay the rest of its electric bill for $9.47. If a member of that family were to be convicted of shoplifting and sentenced to prison, he would find that Connecticut's prisons are so overcrowded that the judiciary has been empowered to release some inmates to make room for new arrivals.

"A recent UConn poll found that 59% of our citi- zens would rather see an income tax instituted than an increased sales tax."

In order to cut the cost of paying the Medicaid bills for elderly patients in nursing homes, the state authorizes nursing home operators to increase charges to self-pay patients. Of the 567 miles of state highway, the state has been able to afford to pave an average of 96 miles per year during the last seven years. At that rate, some stretches of road will be resurfaced 30 years from now.

Clearly the state is not wasting money. The state spends only $70 for every $1000 in personal income, the 50-state average is $85, and the New England average is $96. Thus the expenditures per capita by the state government rank Connecticut 46th of the 50 states in per capita spending.

The state's payroll expenditures per capita rank 40th in the nation; those expenditures are 2.01 percent of state personal income, as compared with the United States average of 3.31 percent. Although any waste and low priority programs (such as certainly be eliminated, the record depicted here indicates that there is little waste to be found.

In order to increase state payments to towns to reduce and equalize the property tax burden, and in order to meet the need for services, (to say nothing of replacing those high priority programs adversely affected by the Reagan administration's budget cut), state tax revenue must be increased. One possibility is to increase the sales tax to 8 or 8.5 percent. But such an increase would not only be regressive, it would tend to drive additional numbers of retail customers in border areas to deal with merchants in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Other possibilities include increasing the unincorporated business tax or increasing the coverage of the capital gains and dividends tax. But both alternatives are seriously limited in coverage which reach only some of the state's citizens (although certainly including those most able to pay), and thus raise real questions of equity.

Tax reform - including the imposition of a non-discountary personal income tax, the reduction of the sales tax and local property taxes, and incorporation of such Band-Aid tax measures into an unincorporated business tax and the capital gains and dividends tax structure - would appear to be the correct approach to the state's revenue raising difficulties.

In some taxes come in all sizes and shapes, but they are all prodigious money-raisers, and almost any kind would permit a significant reduction of sales and property taxes.

The most innovative minds in the General Assembly on this subject - Rep. Irving Stolberg and Sen. Audrey Beck - the chairperson of the Finance Committee - have proposed several alternative versions, each of which would...

CONT. ON PAGE 7

Seaport Sweaters

46 Greenmanville Ave. (Rte. 27) Mystic, CT 06355
(a 1/4 mile from the Seaport) 536-6472

"We cover the family - top quality merchandise at reduced prices"...

* Sherlands, fair isles, cables
* V-necks, cardigans, pullovers
* Cottons, acrylics, wools, blends
* Knit shirts, turtlenecks and knit dresses
* Lafayette and infants thru women's and men's extra large

"We cut prices, not quality"...
Safety is a Campus Responsibility

by Tom Libassi

The Connecticut College campus is not as safe as students have been led to believe. This is evident by the dramatic increase in assaults and harassments on campus this fall (see articles pg. 1).

The resources exist to make Connecticut College a safe place to live and study. It is the responsibility of the entire college community to insure that these resources are properly utilized.

The first step towards this goal is a full disclosure of all reported incidents of violations of our security. This will lead to an informed student body. When students are informed of the problems they will be able to fulfill their responsibilities as members of the college community. These responsibilities include; reporting security violations to campus safety immediately, forming and actively participating in dorm watch and student escort services; and using common sense as to where and when to walk alone at night.

It was the responsibility of the student members forming the committee for campus safety to have met regularly and prepared materials for S.G.A. to review concerning campus safety. This committee has yet to meet this semester. Student Government has taken the initiative and through their authority, has sent a letter to all student-members of this committee and the Director of Campus Safety, Joseph Bianci, to meet as soon as possible next semester.

The responsibilities of the Campus Safety force are: reporting all incidents of crime involving non-students to The New London Police Department; posting the campus safety phone number; making available a report of all security incidents on campus; and responding promptly to all calls for assistance.

The administration has the responsibility to provide support and assistance to students and campus security in order that they may fulfill their responsibilities.

By fulfilling these responsibilities, we will make a great step towards making Connecticut College a safe place to live and learn.

Thank You

The members of The College Republic would like to thank all those that helped to make this paper become a reality. Mr. Libassi, Secretary Mahoney, Mystic Publications, and the entire Marshall Dorm.

