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Administrators Discuss Diversity

By JOANNA GILLIA

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday, May 4th, at 7 p.m., President Norman Fainstein hosted a Dessert and Dialogue entitled "Diversity, Affirmative Action and the Educational Program." The dialogue, which was sparked by the reaction to the opinions of *Voice* columnist Nick Iyengar, was held in order to "help answer specific questions about practices and policies at Connecticut College," according to Camelweb.

At the request of President Fainstein, various members of the College's administration were present. Among the administrators in attendance were Dean of the Faculty

Frances Hoffmann, the Dean of the College Maria Cruz-Saco, the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Martha Merrill, and the Affirmative Action Officer Judith Kirmmse.

Fainstein opened the dialogue by noting that the College is dedicated and "committed to creating a diversified and equitable community." However, Fainstein did urge the college community to participate in dialogues that foster discussion and disagreement on different issues. He added that diversity includes differences in ideology, race, and ethnicity and as a result, often fosters civil discussion and free speech. Still, Fainstein stated that "free speech invites civil discipline," thus accentuating the necessity for students

and faculty to exercise restraint during discourse.

Fainstein also took the opportunity to announce the approval of a new interdisciplinary center at Connecticut College. The new center, The Center for Comparative Study on Race and Ethnicity, was voted into existence less than an hour before the dialogue began. As of yet, the Center's academic components are still in the works. However, the faculty has decided that the program will not carry a certification program like PICA or CISLA.

Currently, the primary focus of the Center will be a year long seminar that consists of a 200-level "Gateway Course" about race and ethnicity. Fainstein, as well as many of the faculty members, hope to expand the Center to encompass a certification program and perhaps even a major and a minor in the area of race and ethnicity. Also, the administration hopes that the Center will be a place for the faculty and students to freely exchange ideas with the aid of discussion groups and speakers. The official proposal for this new center is scheduled to be posted on Conn's website by the end of this week.

A variety of administrators, specifically the Affirmative Action Officer, Judy Kirmmse, spoke about Connecticut College's Affirmative Action program. Kirmmse began by telling the story of Affirmative Action's arrival at Connecticut College. Affirmative Action was adopted by the College as a result of the Fanning Take Over in 1986.

The 1986 Fanning Takeover was

continued on page 6



Judy Kirmmse, Affirmative Action Officer, discussed diversity with students and faculty (Pace)

Estelle Parsons to Give 94th Commencement Address

By REBECCA WOLL

STAFF WRITER

This year's commencement speaker, Estelle Parsons, graduated in 1949 with a degree in government. With a background in acting, however, Ms. Parsons knew that this was the field she was meant to pursue and pursue she did, earning three Tony nominations, an academy award for her role in *Bonnie and Clyde*, and an induction into the Broadway Hall of Fame this past January. Among other films and TV shows, Ms. Parsons was the first network political reporter with *The Today Show* and might be recognized starring as Bev Harris in the ever popular *Roseanne*.

Though it has been a while since Parsons was a student at Connecticut College and though the college has changed a great deal, including its transformation from a women's college to a co-ed institution, she explained in a recent interview that she has been back several times since her graduation, including the 1969 ceremony in which she was given the college medal of honor. In addition, she has come to work with acting students, and in 1999 performed *Media!* at the opening of the Tansil Theater, along side current dance professor David Dorfman.

She has attended several reunions and spoken at one, asking everyone in her class to reveal their favorite memory. Parsons says that she still keeps in touch with the close knit group of students with whom she graduated; calling them up when she comes to their town to perform, and receiving many calls telling her that they will be in town to watch a show and catch up over dinner. She's grateful for these comrades and connections that are so helpful.

Parsons explains that this is the great part of college, the part that lasts forever and is always there to guide you. She says that the truly

amazing part of a liberal arts education is not the degree you earn but the "profound and good effect on a person's thinking" and the transition from simply a student to an intelligent, educated individual. She has found that Connecticut College treated her as an individual and a woman rather than just a girl. The school has given in her a wonderful sense of confidence and a useful network of friends and allies, both of which she has relied on throughout life.

Parsons is thrilled to be speaking at this year's commencement. She explains that being asked to speak is such a great honor and will be a fun experience for her. Though she says that a commencement speech is one of the hardest things to write, she's going to "give it her all!"

Unsure of the stability to her topic, she intends to relay her experiences of how different the world is now compared to when she graduated and what an individual's place is in the world.

A renown working actress and director, Estelle Parsons has not yet sat down. Her recent work, *Empire Falls* is set to premiere on May 28th on HBO at 9 pm in two, three hour segments. She is also working in California on an Oscar Wild play for the company she runs with Al Pacino and Marissa Tome among others. In addition she hopes to get several plays, one by a former student at Columbia, either off or on Broadway within the next year.

A free showing of *Bonnie and Clyde*, featuring Estelle Parsons, will be shown at 8 pm in Olin 014 on Sunday May 8th and Wednesday May 11th followed by a brief discussion. She will also be on campus Thursday May 12th to meet with students and conduct an acting class. All students are welcome to participate.

College Plans Renovations for Summer Break

By ELIZABETH GREENMAN

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Every year after students vacate the campus for summer vacation, Physical Plant (PP) takes advantage of their absence to complete the annual summer renovations and various maintenance and construction projects.

Every summer they complete an average of 50 projects, such as painting and undertaking larger building renovations that require outside contractors' assistance. PP currently has a list of approximately 2000 potential projects, all of which cost over \$2000.

The major project this summer is the installment of a new turf field at the Silfen Track and Field Complex, located below the Athletic Center. Jim Norton, Director of Physical Plant, referred to the project as "the most exciting and certainly the biggest" of the summer construction plans. The project, which began last week, should be completed by the first week of July.

The new field will be composed of a polyethylene plastic carpet and filled with a combination of silica sand and rubber. Installment of the new field requires significant earth work as well, notably the removal of the top 18 inches of soil in order to build an adequate base and install drainage piping under the field. In addition, the field will be re-graded with a laser to ensure its flatness.

The installment project, which is funded by donations, has a total cost of about 1.4 million dollars. Norton said Carolyn Holleran '60 of the Holleran Center's Certificate Program in Community Action and Public Policy (PICA) was the major benefactor.

The renovation of the Cro Oasis snack shop kitchen and serving area is planned for this summer as well, at a cost of approximately a quarter



History Professor Bruce Kirmmse gave the third lecture in a series entitled "Pluto's Republic: Some Remarks about the Liberal Arts" in the Charles Chu Reading Room on Wednesday. His talk focused on notions of modernity, affectation, and fascism and the role they play in the liberal arts. The lecture concluded with questions from the audience, which focused on Kirmmse's portrayal of these three ideas. (Cryan)

Award-Winning Authors Speak at Conn

By JULIA LEFKOWITZ

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Despite sunny skies and warm spring weather, students filed into Blaustein on the afternoon of Friday, April 29th for the annual Daniel Klagsbrun Symposium. At four PM, Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Cunningham and the recipient of the Whiting Writer's Award ZZ Packer spoke before a packed audience. Professor of English Blanche Boyd moderated the panel and introduced the visiting authors in an evening reading that took place in Ernst Common Room.

Over the past thirteen years, the Daniel Klagsbrun Symposium on Writing and Moral Vision has brought prominent authors such as Saul Bellow, Tobias Wolff, and Wally Lamb to Connecticut College. The family of Daniel Klagsbrun established the annual Symposium in honor of their son, a CC graduate, who died tragically in 1988.

In the opening minutes of the panel, Professor Boyd posed a series of questions to Cunningham and Packer. The majority of the event, however, was a question and answer session between inquiring members of the audience and the panelists. In

response to these questions, Cunningham and Packer spoke of their paths to becoming professional writers and offered a series of anecdotes and advice for aspiring authors. Cunningham, who admitted that he struggled to have his books published for many years before his breakthrough success, stated: "It takes a ferocious degree of fight and determination." Packer revealed that she was initially an Electrical Engineering Major, but switched her field to English when she realized her passion for Creative Writing. "I loved to go to the library and read

continued on page 6



Physical Plant has many campus renovations planned for this summer, including projects in Smith Dormitory and Bill Hall. (Cryan)

million dollars. The renovation is primarily designed to provide faster service and better quality food without reducing the area available for seating. The project is expected to begin after graduation and conclude before the fall semester.

The planned continued renovation of the Smith and Burdick bathrooms has a fixed budget of \$220,000 dollars. Between the two dormitories, there are seven bathrooms that have yet to be renovated, only four of which are available for construction over the summer. The number of bathrooms out of the four that will actually be renovated is contingent upon the cost of other projects.

Abbey House's kitchen is also scheduled to receive an upgrade this summer. Physical Plant intends on renovating the entire kitchen and installing new equipment, in addition to painting the house. The total

project is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000.

The barrel roof over the Myers Dance studio and the majority of the Crozier Williams Student Center, including the 1962 room, will be replaced this summer as well. According to Norton, the scheduled replacement is "at least two years late," as the roof has been leaking extensively. The estimated cost of the replacement for Cro's new roof is between \$250,000 and \$300,000 dollars.

Physical Plant also plans to continue classroom renovations in the major academic buildings, which include new furnishings and technological updates.

Bill 403, currently divided into two smaller rooms, is scheduled for renovation at a cost of approximately \$100,000, funded with the regular operating budget for capital renewal. Fanning 306 and 308 are also on the

list of rooms to be upgraded but are "subject to an availability of funds," according to Jim Norton.

Bill Hall and Fanning are crucial to the College's infrastructure because all telephone lines on campus run through Fanning, and most of the campus' internet servers are in Bill Hall. Therefore, when one of those buildings currently loses power, the entire campus crashes.

Certain scheduled projects intend on upgrading the power battery packs to ensure continued telephone and internet availability even in the case of a blackout. The first phase of the transformer work this summer will cost somewhere around \$130,000.

