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Student Newspapers

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12-2-2004

## Mirror - Vol. 30, No. 12 - December 02, 2004

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### Recommended Citation

"Mirror - Vol. 30, No. 12 - December 02, 2004" (2004). (1977-2014) *The Fairfield Mirror*. 643.  
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## Police capture suspect in Mark Fisher murder

BY ASHLEIGH B. EGAN

After more than a year of silence, frustration and searching, a suspect was arrested last week and charged with the murder of Mark Fisher '06.

Antonio Russo, an 18-year-old high school dropout from Brooklyn, was arrested Tuesday, Nov. 23 after a grand jury in Brooklyn indicted him in the Oct. 12, 2003 killing, according to *Newsday*.

He pleaded not guilty to the second-degree murder, robbery and weapons charges

at this arraignment the following day and was ordered to be held without bail.

Police suspect that at least one other man was an accomplice to the killing, according to *Newsday*.

Fisher's family spoke to *The Mirror* about their hopes for the future of the case.

"Hopefully this is just the beginning," said Nancy Fisher, Mark's mother. "We hope there are more arrests to follow, we think about three or four arrests in the



FISHER

next week or so."

According to *Newsday*, although Russo has denied any involvement in the crime, sources said that he had talked openly on the street about shooting Fisher.

A source told The Associated Press that according to accounts of Russo's statements, Fisher resisted Russo's demand for his wallet and the \$20 he had withdrawn from an ATM that night.

Friends of Fisher's from Fairfield

express their happiness in this break in the case.

"It was about time they made an arrest," said Chris Peters '06. "It's good they're moving deeper into the case and that people are going to pay for what they did."

Russo's arrest on Tuesday was the first result from the year-long investigation, often stalled by silence of those who were with Fisher in the final hours before he was killed.

SEE "NEXT" ON P. 6

## THE RED SEA RETURNS



Chris Donato/The Mirror

**Cheering them on:** Fans get riled up during the men's basketball team's key game against Manhattan Tuesday night. The Stags ultimately won in double overtime. **For more, see "Men's" on p. 20**

## Task force investigates ways to recruit AHANA students

BY AUDREY ADADE

The Fairfield administration is tackling one of the school's most immediate concerns, by diversifying the student body and faculty.

Irene Mulvey, secretary to the general faculty, said "The faculty would surely be all in favor of anything that would help to increase diversity on campus, and faculty would be interested in being involved in a major way in any such efforts."

"Trying to attract and retain a high-quality and diverse faculty is one of the top priorities of the university and certainly of the faculty," said Mulvey. "For at least 10 to 12 years, these issues of increasing diversity among all segments of the university community—students, faculty, administration, staff—have appeared repeatedly on the Academic Council's agenda."

The comments came after Orin Grossman, academic vice president,

announced this month that he was developing a task force to examine how the university can attract and retain more AHANA students.

The work of this task force will include a more comprehensive look at diversity issues at Fairfield, such as the hiring of AHANA faculty and the development of curriculum with more multicultural content.

"The bottom line is we all should be doing better; there should be more diversity of students and faculty. I am discussing with deans more pro-active strategies to recruit minority faculty," said Grossman.

There are only three African-American professors among the 144 professors in the College of Arts and Sciences. Elsewhere in the university, there are only a handful of African-American professors amongst the 203 full-time tenure track faculty members.

SEE "TASK" ON P. 6

## Fairfield reports most liquor law violations in CT for '03

BY MEGAN J. MAHONEY

Fairfield University was ranked number one statewide in reported alcohol violations last year with 651 reported incidents filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Secondary Education's annual campus crime report.

First reported in the *Connecticut Post*, Fairfield was also ranked the 28 highest school for reported violations nationwide. But, not to worry, it may not be as bad as it seems.

"I know it looks like we've got more alcohol problems than

### High number attributed to "truth in reporting"

other schools," said Mark Reed, dean of students, to the *Connecticut Post*. "We know that's not the case."

One of the possible explanations for Fairfield's high ranking was in the schools varying interpretation of a violation as described in the Clery Act.

The Clery Act requires universities and colleges to furnish their security statistics every year. Fairfield University published a booklet in the fall which lists all violations and is distributed across

campus to students, faculty and the public.

The University of Connecticut, home to over 25,000 students, listed only 136 liquor violations according to the report. This number may seem very low considering the large student population. The university police only reported the arrests made for alcohol violations, not the "unverified" judicial referrals made by housing officials like resident advisors, according to the *Post*.

SEE "F.U." ON P. 4



# Poor RCADE turnout despite hi-tech abilities

BY JAMES NGUYEN

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make a flashy webpage? How about editing your own movie or learning how to draw neat pictures on the computer?

These are some of the taglines associated with the free RCADE workshop classes at Fairfield that offer introductory lessons on using powerful digital equipment such as camcorders and powerful software like the popular Adobe Photoshop.

Yet, the attendance to these classes can be counted with your fingers.

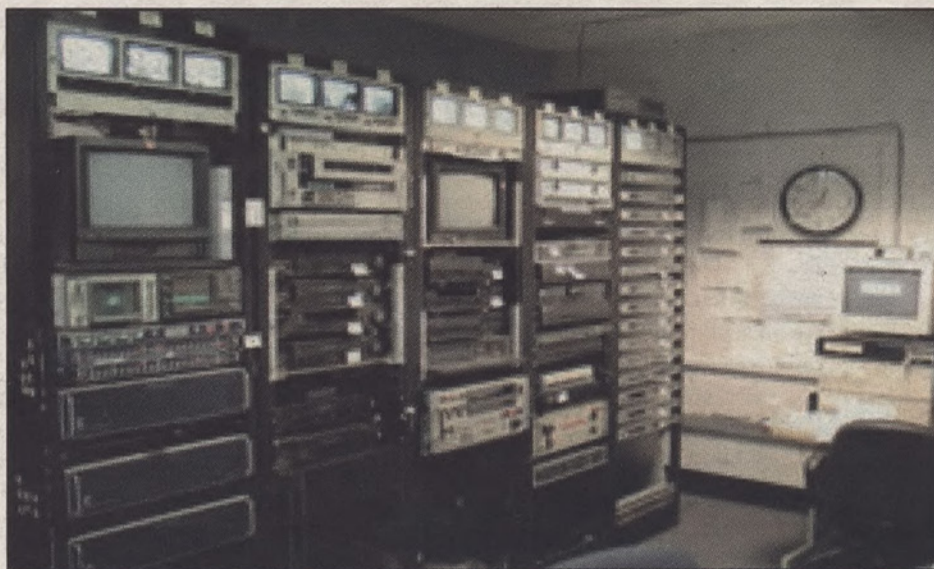
"Well I usually hear about it and forget about it since they're not really well publicized," said Meredith Darts '07. "The signs around campus do catch the corner of my eye but I don't think twice about it."

Since the workshop classes are held in the Media Center, located in the basement of Xavier Hall, the distance may be too great for many students, especially for quad students during the winter.

"We can't just pick up the building and move it," said Jon Thomas, a workshop instructor who teaches Final Cut Pro and iMovie, two potent and expensive movie editing programs.

"The computer lab in the basement is far more advanced than anywhere else in the entire university and it would be a disservice to move the workshops to an inferior computer lab," he said.

The workshops are held in G-14, a



Media Center Website

**RCADE:** Hi-tech and free workshops are offered at the Media Center but rarely attend-

classroom in the Xavier Hall basement equipped with powerful Macintosh computers which specialize in multimedia creativity.

The RCADE has been offering free workshop classes as introductions to a variety of digital disciplines including photography, film editing, graphic and web design since September of 2001. It would cost hundreds of dollars to attend one workshop course similar to those offered for free through the RCADE.