READERS: RESPOND

It is the purpose of this paper to provide a forum for open discussion and debate. Therefore, The College Republic invites all letters from students, faculty, administration and all those that helped to make this paper. All articles, except letters to the editor, have been led to believe. This is evident by the dramatic increase in assaults and harassments on campus this fall (see articles pg. 1).

(Title: Nine out of Ten)

Trident. The name, itself, is not ominous. It doesn't bother me one way or the other. Yet, it is a nuclear submarine; a death machine of sorts. A lot of anti-nukers (Reagan's daughter included) want to condemn the submarine before it makes its first killing. I don't want to condemn the Trident, but I don't want to praise it either. I'd rather weigh its advantages and disadvantages and let the statistics decide.

Let's start with the Trident's disadvantages. The first Trident, launched in Groton on November 11, 1981, has been named the USS OHIO. The name is all wrong. Ohio. I think of Cleveland when I think of Ohio. If New Jersey is the armpit of the nation, then Cleveland is the underarm hair. If you think hard enough, you can come up with a state with a little more zip, a little more pizzazz. Texas, for instance, is big and has two soap operas named after it. Nevada is even better. We could paint a set of dice on the turret. The third Trident (they decided not to launch the second one; it must have been named "Kentucky") was launched November 14, 1981, and it's called the U.S.S. Florida. Florida is a much better name, so we are making progress in that area.

When you talk money, the disadvantages are even more staggering. The cost of one Trident would provide adequate child care for 1.8 million children. The cost of one-hundred of a Trident is equal to the cost of the health services New York city provides for its residents in one year. The cost of one-fifth of a Trident is the amount needed by the World Health Organization to abolish malaria. If we go in to mass production, once we have six Tridents we will have put in the amount of money that it takes to maintain the water supplies for 150 cities for the next twenty years. Every time you turn on the tap, think of the Trident. I know I will. Even this figure is small compared to what we can do with the price of 15 Tridents. Once we have produced 15 subs (God Willing) we will have spend the same amount of money that it takes to provide adequate food, housing, water, education, and health for everyone in the world each year. Everyone...in the world...each year. A small price to pay, if you ask me. I think the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

For starters, I, personally, am willing to sacrifice water, education, and health and housing for one year. In the food category, I'd gladly give up eggs Florentine, steamed celery, low-fat yogurt, and liver. That list could grow if I thought about it more. I see no reason why other people in the world can't make the same sacrifices with a little coaxing. Secondly, how many people get malaria every year? Do you know any people who died of malaria last year? Or ever! I'm sure the number is insignificant. Besides it will keep the population down. The biggest advantage — and not many know about it — is that each Trident will pay for itself. Sure, it sounds crazy, but I heard it on Merv Griffin last Tuesday. First of all, the rights to a TV show are being negotiated right now. The show, tentatively titled, "The Bruce Cruise," will air sometime in the 1990's. Co-hostforc NBC (this is new program director, Grant Tinker's, first big ideal) say that they already have Ernest Borgnine inked to a megabuck contract to portray the sub's Captain.

Finally, and this statistic is what transformed me into a pro-nuker. 9 out of 10 dentists surveyed choose Trident for their patients who...Oh wait, I'm thinking of something else. Let me think this over again.

EXTRA DRY

By Peter Kasparson

Though men be much governed by interest, yet even interest itself, and all human affairs, are entirely governed by opinion.

David Hume
In College community must not lose sight of the educational but also inspiring. The search for identity can not be futile if direction, and motivation. Past, and it requires awareness of one's own interests, conditions, Conn. College appears to be in danger. Tuition can be done. Faculty, as well as the students, need more input as to what steadily increases annually. The administration and the success or failure of an institution. In light of these con-
it wrote his statement. In its entirety, Goethe said, 'Whatever problem.

of impractical goals that do not reflect interest but reflect intended to incorporate "financial" inferences when Goethe liberal arts education is defeated.

Reevaluation is presently one of the major concerns of the Individuality, which is promoted in liberal arts courses such as Theater, Art, and Creative Writing, is often discouraged because placement after college is "too competitive," and graduating students must either meet the challenge, or force themselves to remain "undecided." Uncertainty too often breeds indifference, and this attitude is stilling in all respects. Individuality requires awareness of one's own interests, a sense of direction, and motivation. "Boldness," as Goethe defined it, is often suppressed by indecisiveness, not to mention the recent spiraling cost increases, which are discouraging to any person struggling to pay for a college degree.

A college student meets one primary goal before applying for a job or going on to graduate school. Establishment of a sense of direction and a positive attitude will lead to an individual identity. If this is too daunted by negative feelings and attitudes, the original intention of the liberal arts education is defeated.