The Strategic Plan calls for an asset renewal program which will upgrade the value of the buildings across the campus portfolio. It

continued on page 6



NEWS

Former NBA star Manute Bol spoke to students about the crisis in Darfur. See page 6 for details on his talk.



SPORTS

Men's lacrosse fell in the first round of the NESCAC tournament, but had a very successful year overall, playing one of the toughest schedules in all of Division III.



A&E

Last weekend, senior Jeremy Make directed *Red Demon*, the final mainstage performance of the year. See page 4 for a comprehensive review of the play.

EDITORIAL & OPINION

Why The College Needs More Prestigious Lecturers

The College should be applauded for its effort to bring guest speakers to the school. The experience of hearing and asking questions to professionals who have achieved notable prestige in their field is fruitful and rewarding to students, particularly those who have chosen a liberal arts education. While a few prestigious lecturers speak at Conn each year, we think that the College should have more big-name speakers and decrease the number of lesser-known lecturers, particularly those who speak on obscure topics.

This past week's Daniel Klagsbrun Symposium is an example of the importance of such events. The panel was well-attended, but beyond this, when given the opportunity to ask questions, students showed their profound interest in the subjects at hand. Audience members posed questions to the panelists for over an hour, and the majority of these people were students. When the lecture ended at its scheduled time, students' hands lingered in their air, and questions remained unanswered.

Students were drawn to this event largely because they are familiar with the works of Michael Cunningham and ZZ Packer and wanted the opportunity to behold their renowned insight first-hand. This is not to say that other guest speakers, such as the many professors who visit from other colleges and universities, do not offer high quality lectures. The fact is that we have classes with brilliant professors five days a week and are not as likely to take time out of our busy schedules to partake in another hour of professor-lectures.

The matter of guest-speakers is yet another aspect of students' academic experience that will be affected by the new common hour. How will lecturers who are active in their fields be able to visit Conn on a Wednesday afternoon?

We acknowledge the faculty and administration's effort to offer the College Community with a wide array of speakers who can offer a wealth of knowledge in their respective fields. Our suggestion is to consider the perspective of students who have only four years to experience lectures they will remember in their post-College years.

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Letters to the Editor are due strictly by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding publication. The College Voice reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. No unsigned or anonymous letters will be published. However, names may be withheld upon the author's request. The College Voice will not publish letters deemed to be a personal attack on an individual. The College Voice cannot guarantee the publication of any submission. Letters should be single-spaced, no longer than 300 words, and must include a phone number for verification. Please send all letters as a Microsoft Word attachment to: ccvoice@conncoll.edu

The Voice will be employing a left-of-center columnist next year. Want the job? Contact The Voice at x2812 today.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Reacts To Controversial "Real Women" Posters

To the Editor:

In light of the recent appearance of the "Real Women Have Curves" posters hanging up around campus, I felt compelled to write a letter to the campus community. As a woman, I am greatly offended by these posters, which poorly attempt to define womanhood. I consider myself a real woman, and the fact that I am not naturally curvaceous does not make me any less of a woman. REAL women come in all shapes and sizes, and their shape and/or weight does NOT define them. These posters are narrow-minded, intolerant and a Misrepresentational of the intelligence and so-called tolerance for diversity that we have here at Connecticut College.

-Jackie Bryant '08

Diversity Issues On Campus Continue To Interest Students

To the Editor:

Our community would benefit by having more opportunities for dialogue about diversity. Unfortunately, op-ed pieces and letters to the editor are too short to do justice to complex issues. We need ongoing discussions on these topics to deepen our understanding. However, without a chance to dialogue, I offer the following responses to recent Voice letters and articles below.

Diversity. Isn't it clear that African American history is part of American history and Western Civilization? US communities are becoming increasingly segregated; consequently, children have fewer opportunities to learn about human differences. Therefore, it is important that colleges encourage students to learn about these differences and about social forces like racism and sexism.

Skin color. One article asserted that "skin color is rewarded by the College before one even sets foot on campus." Connecticut College considers many factors (racial and sexual identity, geographical origins, special talents and abilities) when it admits students and hires employees. This is not a focus on skin color; we are creating a community of people from various cultures who see the world through different lenses.

Meritocracy. Those writing letters to *The Voice* recently suggest that meritocracy is simple—it's about good grades. Studies show that high academic achievers overwhelmingly come from financially secure families. Rewarding good grades, then, is actually rewarding students' parents' ability to accumulate wealth.

Affirmative Action. The Supreme Court decreed that affirmative action (including race and sex as factors among many in hiring and admissions) is legal. Those at Connecticut College who oppose affirmative action can state their opinion, but our practices are legal and the College is committed to them. Affirmative action at Connecticut College operates in the hiring of faculty and staff. The Admissions Office does not have an affirmative action policy. Support for diversity and multiculturalism on this campus is broad in every constituency: faculty, staff, students, alumni and Trustees. This is documented by the President's Commission on a Pluralistic Community, by attendance at activities relating to diversity, and by a November 2004 Unity House student survey.

-Judy Kirmmse
Affirmative Action Officer

To the Editor:

The Holleran Center for Community Action and Public History supports academic, social, admissions, and hiring strategies that move Conn towards inclusive excellence. We stand in support of the students, faculty, and staff, whose credibility, character, and academic standing have been questioned by an inaccurate op-ed piece in *The Voice* and by similar divisive statements. We are committed to working together to enhance our institutional capacity to support diversity and strengthen the College's intellectual and social climate.

We consider respectful dialogue and the articulation of multiple viewpoints essential for democracy, and teach this in our programs and courses. To foster responsible and informed discussions and learning among diverse groups, the Center plans to work with other offices and departments, to resource and host campus-wide dialogues. It will include at least four areas: among journalists regarding the ethics and responsibilities that inform their profession, including their responses to the forces that shape and limit the media; among activists across the political spectrum regarding their perspectives; among educators from various disciplines regarding how they address issues of diversity and power in their courses; and among community members of all backgrounds regarding their values and experiences. The Holleran Center is committed to community-building and community-based activism. Accordingly, we as its Steering Committee members firmly believe that these and other conversations are essential to the development of students and educators capable of building strong, constructive relationships within their communities and with diverse people.

The current campus debate around issues of diversity demonstrates the deep relevance of this vital issue. Precisely because we believe that community action is the strongest foundation for thoughtful public policy, it is our hope that all members of the campus community will participate in reflective discussions about identity, community, and academic excellence. In this way we can confront and resolve issues of discrimination and systems of inequality.

The Holleran Center Steering Committee

Dear Editors,

Although I was shocked by Nick Iyengar's controversial column, I was perhaps more taken aback at the responses of the community in "letters to the editor" it was published. Mr. Iyengar's column was largely inaccurate on many points, even if one were to agree with some general themes it brought up. In their letters of response, people have essentially divided themselves into anti-Iyengar and pro-Iyengar camps. However in their attempt to take a position, nobody has yet asked Mr. Iyengar to apologize.

I am not asking Mr. Iyengar to apologize for expressing his opinion. He should be allowed to think and say whatever he wants. Instead, I am asking him to apologize for writing an irresponsible and inaccurate article regarding a controversial topic and refusing to acknowledge the mistakes he made in later articles that addressed similar topics.

Mr. Iyengar is not merely a columnist for the *Voice*; he is an Editor-in-Chief of this newspaper. That gives him a responsibility to ensure that everything in the paper is factual and of high quality. While the student body may overlook typos in the paper, one cannot expect us to tolerate an article that is thin on research yet full of controversial statements. Opposing affirmative action is not racist; implying that certain races are inferior is. Is Mr. Iyengar going to address his mistake in the future?

I have plenty of friends on this campus who are minorities, and I have learned a great deal through conversations with them that have extended well into the night. It hasn't taken a single diversity summit for me to realize the struggles of various minorities. With the right attitude, Conn can put a framework in place so people can learn about diversity in their personal lives.

With that being said, Mr. Iyengar's article did not examine the issue of racial diversity within the context of the college community in an articulate fashion. Instead, what the reader got was a rant that solicited inaccurate generalizations. If Mr. Iyengar would like Connecticut College to increase its reputation as an institution for higher learning, he should consider the fact that a high quality newspaper is a symbol of top caliber academics and ensure that columns like his are never published.

-Alexander Freund

To the Editor:

I am disputing the idea, expressed both in an "Out in Right Field" column in *The College Voice* and in subsequent letters to the editor, that the College has been forced to choose between diversity and academic excellence in its hiring, curricular offerings, and student recruitment. The column alleges a decline in the academic excellence in the History Department, even though its faculty's professional achievements include numerous book publications, grants, and rewards. In addition, three years ago, to build further on that excellence, we chose to hire a new faculty member in African American history, David Canton. Because of this hire, one contributor writes that the department is now an "emaciated, diluted shadow of its former self." I would argue that, to the contrary, the History Department just grew stronger and history majors' degrees more valuable. Let me give an example of what can happen when we lack trained personnel and breadth and depth in our Department offerings.

It may surprise the columnist to hear me admit that indeed I did teach a class in the History Department that was not excellent. In fact, in my estimation, it was a complete flop, even a waste of my students' tuition dollars. It was a course in Asian America history. Don't get me wrong: studying Asian American history is important, even essential to understanding US history as a whole. Subjects covered include the creation of a Chinese labor market in California and the rise of nativism, Japanese internment during World War II, and the impact of immigration reform for Koreans, Indians, Vietnamese, and others in the 1960s. There was also strong student interest in the course; 21 students enrolled the first year. I was, however, surprised that there were no Asian American students in the class, or any students of color at all. Nevertheless, the students who did take the class seemed engaged and interested. Midyear course evaluations were strong. Imagine my surprise, then, when at terms end, 25% of the class turned in 15 page research papers about subjects that had nothing to do with Asian American history: 4 were on the Irish and one the Italian experience! Fully one quarter of the students in the class had not even understood the basic subject of the course — or they had understood it and still did not consider it significant enough for a research paper.