According to John Ur, the RCADE coordinator who specializes in graphic design, there were a total of 72 attendees

spread through 15 workshops this semester. The Spring 2004 semester garnered 53 attendees for 10 workshops. In comparison, there were about 192 attendees through 24 workshops in 2001-02, the program's debut year.

Much of the software used in the workshops retails for a pretty penny. For example, a legitimate copy of Adobe Photoshop, a suite of graphical editing tools that is commonly pirated, can be purchased for \$649.95 according to Staples.com, the giant office-supply chain.

In the English department, students are required in both EN11 and EN12 attend two

library tutorial sessions in place of class. What if it was required to attend at least one workshop as part of another CORE class?

"They don't want to turn it into something mandatory that kids are going to despise," Thomas added. "We're not going to force it down your throat and we're not going to make you pay either."

Before restrictions on advertising university events were put into place two years ago, catchy and memorable RCADE specific e-mails helped produce good turnouts.

Nowadays, RCADE information is buried in cumbersome "Today at Fairfield" e-mails.

"Our marketing hasn't been as effective as it was in the past," said Ur. "I would hope that people at least know what these classes are and what they can get from it."

Unless required, some students are simply apathetic about the potential of digital interactivity available for free use.

"I don't think I would go unless there are times when I knew I had to go learn something for a presentation," says Danielle Corciullo '07. "But I wouldn't go just for the knowledge itself because it doesn't matter much to me."

Other students felt differently.

"I was surprised at the level of expertise with the people who teach these classes," said Julie Briggs '07, a graphic design major who frequents the workshops. "It's a shame that more people or students don't know or take advantage of it."

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# Light shined on mysterious Student Court

BY MEREDITH CLINTON

If you've gotten into trouble for alcohol violations as a freshman or sophomore, it's possible you know through experience what the Student Court is.

If you've never been written up, however, you probably have no idea what the Student Court is or what its function is on campus.

This apparent lack of publicity is not because the Student Court wishes to remain a secret, but because by law many of the issues it deals with are confidential.

"The Student Court," according to the student handbook, "as the judicial branch of the Fairfield University Student Association (FUSA), enables the student government to undertake the responsibility of self-discipline."

The Student Court is made up of nine undergraduate students, one being a chief justice who leads meetings and makes sure things go as planned. The group meets once a week for two hours, and they deal primarily with cases involving alcohol violations.

"We hear one to two cases in a sitting every week," said Katy O'Neil '06. "This year there has been a decrease [in the number of cases] because of the new alcohol policies."

Ryan Tougias '06, a member of the court, said, "In a normal case the student will enter the room and sit opposite to the court. He or she will fill out a demographic sheet and hear the report that either an RA or Public Safety has filed. The student then has a chance to tell his or her side of the story



Elizabeth Cooper/The Mirror

**Judging Fairfield:** The Student Court convenes to decide and rule on student sanctions.

before the court poses questions."

One may wonder why one student would want to get another one in trouble, right? But that's not actually an issue. The court doesn't have free reign when deciding what sanctions should be imposed.

"We are really bound by the handbook," said O'Neil. "But it's nice for students to have the option to be reviewed by their peers. It's a comforting and less formal atmosphere."

Tougias said, "Students generally feel as though the conclusions reached by the court are fair and balanced, and even if found responsible, they have respect for the process and the decision of the court."

Kim Nickolenko, assistant dean of students and director of judicial affairs, said, "We have had positive responses to Student

Court in our office... The student perspective is always helpful."

FUSA is currently undergoing a constitutional convention, and, because of that, Student Court is also redefining its position.

"Our purpose in the constitutional convention is to determine the role that the court should play in FUSA," said Tougias. "While some may argue that an increased role in FUSA will indirectly make our procedure more public, it will instead add additional, yet different responsibility to the court."

O'Neil said that in re-working the system and deciding what they want the court to stand for, there are conflicting interests among members. She said that because the court cannot detail specifics, it limits its abilities.

"We're reworking what kind of information can be given out," she said. "It's a private thing, so it's hard to decide how involved [the court] can be with the student body."

Legal factors are also important.

"Student Court hearings cannot be made open to the public, as they hear disciplinary violations for students, and this information is protected by FERPA," said Nickolenko. "Disciplinary information is not public information, therefore, it cannot be open to members of the community."

But O'Neil still thought the court needs to be more active with the student body.

"It's not like we could ever be a body that students can go to and [escape penalty], because we are bound by the handbook, but I would like students to take advantage of being evaluated by their peers," she said, "Some people agree with that and others don't."

Some students think that Student Court is a good idea, even if they don't know much about it.

"I know nothing about it, but I would think it's a positive thing because a system like that seems like it would be more beneficial to the students," said Kristen Wilkens '05.

Others think the whole judicial process in general is confusing.

"I think it makes sense for [the court] to play a bigger role on campus, but I think that the whole judicial procedure has to be clarified as well," said Heather Bouzan '06. "There are so many parts of it that are unclear or that students don't even know about."

## Alcohol-related deaths cause concern for student safety

BY ERIN GRAY

Everyone knows "that guy." The one who gets a little too obnoxious at the party and slurs his way through conversation with everyone in the room.

The one who talks too loud about how much he drank and about just how long his keg stand really was.

"That guy:" the one who stumbles out the back door and barely makes it outside before everyone starts to see just how much he drank.

Despite the annoyance factor, the biggest problem with "that guy" is what happens after the people at the party stop paying attention.

On Nov. 9, CNN.com reported that an average of 1,400 college students die per year of alcohol-related causes. The article cites one female student at Colorado State who had more than 40 drinks before dying in a fraternity house.

It should not come as a surprise to students that drinking is a national college epidemic, especially not to Fairfield University students who have been legally sanctioned in order to curb their parties.

Though Fairfield University has not in its 62 years of operation been exposed to a student death from alcohol poisoning, it has certainly not been without problems.

"We, as a community, cannot dismiss



Contributed Photo

**Chug! Chug! Chug!** Binge drinking is a serious problem on many college campuses.

the incidents that have occurred on- and off-campus in which alcohol played a possible role in the death or injury of a community member," said Jeanne DiMuzio, director of wellness and prevention. "We are not left untouched by the tragedies that have occurred here and at home."

Yet some argue that the university is not doing all it can to encourage students to take care of each other.

"We took my housemate to the Health

Center last year because we were told that if you bring a friend in that you're worried about to get help, then no one will get in trouble," said Robert James Finnerty '05. "Next thing I know he got a letter from judicial, received points, got a letter home and was fined. I mean talk about discouraging helping your friend."

In addition to deaths as a result of binge drinking on campus, off-campus students who are usually of legal drinking age and

living in private residences create a problem for school administrators in holding students accountable for their actions.

The students living at Fairfield beach pose a challenge. Some have compared the beach to a unique sort of fraternity row, the kind of situation that strongly encourages binge drinking.

The university seems to have made an effort to bridge the three-mile gap between campus and the beach by posting a Fairfield representative at the beach. Duane Melzer now acts as a liaison between Fairfield, the students and law enforcement agents.

"The addition of an off-campus coordinator assists both sides in educating the students and bringing the permanent residents into a more harmonious coexistence," DiMuzio said.

Despite the dangers, some feel that students at Fairfield are well under control.

"If anything, I think campus security takes things too seriously on campus," said Sarah Delaney '05. "The way security is all over everyone makes people want to hide friends that are too drunk instead of getting them help. It's getting to be prison-like."

The problem with binge drinking neither starts nor ends with Fairfield University. Fairfield must continue to work to find a compromise between students, administrators and security to ensure the continued safety of all involved.

## F.U. stands by showing all violations

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

Jeanne DiMuzio, director of wellness and prevention, stood by Fairfield's numbers which show all violations, no matter who handled them, police, security or housing staff.