It is comforting to go to sleep at night with the knowledge that all in,'olved 'please to reinstate the faealh members attempting to halt. on December 16th, if Congress does not assert Its true relationship and ideas will just pack up and leave upsetting the whole game. Only in America can an actor be elected President. Do you think he is still acting now? Well, whatever he is doing, he is having a good time doing it. If the people can't care about Ronald and Nancy Reagan, it is they enjoy being President and First Lady immensely. Such power such prestige, such a waste of time bone china for the White House.

Remember when Carter was President and Miss Lillian was running the country! All people had to worry about was human rights for torture victims of despotic dictatorships, an energy crisis, and 200,000 Cuban refugees in Miami. Little has changed now that Reagan is in the Oval Office. There are still torture victims in South America and Africa, listening to speeches about their "human rights"; there is still an energy crisis with a diminishing oil reserve, increasing gas prices, and all major technology still being poured into unsafe nuclear power, and the Cubans are still being processed in Miami.

What is new to worry about with Reagan in charge, is that the world is on the brink of nuclear destruction, more so than it has been since the days of the "Bomb" and the "Red Scare." It is comforting to go to sleep at night with the knowledge that this mighty nation can literally shut down over such a futile and immaterial semblance of rivalry as a budget decision. Yet be able to wake up knowing that a first strike capability could send the Soviets and the rest of the known world to kingdom come. You've got to have priorities. Sleep tight, your future is secure, as long as you don't work for Uncle Sam or live in Luxembourg.

The headlines were right. America had closed its doors because this government ran out of money. In case it slipped your attention, the greatest nation on Earth had for one brief day come to a grinding halt due to lack of funds. It happened on Monday, the 23rd of November.

Why no funds? Ask President Reagan. It's his budget, not the American peoples.

A total of 400,000 federal employees across the country were on the verge of indefinite suspension. This one day of limbo led some to wonder whether their previously secure jobs with the U.S. Government were still going to be there the next day. These 400,000 people and countless dependents had their livelihoods threatened by the inability of the President and Congress to agree on a budget.

The people are sick of budgets, tax cuts, defense spendings, and across-the-board trimmings at the expense of the American public. What the country needs now is something auspicious to take people's minds off of the inefficiency and self-interest of their government.

The attitude of President Reagan took office is appallingly. It has buckled under to everything the President has wanted. It has put up half-hearted fights, yet has been soft to the cut. The conclusion to every major issue that Congress has faced has been consistent and predictable.

Why should anyone be surprised that the Saudis got their AWACS, that the rich will be richer and that the poor will suffer some more, or that students will be denied funds for a chance at a higher education, or that Europe will be blown off the face of the Earth.

President Reagan's attitude only adds to the appalling state of affairs. Sometimes he resembles a spoiled child with all the money in the world. When this is threatened with anything less than his own opinion and ideas will just pack up and leave the whole game.

Only in America can an actor be elected President. Do you think he is still acting now? Well, whatever he is doing, he is having a good time doing it. If the people can't care about Ronald and Nancy Reagan, it is they enjoy being President and First Lady immensely. Such power such prestige, such a waste of time bone china for the White House.

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The question of the Budget will be brought up again after Congress returns from its recess. The American public may see its Federal government come to another grinding halt. On December 30th, if Congress does not assert its true and constitutional authority and pass its budget with or without Reagan's approval. Remember, it's the people's budget that should be represented by Congress, not his.

The staff of The College Republic would like to commend those faculty members attempting to reinstate the social relationship between themselves and the student body. We hope that it. We hope that all involved will continue to strive for the academic atmosphere so that it will not be an effort in vain.
CRIME

Bianchi stated that the incidents of assault which have occurred this year mainly involved attacks by students on students. Yet, the facts do not support this statement.

Of the six official cases of assault, four involved campus personnel suffering attacks from non-students. Two cases of assault by non-students against female professors while jogging: one between a non-student and a student, and one in which three non-students assaulted a female student.

One student reported that after an evening class in New London Hall a female student asked a security guard to escort her to her dorm. She had heard that there had been a problem with assaults. The guard’s first reaction was “you’re going to be kidding.” Our student informant drove the young woman home.

Safety’s response to calls has been reported as slow. If a student is being attacked, immediate action is necessary. On the night of November 13, three non-students entered campus by car and assailed a female student. It appeared that they were going to drag her into the car. When another vehicle pulled up, the attackers fled. The incident was not reported immediately to Campus Safety but was reported a day or two later.