My course failed because the History Department and I lacked the background and expertise to do it correctly. Moreover, it failed because the lack of diversity in the student body created a monochromatic, one-dimensional quality to class discussion. Without colleagues to help me develop the syllabus and do a guest lecture or two and students of color to generate fuller and more nuanced discussions of its themes, the class accomplished nothing. Similarly when we offered American History, without a historian trained in African American History, we did not fulfill the promise of excellence to our students.

An excellent curriculum is a diverse curriculum, and an excellent student body is a diverse student body; and an excellent faculty is a diverse faculty. These are my beliefs, and I know that they are shared by colleagues in the History Department and by history departments big and small across the country.

Catherine Stock
Professor of History

OPINION

DIVERSITY OF THOUGHT BEGINS WITH YOUR OWN

PETER LUTHY • VIEWPOINT

In the spirit of progressive intellectual dialogue, I often play the role of devil's advocate. There are many times when I agree wholeheartedly with one side of an issue, but in a large discussion with most people I interact with, there is an unfortunate lack of debate — conversations often amount to alternated nodding of heads. So,

I'll take up an unpopular point-of-view and see how far along it can go before it comes into some unavoidable contradiction.

In the past couple of weeks, I have thought a lot about previous conversations I have had about racism and marginalization in general. I became concerned when I realized that during many of these conversations, the supposedly enlightened, progressive people, acting as proponents of points of view I agree with, would inevitably fall into habits they criticize others for having.

During one such lunch-time debate about a year ago, I conjured up the common conservative viewpoint that white people are marginalized in many parts of the world. Many residents of Northern Maine, for instance, have fewer educational opportunities than the poorest inner-city minority. Inner-city schools might be terrible, but there are libraries, universities, places to get information. Many regions in rural Maine are assigned School Administrative District numbers instead of names because the population density is so low that the district accounts for several towns. The abbreviation, SAD, is indicative of the educational futures of many Mainers. The counter-point to this, my lunch mates said, was that white people in Northern Maine can always move to a city and get books. I asked if they thought it was fair for them to have to move to get these opportunities, and they seemed to think it was.

One of them had parents who had moved to the US from the Dominican Republic. I said I thought he was absolutely right and that poor Dominicans should have to move to the US so that their children have access to education. Suddenly, he was infuriated (and rightly so, that statement is absurd). Still, he would not waiver on his statement earlier about poor white folk in Maine (or Appalachia, the rural Midwest, backwater Louisiana, et cetera).

This has been a recurring theme in debates on racism. People on both sides want things to be polarized. It is always simplified to the

point where it is an issue of the haves and have-nots, it is never those who have it all, have quite a bit, have some, are equally having and not-having, don't have all that much, don't have a lot, and don't have anything at all. For some reason this black-and-white paradigm is inescapable. White people are always financially secure. Marginalized members of society never get high-paying jobs. Affirmative Action never results in under-qualified acceptances.

Many of these statements would be true if we added some qualifiers. For some reason, though, opponents of institutional racism seem to be terrified that financial disparity is something that can happen to people regardless of their race. Racism is an issue too deep to be black and white, and it's an issue too emotionally painful for people to treat it that way. It's tough to come to terms with the fact that my acceptance at this school is, in part, due to the privileges I have been afforded by the color of my skin. Even the fact that I am alive and without serious physical disability today is, in part, a result of my race — white women are more likely to have access to prenatal care and I'm more likely to have health insurance. My family is not wealthy; I worked hard to get where I am. It's not a pleasant feeling to know that if my childhood was the game Monopoly, I started out with an extra \$500 because of my skin color.

I can imagine that it is equally difficult for a black student to realize that, even though they've had every obstacle put in their path to success as a result of the color of their skin, there are white folks out there who might have to work even harder. It might be true that, generally, white people are statistically favored by society, but statistics show trends, not universal rules.

So what's my point? My point is this: we often surround ourselves with people who think just like us. We talk to each other, attend one another's events, and do a lot of head-nodding. This can be therapeutic and is a comfortable experience. Indeed, most of my close friends have opinions much like mine — I can always turn to them to give me support when I need it. In such an environment, though, it's easy for our views to become stagnant, self-contradictory, and overly simple. Before you take a particular point-of-view, really think about it. Just because the people you've surrounded yourself with believe something doesn't mean they're right. Most of the time, playing the devil's advocate in debates will only strengthen your beliefs, but every once in a while you'll discover a belief which is inconsistent with the others.

AS THEIR FLAGS GO UP — OURS COMES DOWN...BUT NOT MINE

YONI FREEMAN • OCCUPIED TERRITORY



It's like the 4th of July — without the American flag and barbecues.

Flags have been placed all around Hanoi (not that there haven't been any flags there before). New, bigger banners and posters adorned major intersections — engrossed with government slogans, the hammer and sickle, and the peaceful dove. Ho Chi Minh's smiling and waving image greets onlookers in a renewed fashion. There are a handful of dates that are being remembered during the end of April and early May — you have Ho Chi Minh's birthday, the birthday of Hanoi, the conquering of Saigon by the North Vietnamese, victory at Dien Bien Phu against the French, International Workers' Day, and the annual Tourism Week.

While the streets of Hanoi are covered in red and yellow, Hoan Kim Lake experienced its own festival — Tourism Week. A range of booths all around the lake made their presence, each offering goods and services. Surprisingly, they were being catered to ordinary Vietnamese and not tourists. Everything from food to hats and

tour offerings was on hand. There were stages with all sorts of music being played as well, and large crowds walked all about.

Another major event has been the conquering of Saigon Day, which occurred on April 30th. Unpredictably, there was not much activity here in Hanoi on that notable day. A friend and I traveled to Ba Ding Square (the main square housing Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum) for the purpose of paying Ho Chi Minh another visit, but to also check out whether any festivities were being held. To our dismay there were not any. I later learned the main event was being held in Ho Chi Minh City (aka Saigon), and the government focused its attention there with parades and the national ceremony. Hopefully, Ho Chi Minh's birthday will have substance here in Hanoi, and from preliminary discussions with Vietnamese people I think there will be. Finally, International Workers' Day was recognized. In addition to vacation days given to state workers, ceremonies were being held at various venues and the achievements of the "workers' paradise" were underlined.

Programming on TV was a mixture of socialist realist themes and of course topics concerning Ho Chi Minh. There were movies about the Vietnamese and their wars of inde-

pendence, and then student choral groups singing nationalist songs. One of the events featured a student holding up Ho Chi Minh's portrait, while students were latched on by holding strings all around it and chanting. The type of images being shown portrayed a type of society Viet Nam was moving away from, at least in its economic side.

During a weekend I was additionally invited to go to a talent show the University of Architecture was holding. It was a little different than I expected. For one, it was all singing. In addition, the judges, as I was told, were all Communist Party officials. The event started off with slogans being shouted off in support of the Communist Party. Following it, singers came up and different songs were sung. All, and I mean all the songs dealt with exalting Viet Nam, the Communist Party, Ho Chi Minh, the revolution, and the conquering of Saigon. The only non-political song was about flowers. But don't get me wrong, it was very good singing and an interesting experience. These college aged students also did something worth noting: during and following the singing students, either friends, lovers or simply ones wanting to show affection brought flowers to the female or male singers. The color of the flower signified the purpose — red for love, yellow or white

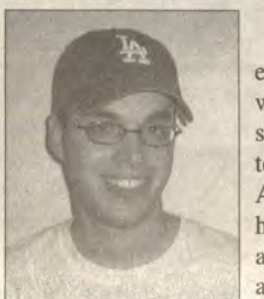
for friendship or congratulation.

As much as it seemingly is becoming much more interesting (and much hotter for that matter) in Hanoi then previously, unfortunately the group will be finishing its "tour" here this first week of May. SATA Viet Nam will be packing its bags and heading back home. Since arriving January 12th, we have stayed put and got accustomed to life here successfully. We have gone on countless field trips all around the country, as well as engage in a regular course of study. I personally have had lots of fun here with the group and really was able to get a feel for Hanoi.

I personally will not be returning to the United States at this time even as SATA brings down its flag. I will be raising my own. No, I am not marrying a Vietnamese girl or being inducted into the Communist Party. I simply decided it was too early to leave, and made plans to stay longer — the whole summer actually working at a Hanoi internship. It may seem strange to you, but I have learned to love living here and therefore would like to extend my stay. I have made a sufficient amount of contacts with Vietnamese students so hopefully I will not be bored, and there is plenty of time to meet new people and travel. I hope to see everyone next fall, and may it be a safe and productive summer.

AMERICA NEEDS AN "EXIT STRATEGY" FOR THE WAR ON POVERTY

NICK IVENGAR • OUT IN RIGHT FIELD



The extensive welfare state existent today in America has not always been a part of life in the

United States. America did just fine for a long time without a lot of social programs, and even after the Great Depression struck, "safety net" programs existed only for those who qualified as the "deserving poor": people who had been productive members of society and likely would become productive again. All this changed with Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty."

Consider the facts: when President Johnson launched the War on Poverty in 1965, welfare spending totaled about nine billion dollars. By 2000, the United States was spending \$434 billion on welfare. Admittedly, welfare reform in recent years has attached many conditions to government handouts, and this is a positive development. However, taxpayers are still saddled with having to pay for far too many entitle-

ment programs.

For example, most states provide welfare to persons who can prove they are unable to work due to the demands of child care. This might sound like the government trying to lend a helping hand, but in effect, the government is encouraging teenagers to have children. Why bother trying to get a job and earn a living when you can have a baby and get a check from Big Brother?

Entitlement programs such as these now cause the average household \$5,600 in taxes for the welfare system. American welfare spending now comprises 4.4 percent of the GDP, up from 1.2 percent in 1965. This is a tremendous burden on all Americans who earn a living and put food on the table for their families.

Besides being a large burden on hard-working Americans, welfare programs unintentionally reward unemployment, illegitimacy and single parenthood. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 34.5 percent of American children are born out of wedlock, up from just 7.7 percent when the War on Poverty began. This is not hard to understand; although the government has good intentions with wel-

fare programs, it effectively rewards these undesirable conditions.