"Truth in reporting sends a strong and positive message that we as a community respond to the violation of the policies set by the state and local authorities, insuring a seamless understanding that use of alcohol by students under the age of 21 is prohibited both on and off campus and it will be addressed," she said.

"The Clery Act was instated to provide the current community and its prospective students with an honest snapshot of life on campus," she said. "If violations are reported within the guidelines set forth then it is our responsibility as a community to truthfully report these stats."

Reed agreed with DiMuzio and lauded Fairfield's honest reporting methods.

"I think what you see is that Fairfield University attempts to report information in as forthcoming and accurate a manner as possible," he said. "Anyone familiar with the Clery Act and the reporting requirements it stipulates knows that a comparison of campus crime reports does not always provide you with comparable data compiled and reported in the exact same way."

Sacred Heart University was ranked second in the state with 474 recorded liquor violations in 2003. The University of Hartford reported 426, Quinnipiac 417 and Southern Connecticut State University had 185 liquor violations. Connecticut also boasted a slightly higher underage drinking average than the nation, 51 to 49 percent.

The U.S. Department of Education Web site also listed ways to alleviate alcohol and drug problems on college campuses. Several

of the methods have already been instituted by Fairfield.

The methods included offering and enforcing intervention and education programs. The Wellness and Prevention office provides these to all students during orientation. Violators must attend additional alcohol education classes and at-risk drinkers can be identified through a screening test.

Another way to monitor the drinking is through a collaborative effort between the community police department and the university. Students who are ticketed or arrested at the beach for violations are also entered into Fairfield's judicial system to face additional repercussions. Others included offering a safe ride program, making alcohol harder to access and marketing the ills of alcohol.

DiMuzio wanted the student body to realize the importance of their actions and the reported violations.

"Behind those numbers is a community that cares about its students and the learning that needs to take place during this transition from connected family support to independent decision making and all the consequences that accompany them," she said.

Reed also credited a strict disciplinary code and a discipline reporting system, which allowed Fairfield to gather a complete picture of violations, according to the *Post*.

The actions of the students themselves cannot be overlooked as the most significant factor contributing to the high number of violations, according to Paul Duffy, FUSA president.

"I think it is a matter of honest reporting and ultimately it comes down to the individual causing themselves to get in trouble," said Duffy. "If they were more careful and responsible with how they handled themselves with their adult choices then maybe we wouldn't have as many reports."



## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

CASEY AMMERMAN

### Friday, November 19

**4:30 a.m.** - Disorderly conduct in the Jogues circle was reported.

**2:41 a.m.** - Cash was stolen from a dorm room in Kostka.

### Saturday, November 20

**1:38 a.m.** - There was a criminal trespass arrest. A student was told not to come back and did so anyway.

### Sunday, November 21

**10:26 p.m.** - A male wanted to exchange a \$100 bill for change at the Barone Campus Center diner. When he received the five \$20 bills, he handed a folded one dollar bill and fled. He was not caught.

### Sunday, November 28

**9:29 p.m.** - Seventy dollars was stolen from Regis Hall.

### CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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## Task force to investigate diversity

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

The only African-American professors in the College of arts and sciences are Ben Halm, a Ghanaian native in the English department, Walter Petry in history and Olivia Harriot in biology.

"Faculty members have the primary responsibility of determining the small group of three or four candidates to the campus and an equal responsibility with administration in the final choice," said Grossman. "These searches, however, have not brought minority faculty to the campus. When I question faculty members, their response is normally that minority faculty did not apply."

The task force will have approximately 12 members from different departments at Fairfield, including representatives from admission, financial aid, faculty and multicultural relations.

Grossman would like to have recommendations from the task force by the time the next recruitment cycle begins in March 2005. The task force will also consider a broad definition of diversity. Although AHANA recruitment is central to the mission of the task force, it will also consider economic diversity as well.

The education that students receive is not of the highest quality without the perspectives, styles, and intellect from persons of African descent, according to Larri Mazon, the director of multicultural relations.

Faculty diversity at Fairfield "does not reflect the nation or the world. It represents only one part of the population instead of reflecting the populous of the U.S.," said

Mazon. "It is unacceptable not to have a certain number of faculty and students from all ethnicities."

"Everyone loses out, and the place remains insular, not reflective of the world beyond its walls," said Professor Garvey, chair of the English department. "The problem does not make one stretch, learn and grow. Education happens when people engage in dialogue, exchanging ideas, challenging each other to think in new and complex ways."

"If the people at Fairfield University are not mentally prepared for others," said Professor Ben Halm, "then no number of such will make a dent in its culture, or the ways of seeing, doing, and being."

Nadya Encarnacion '05 has spent four years at Fairfield University without many African-American professors who could help serve as role models to her and other students.

"African-American educators are a leading group of citizens with insights. Unfortunately, African-American professors are seen as a separate entity among educators," said Encarnacion.

"Students would be able to see that there are African-American college professors, who are educated, which could help break down stereotypes," said Kentebe Ogbolu '06.

The university's new president, Father Jeffrey von Arx, S.J. addressed the problem in October at a journalism class press conference. He said, "Diversity is an important part of life today. Dealing with difference is a necessity."

## Next court date Dec. 8

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

"There are other aspects of this homicide that are still under investigation, and for that reason, we can't give you all the details about how the silence was broken or how our detectives put the pieces of the puzzle together," said New York Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, according to the *New York Times*.

Silence marked the bulk of the investigation surrounding the case. Many in the group of friends that attended the Brooklyn house party have retained lawyers. Police have described many as uncooperative, according to the *New York Times*, speaking with detectives only after they had been tracked down. The friends have denied they have withholding information, telling detectives that all they know is Fisher was alive when they left the party.

Although many of the details surrounding the night of Oct. 12 have not been completely resolved, detectives have pieced together what they believe happened that night.

Fisher was last seen by friends at the Bar Harbour in Manhattan around 2 a.m. on Oct. 12. At this point he left with a group to go to the home of John Guica to attend a party.

According to the timeline given Tues-

day, Nov. 23 by Kelly, Russo went with Fisher around 4:30 a.m. to an ATM near Guica's house where Fisher withdrew \$20. Just after 6:30 a.m. Fisher was shot by Russo on a street two blocks from Guica's house, said Kelly to *Newsday*.

Fisher's body was found in front of 150 Argyle Road, wrapped in a blanket. The murder weapon was not found.

Shortly after the killing, Russo appeared to try to change his appearance.

Kelly said that Russo cut the braids he usually wore and left for California a few days after Fisher's death. He returned to Brooklyn later that month.

Police had been following Russo, and Linda Brown, a friend, told the *New York Times* he began coming and going from his apartment on Turner Place via the fire escape.

Following his arrest at the apartment he shares with his mother, grandmother and brother, his mother, Evelyn Jennings smiled at reporters and said, "My only comment is that he is innocent, and I want to thank everyone for their support."

According to officials, the \$100,000 reward offered by Fisher's family and the NYPD will probably go uncollected.

Russo's next court date is scheduled for Dec. 8, according to the *New York Times*.

## The MIRROR

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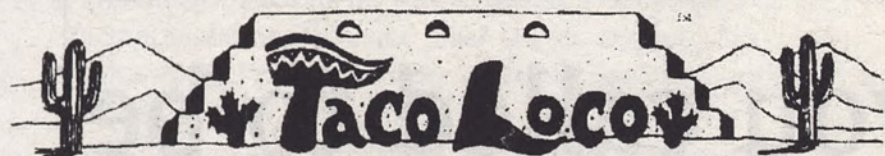
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Mail: Box AA, Fairfield University  
Offices: Located in room 104 of the Barone Campus Center  
Meetings: Thursday nights at 6 PM

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# Housing crunch too tight for some to stomach

BY NICOLE CAPPICILLE

You're a freshmen living in a room designed for two, but there's three of you. You're a junior living in Kostka or Claver, isolated from the rest of campus, including your lucky friends in the townhouses. You are a townhouse resident, but you're living in a triple.