Campus Safety is not required to report criminal activities on campus to the New London Police. However, Officer Gaynor of the Crime Prevention Division of the NLPD expressed his belief that Campus Safety has a moral obligation to report crimes. Gaynor further stated that it is up to the individual victim to report any crime; it is not Safety’s responsibility alone he said.

CRIME CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Gaynor further stated that it is up to the individual victim to report crimes. The responsibility alone he said.

To Eat or Not To Eat

by Susan Pratt

On Monday, December 7th, the Connecticut College community participated in the annual Oxfam “Fast for a World Harvest.” The fast offered an occasion for those of us who observed the day to remember the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves who suffer from malnutrition and starvation.

A secondary purpose of the project was to help raise money to be donated to the Oxfam organization and used to help alleviate the world hunger problem.

Unfortunately, the way that the fast was organized at Connecticut College rendered it somewhat inefficient and unsuccessful in achieving its goals. The intent of the fast is laudable. It serves to familiarize people in affluent societies, such as ours own, with the problems and hardships that less fortunate individuals are forced to endure.

It also provides an opportunity for those who participate to make a contribution to the world wide effort to aid the hungry. The organization of the project, however, leaves something to be desired.

Primarily, the price that students pay for each meal, reflected by the prices of guest meals, is not equivalent to the amount of money collected and reverted to the Oxfam organization. If the school reduces the number of employees on that given day, there is no need to provide for the payment of salaries. Would it not seem appropriate to contribute the exact same amount of money saved, if in fact it is being saved?

Another inadequacy of the system deals with the role of the students in this ritual. There is no effective method provided to keep track of those students who have pledged to fast, whether it was for 1 or 2 meals.

The students are on their honor not to attend meals that they have pledged to forego. This is not to accuse the students of being dishonest, but it does point out another inefficiency of the program. The object of the fast is not only to provide monetary assistance to the fight to relieve world hunger, but also to provide an opportunity for students to experience hunger.

If students have unbarred accessibility to food, a goal is not achieved. Granted, the school must provide food for those who opt not to participate in the fast, but it should also develop some means of regulating who does eat the available food to ensure effectiveness of the program.

The intent of the Oxfam fast is indeed praiseworthy. It provided this academic community with an opportunity to experience, firsthand, the ordeal of living without food and to make a monetary contribution to the Oxfam organization, whose main goal is the relief of world hunger.

If, however, inefficiencies such as those mentioned continue to persist, attainment of the dual goals of the program will be impaired. Scrupulous attention to organization of such a project as this is needed in order to make the program successful and efficient.

NUCLEAR

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Reagan, freedom is threatened, not protected, by nuclear weapons. The only way to reduce the chance of nuclear war is to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and to prevent the possibility of any nuclear weapons, even those in reserve and in the power of war.

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By Paula Green

Education in Britain is funded through national income taxes. Therefore, any student leaving high school, with adequate qualifications, having been accepted into an institution of higher education, automatically get their tuition fees paid.

Money for maintenance is supplied on a means-tested system. Quite fairly, the lower your parents income the more money you get from the State. Therefore, a British student’s parental contribution, plus grant should total approximately $5,000 per annum.

Thus in Britain any student is entitled to as good an education as his academic equal.

There are recognizable distinctions between various colleges, but again these are on purely academic grounds. Thus, the “better” the college, the higher the grades needed to get in.

Early impressions, that having to pay directly for education made American students more serious about their study, more interested in research, ‘required’ reading and prompt for class, are mistaken. They are just as prompt, patient and motivated as students in Britain.

Unfortunately, that can hardly be taken as a compliment. One must not be sensitized, you cannot be paid to work well. The quality of an education is assuming reasonable standards of teaching - a direct correlate of self-motivated effort to learn. If students lack such commitment and ability then no amount of tuition increases and Alumni giving can make them better graduates.

The aim of an American Liberal Arts education seems to be to produce students with a shallow knowledge of a large number of subjects. The British system does not necessitate firmer decision, at an early age, to produce students with a comparatively deep knowledge of a small number of subjects.

However, it can be argued that the American system is more acceptable to most people in Britain. For one thing it is becoming so totally immersed in study that all independence is thought nonsense. Spontaneous discussion with friends about relevant topics is opposed by ‘talk of deadline,’ ‘10-pagers’ and ‘reserve reading.’

In this way the ‘liberal’ system is fighting itself out. Working under such pressure, the freedom from self, parent or bank-manager, is good for no one.

LIBERAL ARTS

This is not an intellectual challenge, but rather one of a mechanistic sort: a demand to keep pace with “going-through-the-motions.” The students harbor a form of negativism: either they acquiesce or their nose is rubbed in their inadequacies. Students, retrograding after graduation, should have more to look back on than the empty pages of paper, and masses of useless, accumulated trivia.