In other words, the War on Poverty is similar to LBJ's other major war: Vietnam. Not only do we lack any results to show for the \$8 trillion we have spent on welfare, but welfare has proven to be a cancer to the American economy. Welfare programs burden Americans who work, create a cycle of poverty and a culture of dependency. How can we get out of the quagmire of the War on Poverty?

End welfare in the United States. Erase all hopes on the part of those who refuse to be productive members of society that the government will bail them out by bestowing upon them the hard-earned income of working Americans. People are born with a survival instinct — when they are faced with the reality that Big Brother is no longer subsidizing their lifestyle, they will find a way to earn income instead of being a burden on their fellow Americans.

It is true that not all welfare recipients are unproductive Americans who refuse to pull an oar. Some people on welfare are simply between jobs, and will soon return to pulling their own weight. For these

people, there should be some form of assistance.

Whenever one advocates the reduction or elimination of welfare spending, he is typically accused by liberals of being mean and having something against poor people. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is with the best interests of the poor in mind that I call for an end to welfare.

Ending welfare will break a cycle of poverty and destroy the culture of dependency that has been hurting entire families of Americans for generations. If Americans were not saddled with substantial welfare payments, they could use the money to start businesses, create jobs, and pull poor folks off the welfare rolls for good. The beneficial results of this are multi-faceted. We would experience a decline in unemployment, illegitimacy and single parents. The benefits are impossible to ignore; getting out of the quagmire that the War on Poverty has created would be a great achievement for America.

Visit the Heritage Foundation online at www.heritage.org for detailed welfare statistics.

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BARBECUES, SWIMMING POOLS, AND GIANT MOTHS: A SUMMER IN WESTON, CT

ANDREW MEYER • I HAVE ADD

With summer approaching faster than a speeding bullet (What kind of phrase is this anyway? Is there such thing as a bullet that's just moving along slowly, taking its time, driving in the left lane despite going only 45



MPH, with its blinker on for 40 minutes, like a grandmother from Florida?), I figured I would write about summer. I'm not really sure what I'm going to say yet, but hey, if you actually expected me to, you clearly aren't a regular reader. Let's start with things I loved about last summer.

Last summer was amazing. In addition to working less and less as the summer went on (ending with me working three hour weeks)... well, I've just realized it's never a good idea to start a sentence with "in addition to" when you only have one thing to say in that sentence. Oh well.

Summer is a time for relaxing. To me, an ideal summer day goes something like this:

11:30 AM: Wake up.

11:31 AM: Go back to sleep.

12:30 PM: Woken up by my older brother, who expresses his love through phrases such as "you are worthless," "wake your lazy ass up," and "(expletive)".

12:40 PM: Eat breakfast. Informed by anybody around that it is lunch time, not breakfast time. Respond to these informants with one finger (to let them know that they are number one, of course.)

12:55 PM: Finish eating breakfast.

1 PM: Eat lunch.

1:30 PM: Phone rings. It's one of my friends, informing me that it is hot out, we should go swimming, and I had better have hot dogs ready when they arrive.

2 PM: Friends arrive. I am in the shower, so they let themselves in, feeling free to take my soda, spill half of it on the rug, spill the other half on the couch, not clean any of it up, and play hide and seek with their cans (usually ending up under the couch to be found as a sticky mess two months later.)

2:30 PM: I light up. I'm talking about the grill, of course. Get your mind out of the gutter, you pothead.

2:35 PM: We have our first burger casualty as John shoves me while flipping. John shouts "test fire ONE!" as he launches the burger into the neighbor's yard.

2:45 PM: Eat several hot dogs

for lunch #2, possibly followed by a burger for dessert, depending on how hungry I am.

2:59 PM: Being the daring risk taker that I am, I jump into the pool after just 14 minutes, disregarding the 15-minute-after-eating rule.

2:59 and 30 seconds: I cramp up and am unable to swim to the surface. Wait... no, that's just one of my friends dunking me, not a cramp. Never mind.

5 PM: Two hours later, get out of the pool. Chased down by Emeril, who keeps yelling "BAM!" as he tries to harpoon me, thinking that I am a giant walking prune.

5:30 PM: Go to work. Drive a steamroller in circles for an hour. Collect money, go home. Tennis court maintenance is what Snoop would call "the shiznit."

6:35 PM: Arrive at my house. My friends still haven't left, and have invited themselves back inside, not hesitating to spill a super sized bag of Tostitos all over the family room. Rather than picking it up, they decide it would be fun to stomp all over them, rubbing grease and crumbs into the rug.

6:45 PM: Break up a fight between two friends over whether dinner should be steak or beef.

7:15 PM: Arrive at Outback Steakhouse. Eat disturbing amounts of food, including several loaves of

what Justin refers to as "dookie bread." Here's a hint: it's loaf-shaped and brown.

9:30 PM: Exit stage left, go out for nighttime activities. These include a wide range of activities, from movies to nighttime tennis. Speaking of nighttime tennis, last summer, while playing under the lights somewhere, we had an encounter with several giant moths. I don't know what the hell these things were, but they were literally the size of my fist (and I've got some big-ass hands.)

In addition, they seemed to be able to withstand multiple hits with a tennis racquet. Fortunately for us, we survived the attack, as while they are immune to racquets, they were killed when Emeril's harpoon hit them on an errant throw.

1:30 AM (plus or minus two hours, depending on the night): Go to bed. Have dreams of more hot dogs.

Hope everybody's had a great year. Good luck on finals, have a good summer, and seniors, c'mon... you've almost graduated school... isn't it about time you figured out how a collar worked?

ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Red Demon's Tansill Run Proved Impressive and Mesmerizing

By SHONA SEQUEIRA

A&E EDITOR

Jeremy Make '05 was right to claim the following in the program for his latest directorial venture: "It's too simple, this play before us."

Indeed, at the basic plot level, it was. The story of a foreigner trying to make himself understood on an isolated island both stamped *Red Demon* with immediately obvious themes of otherness, intolerance, and miscommunication and addressed issues of racism in a compelling yet somewhat usual way.

But the play, which was staged on April 28th, 29th, and 30th in Tansill Theater, achieved much more than its purported simplicity. *Red Demon* stepped outside of itself. It shook some part of me, a member of the audience, and drew me into its spell. Then it made its exit, not quietly, but rather leaving in its wake the exquisite memory of daring performances and a mesmerizing production that paid careful attention to detail.

If Make was the brains behind *Red Demon* (having brilliantly adapted this performance from the original version by Hideki Noda), the talented young cast was certainly its soul.

Freshmen Cheo Bourne (Red Demon) and Linda Hyatt (That Woman) in the leads shared a powerful chemistry, each of them investing their roles with a passion and

maturity that was utterly impressive. Sophomore Andrew Glenn was perfectly cast as the soulful, endearing Tombi while freshman Ben Fisher had the audience rolling in their seats with laughter as the lustful, domineering Mizukane.

The ensemble, comprised of Bethany Boles, Katie Buesing, Steve Oven, and Tessa Schultz, brought across the fears and frustrations of their characters through honest and convincing performances.

Their spot-on accents, vivid facial expressions, and exaggerated gestures forced them to step outside of their comfort zones as actors, a risk well worth taking. Like the Red Demon yearning for the land beyond the sea, all the cast members appeared to be engaged in an internal struggle to attain some level beyond themselves, to arrive at that place where a director can guide you towards but where only you can finally reach because of how much of yourself you were willing to set free on stage. And I think that Cheo, Linda, Andrew, Ben, Bethany, Katie, Steve, and Tessa were all uniquely successful in each of their roles.

And along with the cast, it was the powerful language and the ways in which this language was communicated that let the play take its brilliant course: language that was clichéd at times, but exonerating at most and at best. The way all the "Shut the f*** ups!" created this



Linda Hyatt '08, Andrew Glenn '07, and Cheo Bourne '08 are seen above in a scene from last weekend's successful *Red Demon*, directed by senior Jeremy Make. (Make)

exhilarating amalgam of disbelief and relief. The way that the Red Demon's foreign tongue could not mask the hurt and love and shame that made him so deeply human.

The language of the play forced me as an audience member to articulate my own appreciation for the theatrical spectacle in front of me, to know that the realm of *Red Demon*

is everywhere, but only everywhere that I want it to be.

Make and his cast invited me into their beautifully screwed up world, a world that lingers in the

memory long after the performance is done. *Red Demon* was a performance the likes of which Conn rarely experiences.

Pick Your Bandwagon

MUSIC PERSEPECTIVES

College kids are like fingerprints: no two are alike. And that is precisely why Arts and Entertainment has created *Pick Your Bandwagon* to cater to the varied musical tastes here at Conn. Our columnists represent three very different musical perspectives with the hope of inspiring readers to get out there and listen to something new!

Paul Dryden

The College Rock Perspective

Paul, A&E manservant (and associate editor), has been an active member of SAC for two years now; so most people have a decent idea of his taste in music. Artists like Throwback, Stephen Kellogg, and Ari Hest are some of the most popular groups that Paul has personally brought to the school. Constantly seeing local shows and finding new bands, Paul is a great resource for fans of the college rock scene.

Tristan O'Donnell

The Hip Hop Perspective

Tristan can be described in one word: cool. Hailing from Brooklyn, New York, Tristan is concentrating on English and Film Studies (assuming the major is still available next year) but still finds time to do a WCNI radio show and play rockin' drums in his MOBROC band, Dixie Flatline. But don't judge his tastes by his performance on the skins, because Tristan has an ear for hip-hop on top of his rocker status.

Rachel Gaines

The Folk Perspective

One of our Editors-in-Chief is making a special appearance this week for the last issue of the year. A devotee to a diverse group of solo musicians and bands, Rachel could speak knowledgeably about anything from marching band standards to emo. For this column, she's chosen to focus on one of her favorite styles: folk music. Check out her insightful and loving description of one of her favorite singer/songwriters, the amazing Ellis Paul.