Does any of this sound familiar?

"I think housing is the worst department on campus," said Elizabeth Mangione '06. "There is no reason to accept so many freshmen that so many need to be forced into triples."

"I lived in a forced triple freshman year, had to live on the substance-free floor sophomore year, and am now a junior living in Claver," she said. "I've just had to accept the fact that the Housing department hates me and look forward to having bad housing senior year."

Greg Lopez '06, agreed with Mangione.

"From my point of view, as a junior living in Claver, I think that Housing has been unsuccessful," he said. "They should let more juniors live off campus to eliminate the problem. It's unfair."

Gary Stephenson, the director

of housing operations, commented on students' complaints.

"Rather than purposely over accepting, they (admissions) accept a number with the understanding that a percentage of those students will not come to Fairfield," he said. "It appears that in the last few years the number of students in that pool want Fairfield University more than other schools."

According to Stephenson, Fairfield's room cost is \$5,470, which is \$26 a day. "Fairfield university looks at services provided rather than square foot of space," he said.

"Looking at the living provided by other schools that have to use temporary housing I do feel strongly that we provide better services and in most cases spaces... The average hotel in town is \$145 a night," he said.

This year, there are 855 freshmen enrolled, an increase from the 789 who enrolled last year.

Some students do not understand that if there were clearly too many freshmen in the first place, why would Housing deny willing juniors their chance to live off campus?

Last year, 400 juniors and seniors were permitted to live off campus and the same number will

be permitted this year as well, per university policy.

"We need an average population on campus for 30 weeks," said Stephenson. "Factors that negatively impact that average are: withdrawals, study abroad, med leave, transfers and commuters- these factors change weekly and impact the average."

"The number released to the beach is based on predictions that attempt to consider these factors a year before our September opening and before the freshman class is locked," he said.

Some juniors also say that they are tired of having to live with underclassmen.

"I live on a floor that is half sophomores, and at 3 a.m., when kids are toilet papering the hallways and screaming at each other, you get to the point where you're like, 'I'm only 20 and I think I'm too old for this,'" said Deanna Sojka '06, a Kostka resident.



Mark Servidio/The Mirror

**It's a Tight fit:** A crowded triple in a townhouse leaves little room to maneuver.

One male senior townhouse resident said, "We're not supposed to have to deal with triples anymore. I'm a senior and have to live in a room with two other guys who have their girlfriends sleep over all the time. It's ridiculous that I'm still dealing with this."

Stephenson explained why the townhouses are five and seven man.

"The lottery process works much better with the original hous-

ing configurations: two, four, six," said Stephenson.

"In 2004 we had a very large class and juniors wishing to gain townhouse living. We added the extra person and took care of the larger class and also accommodated the juniors that gained a townhouse," he said. "Although we are still able to get more juniors up there the lottery works better with two, four, sixes."

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**BREAKING NEWS - FUSA ELECTIONS**

**Duffy wins FUSA Presidency**  
by Joshua O'Connell

After hours of waiting, and in front of a gathering of over 200 people, the results were made official: Paul Duffy defeated Kevin Neubauer in a large victory. Duffy received 783 votes while Neubauer received 370.

Jillian Grant was re-elected as VP of Programming with approximately 65% of the votes, while Brett Ritterback and Kevin Saville in a runoff of Senate.

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Who should win the FUSA election?  
 Kevin Neubauer  
 Paul Duffy  
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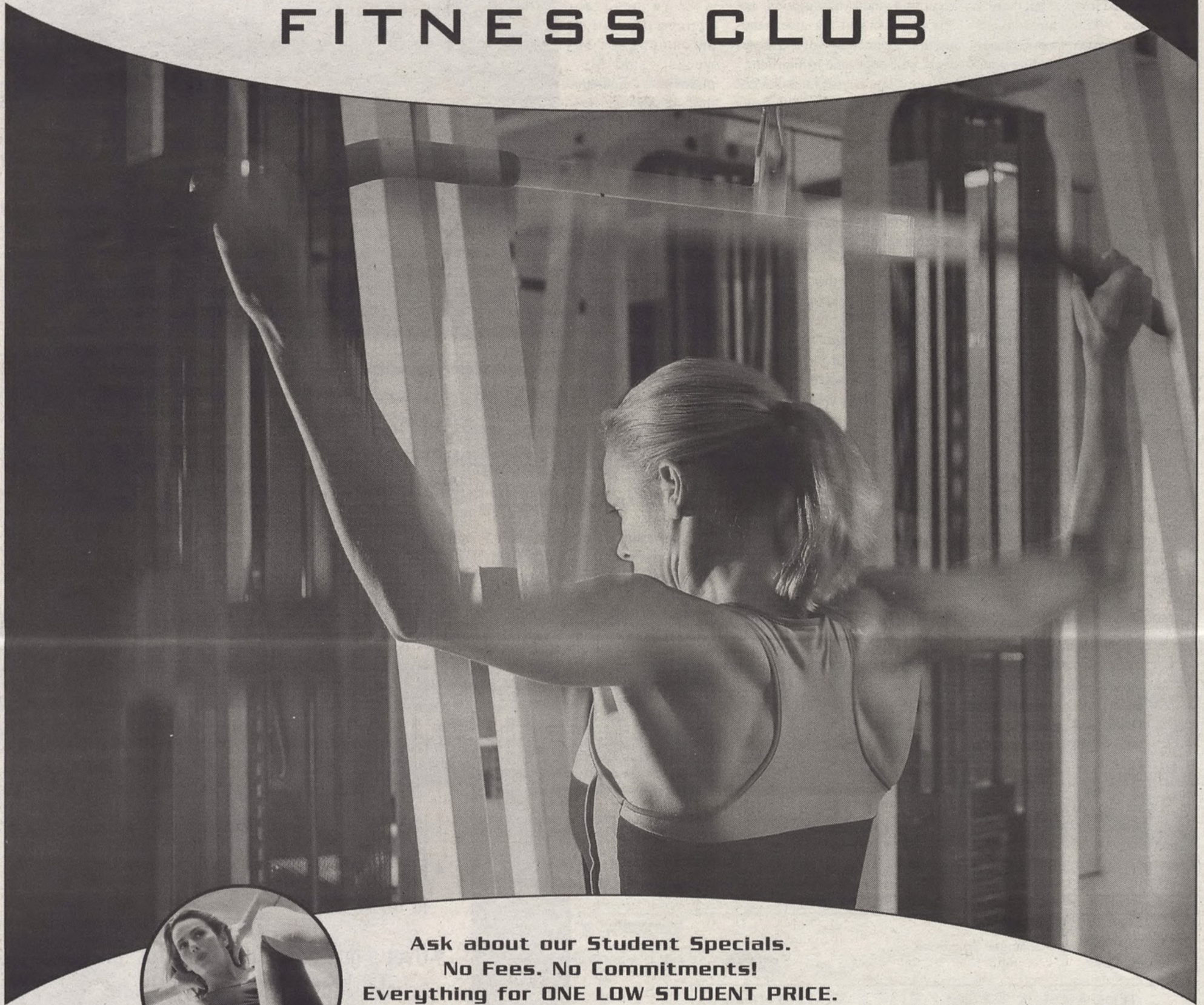
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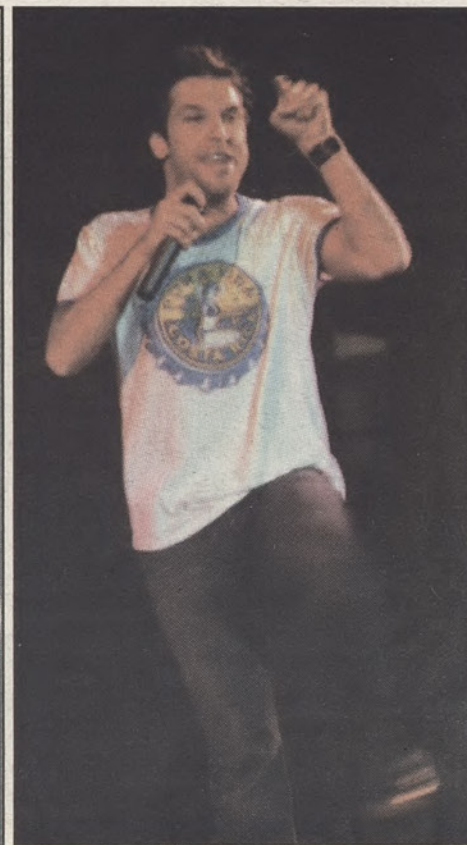
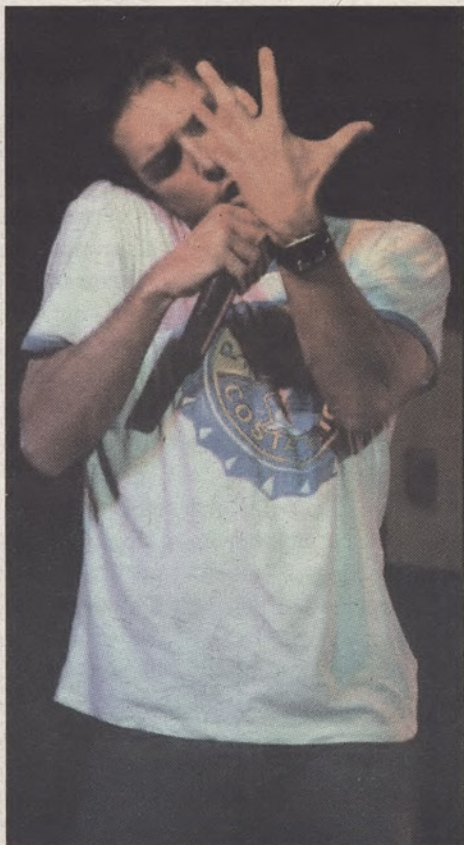
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# GREAT DANE