Ideally, minds will be open after four years, and enthusiastic to graduate thinking that the learning-process has ended, hence that the students has been cheated. (If only partial tuition to pay would have been collected each time this happened...)

Education Begins at College. A mind is a tool for interpreting and evaluating the world. Without constant activity it becomes dull, sluggish, and eventually vegetative.Conn College might provide a better environment for such an ideal setting. Still, there is much to be learned by its deficiencies.

The quaint maxim, “hard work pays off,” is introduced to brutal fact. Students are indoctrinated with the pseudo-fallacy that good mark, but instead you get "slagged" by the prof. If you mean you mean learned any less than you did?

This is more poignant when we consider Conn’s unique wrinkle in the system: the infamous honor code. Some people (“just like us”) slyly thwart this code with convenient expedients that deny a genuine path to self-knowledge.

We see this at Connecticut College, and perhaps appropriately so onto the world at large. Pragmatic tidbits of practicality are a valuable resource for knowledge of the world. Coming in terms with manifold inadequacies of Connecticut College might provide a small chunk of stability to stand on when reflecting upon the world and ourselves in it.
Morality in Media

by Rob Mahoney

Media critics make an essential function in a democratic society. A significant role of reporters has become that of "watchdog" over abuses and corruptions of power. Since Watergate, journalism has enjoyed an era of righteous reports. Reporters have come to consider themselves as guardians of the public interest, or a more popular phrase "the public good." This role has remained nearly unchallenged by a grateful public, and a central government recovering from the wound of humiliation.

Journalism has always been considered a somewhat idealistic vocation. There are no specific guidelines for reporters, but there are implicit conventions of the profession known as the "journalist's creed." Breaking the law seems to have become an accepted convention of that creed. Some of the nation's most respected reporters are quite frank, and even glib in admitting that they break the law for what is considered the "public good." Reporters justify their unethical behavior as necessary for the greater good of society. This behavior is in fact a statement from reporters that they are above the law. The First Amendment of the Constitution asserts that "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." This frees journalism from control by the government. It does not give reporters the right to exist outside the law.

The law is the basic foundation of our society, under which all people's natural rights are protected. Like anything else, if it isfallible, however, the law is the only true "public good." Reporters by breaking the law, are in gross violation of society and the law. Responsible reporters should be able to do their job well using and interpreting the law to their advantage. Criminal behavior is inexcusable, and nothing more than lazy journalism. When reporters place themselves above the law, they undermine society and the very public they claim to protect.

freshman Orientation

by Kim Norton

Last April, many students were accepted by Connecticut College and they awaited the new school year with excitement. But as the summer progressed, the freshmen began to worry about leaving their family and friends. Ominous prospects of 3-hour community labs, ten page critical essays, and "all-nighters" intensified their anxieties about coming to college. When they finally did arrive at Connecticut College, the people offered a warm welcome. The actual freshman orientation program, however, did not meet the needs of the students.

Within three days of arrival, the new freshmen had to choose courses, register, buy books, matriculate, socialize, and get I.D.'s. Many students felt confused and deserted. Connecticut College should revise its orientation program so that freshmen do not become swamped with numerous responsibilities that they have a hard time dealing with in such a limited amount of time.

The first three days at the college proved overwhelming for many students. They received a catalogue, along with a time schedule of classes, and were forced to arrange a schedule within 24 hours. Then, they had to meet with their faculty and have him or her approve the schedule. Once the students had all the proper papers signed for registration, they proceeded to the gym to register. The gym was crammed with 400 students pushing and shoving each other for position in the line.

Moreover, the students had to do a variety of other things before the day was through. There just wasn't enough time for students to do everything that was expected of them. Freshman suffering from homesickness, anxiety, and tension can't cope with such pressures.

Anxieties could be lessened if an orientation program took place before the freshmen arrived in September. The college should invite the new students to visit the campus for two or three days in the spring. Before they arrived, the freshmen could tentatively compose their course schedules. They would also have the opportunity to speak with upper classmen and faculty about their choice of courses. They could even be able to register at this time. Through this process, the incoming students would have that much less to worry about in September.

Several colleges require students to attend a spring orientation program which has proven to be quite helpful in many cases. In September, the students fears and anxieties are minimized because they have had a taste of college life. Subsequently, the first few months of the school proceed much more smoothly. Connecticut College should implement a similar freshman orientation program to make the adjustment to college life easier for new students.

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