RYAN ADAMS: BACK ON THE MUSIC SCENE WITH COLD ROSES

PAUL DRYDEN

THE COLLEGE ROCK PERSPECTIVE

Ryan Adams is one of the great talents of our generation. But after breaking his arm in a stage-dive last year, some wondered whether he had fallen off the map for good. No worries though—he is back and crazier than ever. With plans to release three albums before the calendar year is over, Adams released a double-disc this past week featuring his new band, The Cardinals. *Cold Roses* follows the alt-country rocker back to his Southern roots, with a sound that often recalls the days of his critically acclaimed solo debut, *Heartbreaker*.

Growing up in Jacksonville, North Carolina, country music was essential part of the Adams family. At the age of 20, he formed Whiskeytown and helped lead the band to tremendous praise nationwide. Once the band signed to a major label, internal conflicts lead to their 1999 breakup. Despite releasing several "classic" albums,



Whiskeytown never achieved the commercial success they had hoped for. So in 2000, Adams released *Heartbreaker* and his solo career received rave reviews from across the board. You may have heard his song, "To Be Young" in the opening of *Old School*.

Although Adams' first six solo albums each have their own distinct genre, *Cold Roses* hearkens back to the heavily country-influenced days of old. Maybe it's the pedal steel guitar on every song or maybe it's just the twang. Whatever it is, he does it well. And no, it is not like all the pop country crap out today. This is true roots music.

It is quite ambitious to release an 18-song album (a two-disc studio effort). But Adams laughs at the normal way of doing things. *Cold Roses* doesn't have one weak track and it just gets better the more you listen.

The highlights are a mile long but I will try to recount some memorable moments. The first single, "Let it Ride," has to be one of the best songs he's ever written. Catchy as hell, the song features up and coming songstress Rachael Yamagata.

Disc one begins with the rocker Magnolia Mountain. This is the first of many songs that shine with Neil Young and Grateful Dead influence, suggesting a cross between the Dead's "Sugar Magnolia" and Young's "Sugar Mountain." The first disc ends with an incredibly beautiful piano ballad, "How Do You Keep Alive." Adams sings of heartbreak, "I would have picked for her/On the day she was born/She runs through my veins like a long black river/And rattles my cage like a thunderstorm."

I know Adams is not considered "college rock," but if you have any appreciation for good music, you should give him a listen. And if you ever have a chance to check him out in concert, do it up... because it is quite a unique experience (to say the least).

LIMP BIZKIT'S QUESTIONABLE TRUTH

TRISTAN O'DONNELL

THE HIP HOP PERSPECTIVE



Limp Bizkit could very well be number one on the list of bands that people wish would vanish from our culture's consciousness. For me though, they've had a profound effect on my musical understanding, adolescent males, and white imitation of black culture. Singer Fred Durst implanted the

idea that if you're white, pissed off, and liked Wu Tang, you can display that proudly with a misspelled band name to tout. But that's not exactly true.

Thanks Fred for opening the floodgates for the grim years in pop. I hate you for it. But I still kinda love them.

In the age of popularized versions of otherness and "what is indie," I feel comfortable (and slightly asinine) going against the grain by hailing Limp Bizkit as something worth talking about. I know that they are borderline misogynistic, and their Rap/Rock pastiche is prehistoric. But what escapes me is why they were so damn popular? And if they were, why did all the fans scamper away like crumbly off that dreaded "Nookie" cookie?

Like it or not, they've resurfaced with *The Unquestionable Truth [Part 1]*, an EP which sneaked into stores Tuesday and into the CD players of...well, just me this time. We all know that Fred has lost his status as someone worth listening to. But this time it's different. The EP proudly features the return of guitarist Wes Borland who proves not only that he was the band's edge, but he was also their creative vitality. For once, thankfully, Durst is listening to the culture he's attempting to facilitate. He's even shouting at "the white kids that ain't white anymore."

On "The Truth," his new found hysterical inflections (sounding unmistakably like Rage's Zach de la Rocha) are fitting in the age of "terrorists blowing up buildings" and "priests molesting children" (see "The Priest"). But one of the issues with this newfound interest in current events is that he has nothing compelling to offer except a quick citation and a scream or two. I'm afraid Fred has climbed atop too high a horse this time around. Now he's unlocking the doors in his mind only to find more doors and naturally, pretension in a track called "The Key" (not exactly Kafka but it's better than "Behind Blue Eyes").

Durst's new publicity tactics are also noteworthy. It's admirable that he's chosen to deny press the opportunity to review the record and refused to advertise. But could this just be a way to bang out a record so that he can walk away from contracts and his career without facing rejection again? Durst's ego, I'm sure, cannot take another failure (Hell, none of us can). The film that accompanies the 30-minute disc shows a torn band dealing with the drug addiction of their drummer and fails to even include DJ Lethal (their sole Hip Hop credibility) in the footage. This seems to be the beginning of the end of an era that ran away from pop culture and hid in the corner like shy embarrassed children. Mr. Durst seems to be infusing a dead genre (and seemingly dead band) with a new sense of confidence and awareness of his idiocy in the past. Except this time, some of his words actually rhyme.

Throughout the album there is a sense that their implosion is steadily approaching and unavoidable. Hopefully myself and the rest of those out there who bought anything of theirs can admire the fact that Fred has opened his eyes to see that the STOP sign is as clear as day. And I'll be there front and center... writing their eulogy.

It Is Okay For A Grown Man To Cry

RACHEL GAINES

THE FOLK PERSPECTIVE

Last year, Ellis Paul visited Conn as part of the Fall Benefit Concert and received a lukewarm response from students. But for those of us who were unusually touched by his heart felt love songs and tales from the road, he became a serious staple of our music collections.

A few weeks ago, Ellis released a new studio album entitled *American Jukebox Fables*. Although it was recorded in a tiny studio in Brighton, Mass in the shadow of the New Balance shoe outlet and the International House of Pancakes, it sounds like it might as well have been put out by P. Diddy. The over-production of his typically sweet songs almost ruins the mood that is so absolutely Ellis. The drums are too loud and the effects just don't fit. After seeing him sing the same songs live just a couple months ago, I couldn't help but be disappointed.

That's not to say the whole record is a flop. "Take all the sky you need" is as lyrically sweet as anything we've heard from Ellis before. In the chorus he sings "If you want to run I'll pack my suitcase. / If you want to stay I'll make a front door key. / And if you need space to fly free, / take all the sky you need." Having heard him perform this song live before the release of *Fables*, "Take all the sky you need" became one of my favorite tunes. So I was a little upset when I heard the studio version, but it's still a sweet little ditty.

Making an unusual jump to piano, since Ellis is primarily a guy with a guitar, his sickeningly sweet ode to his (second) wife, "Home," is also over-produced including a tacky whispered voice-over. That's not to say I don't love the song. And that's just the thing about Ellis Paul: there's a soothing quality to his alto voice and his constantly pleasant melodies that help you breathe deeply.



Maybe my favorite song on the disk is "Alice's Champagne Palace," a silly song following the Ellis Paul pattern of reporting his travels to fans through song. Paul praises a campy bar in Homer, Alaska as being a warm welcoming spot in the icy northern landscape. "If you're from New York, LA, Dallas, / you'll find a home at the champagne palace. / Alice will pour you a cold one. Go ahead, ask her / if you're running away to Alaska."

Basically, if you're a hopeless romantic like myself, this and every album by Ellis Paul is worth listening to. While he's a much better live performer than a recording artist, the CDs are worth the money anyway. He's like a warm hug on a cold day... and his corniness is little contagious.

ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

Hitchhiker Worth The Trip Inside Scoop's: Where To Get Great Breakfast

By CHRISTIAN CLANSKY
STAFF WRITER

I have to admit before starting this review that I knew very little about *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* before I saw it. I'm not a Douglas Adams devotee, nor did I know anything more than what the previews showed. The biggest reason that I wanted to see the movie was because I think Sam Rockwell's performance in *Galaxy Quest* is one of the funniest I've ever seen. And his performance in this movie was its saving grace, at least to some extent.

The movie starts with a very amusing introduction wherein the entire dolphin population of the planet – which is evidently the second smartest species on Earth, smarter than humans – sings the song "So Long and Thanks for all the Fish." I was rolling in the aisle after the number ended, but that was one of only a handful of truly hilarious bits. Instead, the movie moves along at a very fast pace, content with leaving the viewer with a smile rather than a belly-deep laugh. However, this pleasantness isn't necessarily a bad trade for straight-up humor.

The film is almost perfectly cast. Some of the reviews I read complained that Mos Def is a thorn in the movie's side, but his subtle mannerisms and clever timing make his character Ford Prefect a highlight of the movie. Prefect is an alien traveling the universe with the purpose of researching for *The Hitchhiker's Guide*, and his stay on Earth allows him to befriend Arthur Dent, the story's main character. Perhaps the most amusing aspect of Prefect is his insistence on claiming an ordinary bath towel as the greatest tool of defense in the universe. Whether he is being slobbered on by ugly, bureaucratic aliens, or shot at by burning lasers, Prefect pulls his towel in front of him and assumes immortality.

Arthur's character is both a blessing and a curse for the film. Martin Freeman is great. His insecurity and timidity are portrayed perfectly. Moreover, his ignorance about the vast possibilities of space and time make for some great moments of cosmic discovery. At the same time, however, his insecurity gets to be occasionally annoying, and the audience gets frustrated,



instead hoping that the escapade across the universe can continue unhindered.

As I said above, the film is pulled from mediocrity to something shy of greatness by Sam Rockwell, who should always be cast in any science fiction comedy. His character, Zaphod Beeblebrox, is absolutely insane. As the presi-

dent of the universe, he fakes his own kidnapping so he can have time to search for the meaning of the universe. However, his adventurous spirit is often times compromised by a goofy split-personality – one of which literally manifests itself in the form of a second head. In the end, the film succeeds as a British comedy, in the vein of Monty Python's subtle and dry humor. Moviegoers with purely American comic sensibilities might be turned off by the film. But, those who are searching for something more than just humor will be dazzled by the scope of the film's universal adventure. The special effects are amazing, on par with everything but George Lucas. And, after the credits roll, the viewer is left with a feeling that my friend pinpointed exactly: simply, "It was really creative."