Photos by Bill McBain & Sean Corbett/The Mirror

BY SEAN CORBETT

With talk of pelvis-shattering rams, the universal love of car accidents, scented markers, murderous rampaging co-workers and a conclusion of naughty sexual remarks, Dane Cook was repeatedly thanked by the thunderous screaming and applause of the standing crowd of about 2,500 on Nov. 20. He entered Alumni Hall adorned in an LA-style leather jacket, a hint of the stardom this Arlington, Mass. native has risen to over the last 14 years.

After speaking with Cook on the phone before his show, everyone can now know what drives this "hottest comic," as Rolling Stone likes to call him.

"Hard f---ing work, dude."

Of course it helps that the man has completely forgotten what it is like to be nervous or apprehensive on stage.

"I don't remember ever being nervous, just apprehensive," he said. "And now that that's gone, I am able to just have a good time."

Since the record-breaking release of his Comedy Central CD/DVD combination "Harmful if Swallowed" a year ago, Cook's fan-base has grown exponentially. He thanks his fans daily by reading every piece of mail he is sent, as well as messages left on his self-run website, AIM and his MySpace.com webpage. Embracing his popularity, he stays after every show to greet everyone, a requirement that is actually expressed in his contract. Approximately 15 minutes after the show, amongst the empty chairs and bleachers was when the man truly shined. He signed everything from a dollar bill to a shopping list to a camera. He talked to fans across the country on cell phones, blatantly ignoring his agent's disapproval. He smiled and sported his trademarked double-middle finger move in each and every picture. He

calls it "su-fi" (like hi-fi); Dane-Speak for super finger.

"I was in Berkeley, Ca. last night for an audience of about 4,000," he told the small crowd. "Fairfield was more than twice as loud, so baby, you guys got twice the show!"

Cook explained his affection toward fans and even non-fans.

"I love that guy who comes up to me after a show and says, 'I'm sorry, but you suck.' It happens from time-to-time, and I learn from it," Cook said. "What I love even more is when that girl runs at me, screaming my name in the street and jumps on me, licking my face, and there's five people around us stepping back saying, 'who the f---k is this guy?' And then they find out, hear my s---t, and tell more people."

Who are his fans?

"I've always got the college kids to thank; they seem to be my greatest fans," he said.

However, after watching people enter Alumni Hall the night of the show, one couldn't help but notice the many middle-aged double dates. Bottom line: if a venue books Dane Cook, they will come.

And thanks to FUSA, they sure did come. Selling tickets for \$15 to students was a real privilege. FUSA sets the student price lower than the public price and subsidizes the difference.

For this completely sold-out show, a reported \$35,000 goes to Cook's agency, according to Deirdre Eller, director of new student programs. Another \$10,000 or so goes into planning and setting up for the event. Most of these costs are also subsidized by the FUSA.

"Most campuses our size can't have one concert in a year, let alone two," Eller said. "Fairfield students are pretty lucky."

The sound quality, another major prob-

lem from last year's comedy performance, was also improved. Students who attended Dave Chappelle's performance last fall described his act as inaudible due to poor sound quality. However, after increasing the quality of speakers, FUSA erased this problem.

If you went, you laughed. If you didn't go, your friends will be talking about this show until they get you to see him. Some people were still disappointed that FUSA did not get a musician this time around.

"Back in the 80s FUSA got acts like The Police and U2. Why are they getting comics now?" asks Kimberly Packer, a Fairfield alumna.

With a pilot filmed for a Seinfeld-esque sitcom and with the rock and roll-esque month-long comedy tour scheduled for April that resembles a Robin Williams move, Dane Cook could quickly be heading toward becoming a household name. His CD/DVD has sold close to 200,000 copies, with the next one scheduled for release after Christmas and expected to break the records now held by Cook himself.

"After next year, he will not be priced for college shows," Eller predicted.

After the show, it was hard to find someone unimpressed by Dane Cook.

"From the moment he stepped on that stage, I knew he was something special," said Michael Paddon '07.

Michelle Holmberg '08 agreed.

"His energy was just palpable, and there were never any low points in the show," she said. "I can't imagine another comedian having been as energetic or having a better connection with the audience."

With all his recent success, Cook cannot help but love his job.

"You know what? Thank God I'm good at this, man. This is the best job in the world."

## Picking Dane's Brain

The Mirror asks Dane Cook all those little questions you've been dying to know

**Cathy Gruffi: You write your own material. How do you decide what's funny and what will work?**

Dane Cook: There's times where there's nothing coming. I try to have something new everytime I go up on stage. I challenge myself to bring something new to the mix ... I couldn't tell you where it comes from, a lot of it. Stuff that I see. A while ago sitting with some of my buddies, and I saw a cement truck, and I was like "I want a cement truck. Not a Hummer, a cement truck." The next thing you know, it's a new bit on my CD.

**Do you have any nicknames?**

Cooko, that's what my buddies call me. I was named after a dog, a great Dane. I have a sister named Shitsu.

**Does it annoy you when other people reference your jokes to you?**

No, it's flattering. It's like a dream for a comic that you have a catch line or a joke or something.

**Do you shower facing the faucet or away?**

I pivot. I do a little of both. Start off with the facing, and I end up towards the soap rack.

**Do you get bored doing the same act over and over again?**

I don't. That's the love of it. I like to keep it spontaneous. The whole point is creative freedom. Early on watching, I remember feeling like it doesn't have to be a grind, it can be inventive. I want people to leave there feeling like, "That was for us," not like it was from a set list.

# Gwen guarantees good time with

BY NICK CARUSO

"I have loads of ideas and tricks up my sleeve so watch out. I'm scared for you," Gwen Stefani warned fans last March. She wasn't kidding.

After spotting vocals on Eve's "Let Me Blow Your Mind" and Moby's "South Side," No Doubt front-woman Gwen Stefani steps even further from her ska-rock roots with the release of "Love, Angel, Music, Baby," her first solo album.

The album in its entirety contains a plethora of different sounds and styles, yet in a nutshell is a hard-core, upbeat party starter. Stefani herself won't even call it a solo; she prefers "dance record." With acclaimed writer/producers on board and a complete 180 spin from No Doubt's typical tunes, Stefani has the perfect excuse to go at it alone.

The first single, "What You Waiting For," is the ideal lead-off track for the album. Penned by both Stefani and 4 Non Blonde's Linda Perry and containing a blend of retro new-wave from the 80s and contemporary synthetic beats, it's sure to get you on the dance floor. "Take a chance, you stupid hoe!" sings Stefani about her solo jitters.

The video takes you on a trip through a distorted, yet always fashion sensible, Alice in Wonderland theme. Japanese culture and style also become a crucial influence felt not only in the video but on the whole album as well.

If you're reminiscent of the personal, heart-on-your-sleeve lyrics Stefani is famous for (mostly from No Doubt's

breakthrough album, "Tragic Kingdom"), you'll definitely appreciate "Cool" and "Danger Zone." A Dallas Austin produced ballad, "Cool" is a song for ex-boyfriend and band-mate Tony Kanal. "After all that we've been through, I know we're cool," she sings.

On the other hand, "Danger Zone" is quite the opposite. "Danger Zone" is an up-tempo dance mix that rehashes deep secrets and hidden ghosts pervasive in Stefani's marriage to British rocker Gavin Rossdale. Both tracks prove to be a positive addition to the album.

Aside from those three tunes, don't look any further for lyrical depth to Gwen's personal life. This is not "Return of Saturn." The album remains light and airy and yet is still extremely eclectic.

Andre 3000 appears as Johnny Vulture in "Bubble Pop Electric," a song he also produced. After just one listen, "Bubble Pop" screams Outkast. Stefani is a young girl waiting for her date to pick her up at her house as she sings, "I understand he's on his way now. But jeez, Louise I mean today now. I can't wait I wanna play now." It's cheesy, it's hedonistic, it's poppy...but it works.

Towards the end of the album, you'll think you're back in 1988. "Crash" and "Serious," produced by Kanal, and "The Real Thing," produced by Nellee Hooper, both sound like old school Madonna, Prince, and

Tiffany songs all fused together. Stefani reaches back to her predecessors for inspiration and influence, making

"Love" unlike any contemporary pop album out today.

My favorite song is the soon-to-be national cheerleader anthem "Hollaback Girl." Heavy bass pounds through speakers in an almost a cappella track as Stefani sings about getting back at trash talkers. It might not sound enticing, but after just one listen I guarantee you'll be hooked.

Although these tracks could inject life into any party, some songs off "Love" fail to spark any electricity at all.

The tentative second single "Rich Girl," featuring a second collaboration with rapper Eve, is too much for Stefani to handle. Appearing on Eve's album is one thing, but to have a hip-hop track of her own is another story (and there is a significant difference between dance and hip-hop!). It's sad to see this song as the second single simply because it doesn't accentuate the album's initial retro direction. However, it's sure to be a club smash.

Overall, "Love, Angel, Music, Baby" soars. Despite a few skip-worthy tracks, the album is well written, produced, collaborated and planned (although I am happy to see Stefani get it out of her system under her own name, rather than No Doubt).

"Love" will not be the best album of the year (however, it will take guilty pleasure of the year, if such a category existed). It also won't please everyone, especially those who take the lyrics too literally.

But if you're looking for a certain CD to pump in your townhouse basement at your next party, then what you waiting for? Go pick up "Love, Angel, Music, Baby." It's a guaranteed good time.

## DISC DATA



Rating:



Album:

Love, Angel, Music, Baby

# College comedies

From the 1960s to today, these films continue to characterize the college experience

BY BRIAN CALLAHAN

Van Wilder. Bluto. Frank the Tank.

If you haven't been intimately acquainted with these fine gentlemen, you cannot consider yourself a true college student.

In case you are an uneducated, highly deprived soul, who cannot recognize any of these memorable characters, put this down immediately and get to a video store. Now.

These legendary pieces of cinema may all be classified in the genre "constant parties, no classes, girls will sleep with you in return for pumping the keg" college movies. We've all seen them and wished stuff like that happened here at Fairfield. The popularity of these films seems to overshadow the fact they are not quite cinematic masterpieces, yet their staying power in pop culture is undeniable.

It is absolutely guaranteed that at least one townhouse or beach house will plan a toga party a la "Animal House." I'm sure many have thought about how great it would be to get straight A's after their roommate's untimely and "accidental" demise. We'd all love to be a professional party planner and get the girl in the end, just like Van Wilder.

Unrealistic, gratuitous and sometimes even plagued with bad acting, these timeless films have been catapulted to classic status on college campuses nearly seconds after their release. How have these movies managed to do this?

I have seen most of them and can even quote line-after-line from a few, but it's hard to pinpoint exactly what it is about "Eurotrip" that keeps me glued time and time again. Fairfield students have different theories on the magic of college movies.

"They are what college kids usually dream a college to be like," says Spiro Dounis '06. "It's hard not to watch these movies and wish to some day attend the kind of party on the screen."

Tara Donohue '06 agrees about the party appeal of these movies.

"Most people have either experienced that college life and want to be reminded of it, or they wish their college days could have been that way," she said.

Have most people really experienced the college life we see on the big screen?



Contributed photo  
Getting tanked with Frank: Will Ferrell's character in "Old School" provides endless inspiration to college students.

script universities lack any sort of campus security.

Mark Ambrose '07 parallels college life to several popular films.

"I think more people go in thinking college is going to be like 'Road Trip' or 'Dead Man on Campus.' Either way, you're probably going to figure out this isn't the case within five minutes of getting on campus," he said.

While these movies are decidedly unrealistic, this lack of a reasonable depiction doesn't seem to bother anyone. However, it is not the realism, but the mindless humor and the off-the-wall antics that make these mov-

I've been to a party or two in my day, but none have ever been sponsored by Speaker City. There's never a night when the rebellious frat's good time is spoiled by Public Safety, leading the average viewer to believe that all those nonde-

ries so memorable. Indeed they are often the source of inspiration for students' late night behavior and attempts to make the campus crime beat.

In addition, college movie quotes are a second language on the weekends. Everyone agrees that "once it hits your lips, it's so good!" You could easily watch a movie like "Napoleon Dynamite" that deals with the financial difficulties of college, (to go here, you'll need to sell a lot more boon doggie key chains than the infinite number you made at scout camp), but it seems that everyone is watching the movies in search of that magical scholarship that will allow you to attend school for seven years (Van Wilder, what's your secret?).

For cinematic purposes, the only movie I would absolutely recommend is "Animal House." Every college movie made since "Animal House" has either completely stolen its plot or shuffled around a its ideas. If I were Harold Ramis, I would cry "plagiarism," but he must know what he is doing because he's a smart guy (he played Egon Spengler, remember?).

It seems that if you are looking for mindless entertainment to distract you from the pressures of actual college life, these movies are your answer. You might not find the same fun or excitement at Fairfield, but who cares? It's just a movie. Oh, I almost forgot. Ask for Babs.

# th "Love"



# Filled with Glee!

## Glee club's holiday concert promises "Joyful Noise"

BY MICHAELA CHATEL

When you enter the overly-decorated malls or browse through the aisle of gaudy colored lights in CVS, you will notice a familiar sound all around you. It's that time of year again. The moment you put down your Thanksgiving Day fork the Christmas jingles are sure to get stuck in your head.