By RACHEL GAINES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Downtown New London can be a pretty quiet place at 9 AM on a Sunday, but that doesn't mean there's nowhere to go. Bank Street Java Lounge and Scoop's Ice Cream combine to form a tiny café down by the water that is just the place for a hearty Sunday brunch, or any meal for that matter.

The greatest thing about Scoop's, as it's called by all the regulars, is that it maintains an up-scale ambience without ridiculously up-scale prices. Although the main dining room is small, the café is elegantly decorated with local art, hanging lamps, and elegant wood tables. The coffee counter, bakery, and register are right in the dining room, but they do not detract from the aesthetic value of the room. The coffee bar is cute, and certainly not the eyesore over which Starbucks baristas slave.

Scoop's coffee is one of the highlights of the experience. All of their coffee is locally roasted at Mystic Coffee Roasters (also known as Green Marble of Mystic). I ordered a coffee with my meal, naively forgetting to ask which blend I received, but it was a mild and flavorful brew that was perfect to drink with a meal. The big, bottomless cups are hard to put down, so caffeine freaks beware. The espresso bar also offers exotic and inventive teas including chai and bubble varieties and they will blend you smoothies or milkshakes upon request. Soon, the owners hope to offer spirit coffee drinks for an after-supper treat as well as local, international, and domestic wines.

"For that special occasion," according to the store's website, "we will be offering a selection of champagnes from the moderately priced to the more exclusive high-end varieties." But the drinks are truly just the tip of the iceberg.

Scoop's is open three meals a day Tuesday through Sunday and offers a variety of fancy dishes to please a sophisticated palate. In general, lunch entrees range from \$6-\$12 while the dinner menu is slightly more pricey, starting at \$18 and reaching up through the mid-twenties.

The best deal by far is the hearty breakfast menu (only available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). For my brunch, I sampled the western omelet (ham, cheese, peppers, and onions) which was served with home fries and toast. The omelet was perfectly cooked and packed with melted cheese. The ham was not the best I've ever had and it was diced into such small pieces that sometimes I forgot it was there. In general though, the omelet was a hit.

The home fries were delicious, but not what I had expected. They were more like small potato cubes with the same flavoring as Cro's curly fries. Luckily for me, I don't think there's anything more delicious than a crispy fried potato, but it was a strange contrast to the classiness of every other aspect of the meal.

Other menu options that received rave reviews were "The Java," a spinach, red pepper, and cream cheese scramble (kind of like scrambled eggs and an omelet combine) and the western scramble which consisted of peppers, onions, and mushrooms, topped with grated cheddar cheese and chunky tomato salsa. This was served with a grilled, buttered corn muffin which was certainly one of the high points of the meal.

Each of the egg plates was \$5.99 and the bottomless coffee cup cost \$1.60, but there are also less expensive options for breakfast. For those who don't like eggs so much, no worries; the breakfast menu includes pancakes (blueberry and regular) and French toast. In fact, the Sunday specials included coconut and pineapple pancakes and cinnamon swirl French toast for \$6.99 and \$4.99 respectively. Trust me, there's something for everybody. The service was excellent if somewhat strange. Our 20-something wait-

continued on page 6

The bandwagon is leaving the station...

The Voice staff would like to say
congratulations to music columnist Emily
Morse on an incredible run here at Conn.

Best of luck with whatever lies ahead.

Rock on E.mo.

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- 3) RAVEONETTES - PRETTY IN BLACK
- 4) SPOON - GIMME FICTION
- 5) EYEBALL - SKELETON #1
- 6) VENETIAN SNARES - ROSSZ CSILLAG ALATT SZULETETT
- 7) DECEMBERISTS - PICAESQUE
- 8) PREFUSE 73 - SURROUNDED BY SILENCE
- 9) OF MONTREAL - THE SUNLANDIC TWINS
- 10) FISCHERSPOONER - ODYSSEY
- 11) HOT HOT HEAT - ELEVATOR
- 12) DAFT PUNK - HUMAN AFTER ALL
- 13) HAWK AND A HACKSAW - HAWK AND A HACKSAW
- 14) SAM PREKOP - WHO'S YOUR NEW PROFESSOR
- 15) FRENCH TOAST - IN A CAVE
- 16) BECK - GUERO
- 17) DAN BAND - THE DAN BAND LIVE
- 18) SMOKE AND SMOKE - TRAVELER'S MOTEL WEEKLY RATES
- 19) APES - BABA'S MOUNTAIN
- 20) AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD - WORLDS APART

NEWS

Former NBA Star Manute Bol Speaks About Darfur

By STEVE STRAUSS

SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday April 30 Connecticut College welcomed one of the tallest players in the history of the NBA. Manute Bol, the 7'7" athlete who towered over his competitors in every basketball game of his life, spoke in Oliva Hall on his experiences dealing with the government of his homeland Sudan.

Upon his walk to the podium, an audience of nearly the maximum capacity for Oliva Hall showered Bol with waves of applause in recognition of his activism. Bol gave a history of his life in Sudan as an activist and prisoner. Since 1991 Bol has regularly visited Sudanese refugee camps.

From 1999-2001 Bol was held in Sudan, unable to return to the United States for fear that he would inform the western media of various inhumane tactics employed by his host government. After bribing his way out of the country, Bol was held in Cairo, Egypt. His ultimate return to the United States had been complicated by the events of September 11. However, on March 7, 2002 Bol and his family returned to Hartford.

On January 9, 2005 a peace agreement was signed between the Sudanese government and the SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army), which ended the 20 year north-south conflict. This agreement had no hold, however, on the issue of Darfur in west of Sudan. Recently, vast human rights violations in this region have made headlines worldwide.

During his talk Bol praised the Conn Chapters of SOAR (Society Organized Against Racism) and STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur), which worked together to sponsor the event. Furthermore, STAND was created for the purpose of curtailing the human rights abuses taking place in the troubled region of Sudan.

Bol also gave numerous suggestions to Conn students on how they might further help the victims of conflict in Sudan. Specifically, he advised students to use the American government as a means to bring change in Sudan. He also recommended that students write to their representatives in Congress, urging aggressive action.

Toward the end of the talk, Bol



Former NBA star Manute Bol, a Sudan native, spoke to the campus community about Darfur. (Web)

commented on his visions of western Sudan's future. He was not completely optimistic, and his hope hinges largely on American action. He noted that students acting collectively certainly have the power to change policy, which could ultimately lead to positive results in Sudan.

Upon completion of his talk, Bol and master of ceremonies Colin

the soil with vitamins and minerals.

Education: The last and most important facet of Earth House is its role as an education center of Human Ecology on the college campus. Each of the seven residents of the house gained acceptance into the house because they have a wealth of knowledge. The house has a library of reference biology, chemistry, technology, economics, philosophy, justice, and legislation. There are resources in the library from environmental NGOs and environmental departments of a variety of academic institutions. Furthermore, the residents (and their compatriots) donate their old textbooks to the house, so the library is continuously updated each semester. We also hold events that pertain to national and global environmental news - our last event was a discussion of the role (albeit a muted one) environmentalism played in the 2004 Presidential debates.

The current residents of the house are Rachel Chase '05, Scott Peterson '06, Sahil Sachdev '06, Andrew Shapiro '06, Joanna McClintick '07, Laura Zerra '07, and myself, Sara Jayanthi '07. We hope that the start of this column will increase overall interest in conservation throughout campus, and spark a much-needed debate about ebbing environmental consciousness throughout our country. The library is open to all who wish to learn more about national environmental movements. By educating the campus, we hope to re-ignite informed student activism and live up to the legacy of our founders from a decade ago.

excess water is then used for water recollection in toilets. After the toilet is flushed, the excess water is added into the back tank to prevent excess water collection. Another thing about toilets...if it's yellow, let it mellow. Because urine is sterile, we do not flush the toilets unless someone else has done more than #1.

Consumerism: Though food buying is a personal choice, the residents of Earth House buy organic and locally grown food. Small-scale food and dairy farms are an essential part of sustainable living and the local economy. The residents of the house purchase organic and locally grown food also as a means to support the success of the smaller sustainable industries. In this respect, we believe the dollar is a powerful asset, so you should spend it wisely. All cleaning products bought by the house are made by environmentally friendly companies like Seventh Generation and Ecover. By buying these products, we not only reduce chemical additives released into the ecosystem, but we also support companies.

Gardening: Within the Earth House Living Statement is a provision about preserving the biota with native flora and fauna of the region. As an agreement with the Connecticut College Arboretum, Earth House members only plant indigenous flora of Connecticut. All the flowers planted by residents are native species, and any non-native plants are cultivated in closed containers such as terra cotta pots and raised flowerbeds. We also compost all food (except dairy and meats) and use the decomposed food as a natural fertilizer, which augments

Physical Plant Plans Summer Renovations

continued from page 1

involves a review and renewal of components of all buildings throughout campus, in a departure from the past approach.

According to Jim Norton, repairs have traditionally been directed at one building at a time to completely renovate each one while neglecting other buildings' needs, which creates a "have and have not physical environment," most clearly seen by the comparison between the old plex and the new plex dorms.

The purpose of asset renewal is to balance the new construction with systematic renovation to raise the overall quality of the campus. There were four major building projects identified in the Strategic Plan as well, which Norton hopes will be completed within five to ten years. They include a new life science building, expansion and renovation of the library, a new fitness center, and a new residence hall. Students will return in the fall to an improved campus.

Inside Scoop's: Where to Get Great Breakfast

continued from page 5

er was covered in piercings and tattoos, but was honestly one of the most formal and polite waiters I've ever met. He was helpful regarding questions we had about the menu and was quick to refill waters and coffee. He was a little pokey picking up the check, but nobody's perfect. I assume all that metal makes it hard to move around quickly anyway.