This year, instead of just listening to Adam Sandler's "Hannukah Song" or the Chipmunks' Christmas album, Fairfield's Glee Club will be once again offering a live alternative. "Joyful Noise," the Glee Club's annual holiday concert, is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. at the Quick Center.

"The Christmas concert is always a great show," said John Primavera '05, president of the Fairfield University Glee Club. "It is a combination of great choral music and Christmas favorites."

The Fairfield University community is excited about the show.

"This will be the eighth Christmas concert I attend," said Deirdre Eller, director of new student programs. "I cry at every concert. I think all of the students are so talented."

The Glee Club has been extensively rehearsing for the show.

"We have been preparing a lot, and both the men's and women's



Photo Illustration by Chris Donato

groups have prepared something both naughty and nice," said Caitlin Wagner '06.

For more information or to purchase tickets for the concerts, please call the Quick Center box office at (203) 245-4010. Ticket prices are \$6 for students and \$10 for adults.

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# "National Treasure" far from golden

BY ELIZABETH COOPER & CHRIS MILLER

What do you get when you cross "The Da Vinci Code," "Indiana Jones" and "The Rock"? The campy, family-friendly action/adventure movie, "National Treasure," starring Nicolas Cage as Benjamin Franklin Gates, a third-generation treasure hunter.

The movie begins with young Gates being inspired by his grandfather (Christopher Plummer) to lead a life of piecing together clues which will supposedly lead to an ancient treasure. In the next scene, we see a middle-aged Gates standing in the middle of the Arctic with a small garden shovel. Gates is now looking for a sunken colonial vessel now supposedly buried beneath snow and ice. Luckily for the audience, Gates finds it with three swipes of his little shovel.

This is the first of several serendipitous events that helped propel an otherwise far-fetched plot.

Accompanying Gates is his annoying, yet comedic, technophile sidekick Riley (Justin Bartha) as well as several other friends who quickly turn to foes when they decide that they want the treasure for themselves. Gates' fiercest enemy turns out to be Ian Howe (Sean Bean, who also played Boromir in "Lord of the Rings") who is determined to steal the Declaration of Independence. It is believed that an invisible treasure map was secretly put on the back of the historic document by several of its signers, who were also Free Masons.

Gates makes it his mission to steal the Declaration before Howe does—but his plans nearly go awry when historical specialist Dr. Abigail Chase (Diane Kruger) gets in the way. Afraid of being reported to the authorities, Gates and Riley decide to kidnap Chase. It turns out that Chase is more interested in seeking treasure and a romance with Gates than turning the men in.

The trio follows many twists and turns that take them across the United States, from Washington to Philadelphia to New York, where they outwit Howe



Contributed photo

**Keep hunting:** Nicolas Cage's latest film proves not all his action flicks are to be treasured.

only to come to another dead end—or so they think.

Although the plot was predictable and director Jon Turteltaub tacked on nearly as many endings as "The Return of the King" had, the filmmaker's wit seemed to acknowledge the ridiculous premise of "National Treasure" just enough to make the corny trek through American history entertaining. A bit long at just under two-and-a-half hours, more innovative writing would have enhanced the suspense and make the film feel like the audience was being captivated rather than dragged along.

### FLICK FACTS

**Rating:**



**Movie:**

**National Treasure**

**Starring:**

Nicholas Cage,

Diane Kruger,

John Voight

**Running time:**

126 minutes



THE O'C  
JOSH O'CONNELL

## Let's vent! Random observations

Thanksgiving has rotted my brain particularly well this year. So instead of attempting to come up with a convenient 460-word epic, I shall instead write a few brief nuggets of things I've noticed around campus since I returned:

• Is it difficult to get a date on campus? I'd think it not so difficult, especially if a dance is coming up, such as the Snowball Dance on Dec. 11, but that hasn't stopped one person from trying something different. One Dolan resident is taking "auditions" for his date this coming Monday at 8 p.m. in Dolan 455. The poster notes that potential interested parties need not dress up, and that an alternate will be chosen if the final winner is unable to fulfill her duties. Isn't modern-day romance grand? All that's missing is a Simon Cowell to tear apart each girl as she auditions. Hopefully there won't be a talent competition, but I, for one, hope there'll be bleachers for spectators to observe the festivities. Any ladies feeling lucky should visit William Kriewald for their audition. All the hecklers can start searching StagWeb for his extension to remind him why that's so weird.

• A few months ago, some places, such as certain McDonald's restaurants and the Cumby's Chill Zone, started using plastic cups instead of paper. I loved this idea – the cups can be rinsed out and reused, thus reducing waste. Why steal cups from the cafeteria when you can get these more readily (not to mention they hold more liquid)? Well, in an effort likely to boost sales, the Stag is now giving them out with the large size. This is great for those like myself who tend to refill the cup a couple of times in a day – now it can be rinsed out, reused and reduce the cost of the soda. While Sodexo might not like that idea, students should jump at this chance and cheer. This is a great way to further reduce the waste on campus. Now we just need to see a larger rollout of those recycling bins they put in the campus center two years ago – we're a large enough ecosystem where enough recycling can actually make a difference.

• Have any other Dolan residents noticed the recent phenomenon of the shuttles following each other? Monday at around 1 p.m. I saw it yet again; one shuttle was heading up to Dolan to drop off and pick up people a mere two minutes after the shuttle I was on went up there. The shuttle service is great for getting people around, but can't they be timed a little better so there's not the potential for 20 minute waits? It's getting cold, and the walk is much less inviting than it used to be.

## Lessons learned

### A student's account of attending the School of Americas protest

BY GREGORY HILL

Author Elie Wiesel said, "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

I am not writing to bemoan the course of history. I wish only to give a foretaste of events, and share what I've learned in the past week.

On Nov. 18, 2004, I embarked on a 24-hour road trip to Fort Benning, in Columbus, Georgia, with 11 students and three faculty members to take part in the annual School of Americas (SOA) protest. Although I left with the intention of being a bystander, I returned the following Monday with a different perspective.

The SOA trains about 700 to 2000 Latin Americans each year in war tactics such as counterinsurgency operations, psychological operations and military intelligence. The militants then return to their countries to assume leadership; in doing so they target religious workers, union organizers, volunteers, teachers and all who work with the poor. Among the graduates of the SOA are torturers, mass murderers, dictators and terrorists. The SOA has also trained over 60,000 Latin Americans.

The U.S. established the SOA in Pan-

ama in September 1946. In 1984, Panama kicked out the SOA under the terms of the Panama Canal Treaty. President Jorge Illueca of Panama said the SOA was the "biggest base for destabilization in Latin America." It moved to Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

On January 17, 2001, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHISC) replaced the School of

who supports the school told the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* that the reforms were "basically cosmetic."

The atrocities committed by the graduates of this school are vast. On November 16, 1989, six Jesuit priests, their community cook and her daughter were massacred by the U.S.-trained Atlacatl battalion. This is why the protest meets annually on the weekend of what has become known as the Night of Terror.

Fr. Jon Sobrino in *The Murder and Martyrdom of the Salvadoran Jesuits* wrote, "The really terrible thing the Jesuits did was to tell the truth about El Salvador in their publication and public statements. They said the most serious aspect was the massive, cruel and unjust poverty of the mass of the people. They said that then these masses, with every right and justice, organize simply in order to survive, they are repressed...They were

killed because they believed in the God of the poor and tried to produce this faith through the university."

In 1998, SOA graduate Colonel Byron Lima Estrada was found guilty of murdering Bishop Juan Gerardi. Bishop Gerardi wrote a report on the acts of violence committed by

SEE "SOA" ON P. 15



Gregory Hill/The Mirror  
**Protesting for a cause:** Students walk against The School of Americas (SOA).