Scoop's in addition to great breakfast, Scoop's has tons of desserts. The deli displayed homemade s'mores and Nutella. There were also a variety of pies from blueberry to apple along with chocolate and cheese cakes. But ice cream is what brings sweet toothed patrons back.

The ice cream parlor has a build your own sundae bar starting at

\$2.50 for two scoops through \$6 for the 5 scoop sundae. They also have waffle cones and cups. The ice cream menu offers dessert drinks like root beer floats and milkshakes.

Bank Street Java Lounge, located at 385 Bank Street, is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8am to 9pm for a continental breakfast, lunch and dinner. Friday and Saturday they're open 8am to 11pm for a full breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Sunday they're open for breakfast and lunch only 8am to 4pm.

Scoop's ice cream is open Tuesday through Thursday noon to 9pm, Friday and Saturday noon to 11pm, and Sunday noon to 4. Both stores are closed on Mondays.

For more information on The Bank Street Java Lounge, check out bankstreetjavallounge.com.

Administrators Hold Dessert and Dialogue on Diversity

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a sit-in designed by students who wanted their voices heard by the College's faculty. One of the students' demands was that Conn institute an Affirmative Action Program. As a result, in 1987 the position of Affirmative Action Officer was born.

Notwithstanding the adoption of this position, Connecticut College's admissions office does not have an Affirmative Action policy or written statement. Specifically, Kirmisse's responsibilities as the Affirmative Action Officer involve promoting diversity when hiring the College's staff and faculty.

However, the Dean of Admissions, Martha Merrill, discussed the role of diversity in the process of admissions. Merrill described the admission team's method as a balancing act, where the admissions officers judge the applicant pool on many factors including, gender, geography, essays, SAT scores, GPA, race, sexuality and diversity of thought. Thus, according to Merrill, Admissions attempts to create a student body that is balanced in a variety of areas.

The dialogue concluded with discussion about Unity House and its changing role on Connecticut College's campus. Fainstein noted that Unity House has been plagued by a lack of stability over the past few years, and attempts to restructure Unity are currently in the works. He added that Unity is "lagging in responding to the needs of under-represented students."

Basically, Fainstein stated that the College would like to address the needs of the students at large and is looking for input regarding expanding the scope of Unity House. Ultimately, nonetheless, the College is committed to the existence of Unity House as well as "creating a generally pluralistic community," a theme reiterated by Fainstein in many of his campus-wide addresses.

Award Winning Authors Speak at Conn

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for hours when I was little," stated Packer. "I just never thought that something I wrote could be on those shelves."

Packer's works have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Best American Short Stories* (2000 and 2003), and the anthology *Twenty-five and Under*. Her stories have also been read on NPR's "Selected Stories." Michael Cunningham is most renowned for his Pulitzer-Prize win-

ning book *The Hours*, that was adapted into an Oscar winning movie in 2002. He is also a recipient of the PEN/Faulkner Award as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship.

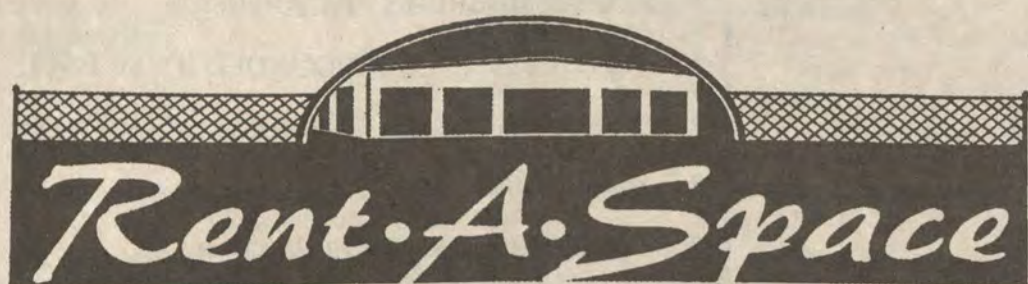
The afternoon panel was followed with an autograph signing event, where the published works of the guest authors could be purchased. At the evening reading event, Packer read her short story "The Ant of the Self" (2002) and Cunningham read "White Angel." Cunningham made his reading

selection in response to the adamant request of two students in the audience, who first heard the story in one of Professor Boyd's creative writing classes.

The Daniel Klagsbrun Symposium has and continues to be a valuable source of insight for lovers of literature and aspiring writers. Cunningham stated, "You can't beat fiction for a sense of companionship. Even your best friends don't reveal themselves to you like a character in a good novel does."

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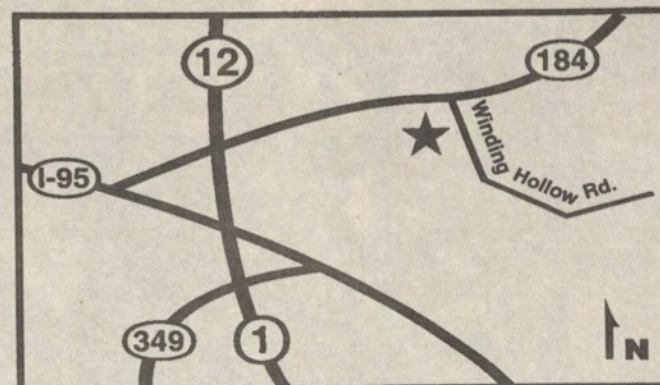
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The staff of *The College Voice* would like to
congratulate the Class of 2005

A special thanks to former *Voice* editors

Emily Morse - Editor-in-Chief

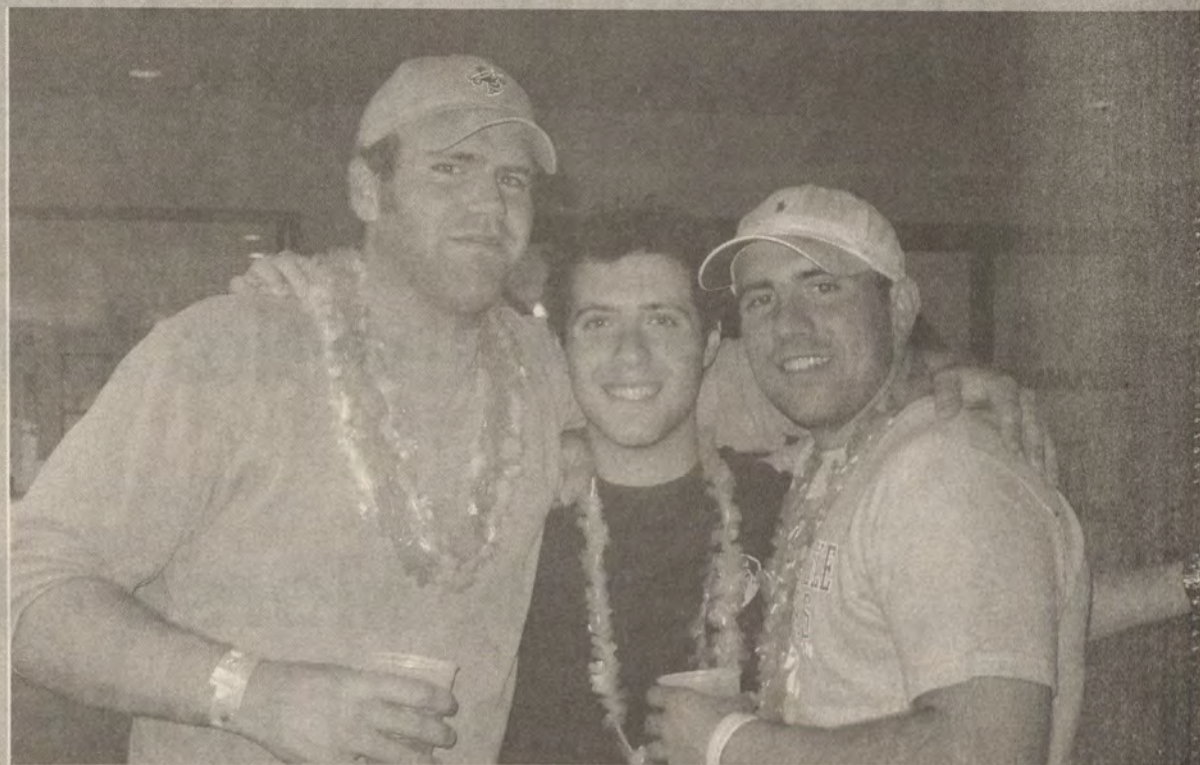
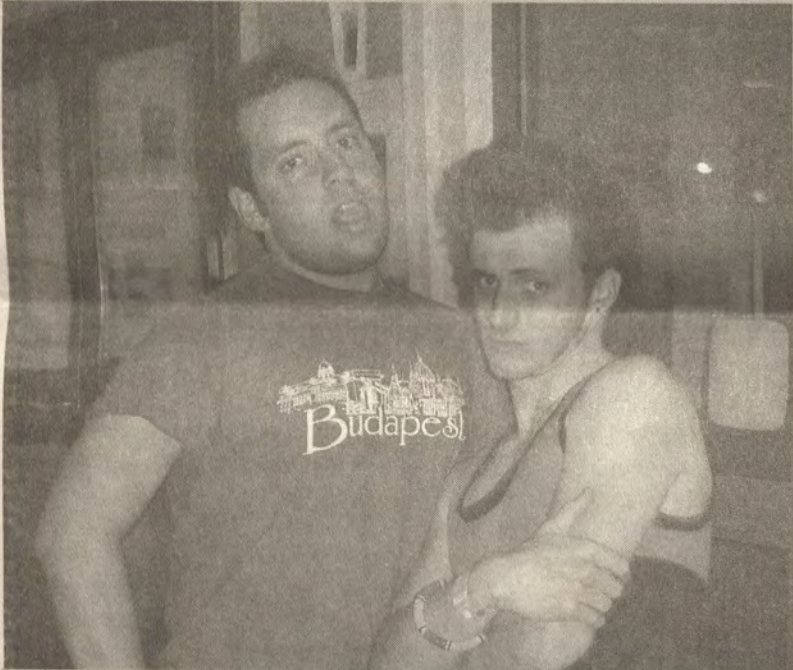
Rachel Holt - Photo Editor

Ashley Solod - Associate Photo Editor

Thanks for all your hard work!!

We'll miss you.

FISHBOWL 2005



SPORTS

A Sport Fit For A King: The Derby

As many of you might know, Liverpool beat Chelsea on Tuesday, and will play AC Milan (who are extremely lucky to have beaten PSV, I might add) in the Champions League Final in Istanbul, Turkey on the 25th of May, 2005. As much as I want to write about the semi-finals and forecast the final, I won't. Let me just say one thing about the game: I am so happy that Liverpool beat Chelsea and showed that arrogant club and their supporters that money can not buy all success (though it might have bought them the Premiership title and the League Cup). You need passion, skill, and fans that will go to the end of the world for you to be a successful team in Europe. Liverpool has all three. The atmosphere at Anfield was electric, the fans were passionate and words can not describe how the Liverpool anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" sounded on that special night of European football. It was a night that the Liverpool legends of old would have been proud of. I have three words to say to AC Milan – Bring It On.



GERALD WOLS
Int'l Man Of Sport

My article will not be about Liverpool, as I fear that I might bore you, and that would defeat the whole object of me writing for the Voice. I have decided to write about something that is also very close to my heart, not as close as Liverpool, but defiantly something that has kept me busy for the last week and a half. Many of you might know that the Kentucky Derby is taking place this Saturday 7th of May at the famous Churchill Downs race track. This article will focus in detail on the Derby, the horses and other associated topics.

This year's Kentucky Derby will be the 131st derby and is being tipped as one of the closest and most fiercely competitive races in this year's racing calendar. In my opinion, 10 out of the 20 participants have a realistic chance of coming out on top of one of Americas oldest racing events.

Bellamy Road is the favorite for this year's derby, and with the odds of 5-2 he is somewhat of a clear-cut favorite, which seems surprising to me. In my opinion the recent hype about this horse is due to the fact that it won the Wood Memorial by a whopping 17 and half-lengths (very impressive indeed). The fact that he was not challenged in the Wood Memorial by any horses shows the lack of competition in this race that Bellamy Road had to compete with. His tendency to kick early and hold on to one of the front positions might be severely challenged by a more competitive field (boosting 3 year olds such as Bandini, High Fly and Afleet Alex), all of whom are strong horses and most importantly strong finishers. If you fancy this horse, don't be discouraged by my comments. This is a very good horse and it has a good chance of winning the Derby. It has a good jockey and an even better trainer in Nick Zito. On a side note, if you are a Yankee supporter this might be the horse for you, as the godfather himself, Mr. George Steinbrenner, is the owner –

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Men's Lacrosse Falls In NESCAC First Round

BY PETER STERLING
SPORTS EDITOR

After a successful regular season, the Conn men's lacrosse team had a disappointing finish, taking an early exit from the NESCAC tournament this past Sunday. The Camels had a tough weekend overall, losing in heartbreaking fashion to Tufts University on Saturday. The game, a home contest played on soggy Freeman field on another rainy spring day, proved to be a major momentum loss for the hosts.

Due in large part to the conditions, the first half was relatively even. Tufts took a 5-4 advantage on a goal from Mike O'Brien with just under three minutes remaining in the second quarter. Brad Luckhardt '06 tied the game for the Camels, after stealing a pass in transition and beating the Jumbos' goalie. With less than 10 seconds to go before half-time, Chas McLaughlin '06 tallied another score for Conn, who carried a 6-5 lead into the break.

Clinging to a slim 9-8 lead after three quarters, the Camels were given some breathing room on Craig Audin's '08 goal off a feed from Brendan Rampi '06 at 12:13. Tufts was able to answer quickly, but Rampi netted his fourth goal of the season with 3:11 to play, giving Conn back its two-goal advantage. With time winding down, many began to believe that the Camels would be having a home playoff game the following day. It was not to be, however, as unanswered tallies from Brett Holm and Mark Warner



The Conn College men's lacrosse team fell short for the second consecutive year, dropping in heartbreaking fashion at Amherst. (Holt)

for the visitors would notch the score at 11 in front of a shell-shocked home crowd.

Although Conn battled valiantly in the extra frame, it seemed as though the damage was already done. Just 1:17 into overtime, Clarke netted the game-winner for the

Jumbos, notching the road win that would send the Camels to Amherst the following day. Rampi contributed for four goals and two assists, while Audin pitched in with three goals and an assist for the

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Box Score: Tufts 4/30			
Name	Goals	Assists	Saves
B. Rampi	4	2	-
C. Audin	3	1	-
C. McLaughlin	2	-	-
B. Luckhardt	1	-	-
D. Schwartz	1	2	-
T. Grossman	-	-	19

Women's Tennis Falls Just Short Of Regionals



The Conn College women's tennis team fell short of making the regional tournament, although Beret Remak '07 will attend nationals. (Chen)

BY SPENCER TAICH
STAFF WRITER

After experiencing a season full of successes, the women's tennis team was disappointingly left out of this weekend's Northeast Regional championships. The lady Camels finished the season with a record of 10-7, including a seventh place conference tie with Bowdoin in the NESCAC championships held at Middlebury.

Beret Remak '07 completed her regular season strong at the NESCAC championships earning a #3 seed. At the championships she was pitted against senior Diana

Dreyfus of Trinity. In a well-played match, Dreyfus' experience carried her to victory over Remak 6-4, 6-2. Remak's season, however, is not over yet, as she was selected by the NCAA tennis sub-committee to compete in the 32 player NCAA Division III championships to be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The competitive field was selected based upon a number of factors: strength of competition, won-loss records, common opponents, and late season play to name a few. Remak has had incredible success during her first two seasons of NESCAC competition; success which has now been recognized by the NCAA.

The NESCAC championships did not go so well for the rest of the Camels. The toughest opponent for Conn was surprisingly not from their NESCAC rivals, but from the judges. The NESCAC selection committee seemed to hand out the toughest matches for our Camels, placing them in a tough situation. Captain Laura Demoreuille '05 shared her frustration about not being seeded for the doubles event with her partner Lisa Steckmest '08. "We were very disappointed we weren't seeded. We had already beaten the #1 seed. We played a very close match against Williams and even though we lost we still felt as

though we were the better team." Demoreuille and Steckmest were defeated by the Williams tandem of Blarret and Blinet 8-6.

In other singles matches, Steckmest fought against Brittany Olwine of Trinity in an epic battle. After winning the first set 6-1, Steckmest lost the second set 6-3, forcing a tie-breaking third set. Both players played an incredibly hard and long final set, unfortunately Olwine pulled off the victory winning the set 10-7 and the match.

"We were very disappointed we weren't seeded. We had already beaten the #1 seed. We played a very close match against Williams and even though we lost we still felt as though we were the better team."
-Laura Demoreuille

Hoping that the Northeast Intercollegiate Tennis Association would have taken notice of their great play against tough competition in the NESCAC championships, the Camels were anxious for a birth in this weekend's regional final. Unfortunately the Camels were once again left on the outside looking in, as a result of questionable decisions made by officials. In order to secure a spot in the Northeast finals, a team needs to be ranked in the top seven in the region composed of 110 schools. The Camels found themselves in the eight spot, while Vassar took the final position, enabling them to play in the NCAA national tournament in the Northeast bracket.

The committee that determines which teams represent each region in the tournament is made up of five coaches. Not so shockingly, one of these officials happens to be Vassar

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NBA Playoffs Surprisingly Watchable

After watching three episodes of the West Wing, I was overwhelmed with the feeling that the NBA playoffs were taking place and that I should probably watch. Never have I felt so indifferent towards the professional league of my favorite sport as I do this season, but I felt an obligation to see what was going on. I have to admit that, since then, I have actually found myself interested in the playoffs. In fact, I can even say that there are some teams and players worth watching.



CHARLIE WIDDOES
Viewpoint

One series I was excited to watch was between Houston and Dallas. While the Mavs have mounted a compelling comeback from down 0-2 to go up 3-2, the lack of defense that both teams play makes it difficult for me to see either making any serious run at the championship. Any team with Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady should be an automatic contender, but they clearly haven't grasped the concept of stopping the other team from scoring.

The most intriguing first round series has been the Bulls and the Wizards, a showcase of some great college players who have become very mature pros. Ben Gordon's 30 points and Andres Nocioni's 25 points and 18 boards in game one got me excited about the prospect of a new generation of basketball in the windy city. Kirk Hinrich's 34-point outburst in game two provided more evidence that he is one of the top point guards in the league. And, alas, Juan Dixon showed everyone what I have said since I watched him dominate bigger, more acclaimed players during his career in the ACC and the NCAA tournaments: any team could use a sweet-shooting defensive master who knows how to take over in big games. He dropped 35 in game four, which tied the series at two games apiece. Larry Hughes, Gilbert Arenas and the other former college stars in this series have also given me reason to believe that there is a group of players on whom the NBA can count for leadership in an era that is cluttered with underachievers and selfish superstars. Unfortunately, both of these teams might be a year or even a few years away from contending for a championship, but for now it's great to watch them play at such a high level.

Ray Allen has decided that with Reggie Miller retiring, he is willing to be the next great clutch shooter. His opponent in the first round, the Kings, has historically been able to rely on Mike Bibby for clutch play-off performances, but this year was different. It's hard to believe that they might actually be worse off without the services of Chris "soft, losing..." Webber, but they got handled by a Sonics team that wasn't that much better than they were. The most disappointing team of the playoffs so far has to be Memphis, whose depth and team play was supposed to give Phoenix a fight. Instead, they gave up 114 points a game and were swept out of the playoffs. "Experts" have questioned the Suns' ability to win in the playoffs because of their tendency to play at a fast tempo.

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Camel Scoreboard

Good season CC sports, everyone have a great summer!
-The College Voice Sports Staff