Colonel Mark Morgan addressed Congress at a Department of Defense briefing before the vote: "Some of your bosses have told us that they can't support anything with the name 'School of the Americas' on it. Our proposal addresses this concern. It changes the name."

Paul Coverdell, the Georgia senator

## Drawing the line: Online directory harassment

BY ASHLEY PHAN

Imagine receiving a telephone call from your father on a Friday night telling you that a teenage girl has left several voice messages requesting cocaine.

This was the situation for University College student Adam LaVorgna earlier this semester. LaVorgna, an actor most known for his character of Robbie on the popular television show, *Seventh Heaven*, was not aware that his home telephone number was available in the new online student directory.

With a click of a button, Fairfield University students are able to access any fellow student's home telephone number, home address, campus box number and on-campus housing location.

Dean of Students and Associate Vice-President of Fairfield, Mark Reed, said he supports the idea for an online student directory as opposed to a printed student directory which has been used in past years. By having a printed directory, there is next to no confidentiality because it is sent out to a printing company and almost anyone can get a copy, said Reed.

According to Reed, there have been no reports of harassment that can be linked back to students using the information from the directory to harass another student. Reed defines harassment primarily as sexual harassment.

But LaVorgna still feels he was a victim of harassment.

"The messages I have been receiving have been incredibly embarrassing to not only me, but my mother and father who originally played the voicemails," LaVorgna said. LaVorgna experienced harassment because his home telephone number has been available online since Stagweb finished construction.

The student handbook classifies harassment as "any offensive verbal, written, or physical conduct...where such behavior is intimidating, hostile, demeaning, or could result in emotional or physical harm, embarrassment, or fear of one's personal safety."

Because of the harassment LaVorgna



Contributed Image  
**Actor Adam LaVorgna**

received, he feels the directory shouldn't offer as much information as it does.

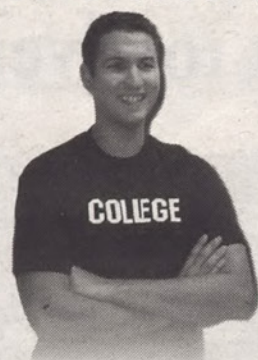
"It's not necessary to give full details about someone's personal information online because it can be accessed by not only students, but hackers and friends of Fairfield students," LaVorgna said.

"Students have the option to have their information removed," Reed said in defense of the online directory.

According to Reed, students have requested to have this information to keep in touch over the summer or after graduation. They can also choose to be unlisted.

But LaVorgna has come up with a simpler solution. He thinks the university should offer student email addresses and extensions only.

"This should be enough to contact someone if they want to be contacted," LaVorgna said.



# HE said / SHE said

Chuck Kehoe

Lauren Wilson

## Our dreams and guidelines to the perfect date



**D**ue to the recent influx of hate mail regarding He Said's alleged "objectification of women," I shall show the doubters and critics that I am all bark and no bite. I will reveal my sensitive side and show that I do not attempt to objectify women, but that women are the objects of my affection. To prove my new found sensitivity I will describe my perfect date.

My perfect date began on a gusty New England afternoon. I picked up my dreamy female companion and noted how her beauty made my heart skip. Her svelte body, near perfect bone structure and the immense beauty of her eyes did not cause my heart to skip. My heart skipped because of her profound inner beauty (which I later described in a sonnet). We meandered, hand in hand, along the beautiful Long Island Sound as I scavenged sea shells that I would save and use to construct a heart-shaped mosaic to commemorate our precious time together. After our long stroll we enjoyed a picnic on the balcony of the luxurious Girl's Duplex.

Our date continued with an hour limousine ride into Manhattan. Arms interlocked, we walked Fifth Avenue and stopped at various specialty and jewelry stores as she hinted that the sapphire and diamond pendant would complement her burgeoning jewelry collection.

Alas, it was dinner time! We ventured to one of the Village's most romantic res-

taurants: One if by Land, Two if by Sea. The romantic ambiance featured a candlelit table and numerous fireplaces. We canoodled throughout dinner, often giggling and feeding each other venison medallions and wild boar sausage. Our thirst was quenched by the outrageously priced 1994 Opus One wine. At this moment in time, my sensitivity was at an all-time high as we laughed and joked about our follies and the waiter's strange accent and mannerisms. The \$500 dollar bill was a small price to pay for the sweet emotions that we shared over dinner.

During the trip back to Fairfield University, I serenaded her in the limousine singing such classic hits as "Can't Help Falling in Love with You" and "Have I Told you Lately that I Love You?" I walked her to her room overlooking the quad and she seductively motioned for me to enter and spend the night. I told her that could not dishonor her by spending the night; she was too sweet a girl and I did not want to jeopardize the profound feelings we had for each other. I softly kissed her lips and I said "our time will soon come" as I scurried into the darkness.

**This week's magic number: 94** for the number of days I have to get in shape so I can court "girl's with inner beauty" over spring break.

**I**t is hard for me to write about the perfect date without sounding like a bachelorette number three, who enjoys curling up and watching Sunday afternoon football with wings and a can of good domestic beer.

But truth of the matter, it doesn't take flowers, professions of love on a scoreboard or homemade coupon books to constitute a perfect date (side note, I find those coupon books a little creepy, I think your guy should be able to give a free massage without the validation from a homemade dollar with a hand on it).

Rather, I think as long as a few simple guidelines are kept in mind, fun and successful dates can happen.

**Guideline one:** Refrain from speaking in instant messenger lingo. No matter how many times we run through perfectly executed conversation topics, invariably several hours of perfectly witty, engaging and flirtatious conversation can be ruined by a "BRB" slip up, to which a "TTYL" response is usually given. If you say "LOL" but aren't really doing it, well, that's just weird.

**Guideline two:** Choose a location where it is not necessary to shoot, tackle or rope anything. I can see how paintball, touch football or a rodeo would seem to hold a certain allure as a romantic activity. However, these activities are not necessarily the ideal destinations to share quality time

with your significant other.

A paintball hit to the eye or face can never be good for business- an accidental hit to his lower extremities will ensure a swift end to the date (which is why perhaps our friend Mr. He Said has gotten into the habit of wearing a cup out in public).

**Guideline three:** Do not do an activity your significant other does not like (or fears) in an attempt of curing long held biases. Example: I hate fish and am deeply terrified of their beady never blinking eyes. Strange I know. Even Nemo gave me nightmares. One time I went on fishing date because my guy I was with decided he would help me overcome my fish phobia.

Long story short, an hour into our 'romantic' canoe fishing trip I tipped over the canoe when I pulled up a huge, ugly, mean looking, flopping fish and ended up dropping my pole with fish still attached into the bottom of the lake. Best to stick with activities that both parties enjoy.

When it comes down to it, girls aren't looking for the perfect date. I'm not even sure it exists. Little things go wrong. But, looking back on past dates, the best ones are when the guy awkwardly opened the door for me, or blushed when his mother called.

Pick me up, maybe stutter that I look nice, laugh at my jokes, and I'll probably be happy. And remember my guidelines.

TTYL, LOL.

## RateMyProfessors.com: students' best friend and professors' worst nightmare

BY ALI BART

With the spring registration rush finally over, students at Fairfield dispersed for Thanksgiving break with disappointment or a reason to celebrate. Those who registered last were reluctantly placed in the left-over classes, the classes rejected by those who were able to make the distinction between what they believe to be "good" and "bad" professors.

The wisdom of knowing which classes are demanding, which are an "easy A," or what professors smell was long ago shared by the experienced upperclassmen through word of mouth. Now things are different. The holy grail for naive freshmen has been created, allowing all to share this valuable knowledge now found on RateMyProfessors.com.

RateMyProfessors.com includes over 4,000 colleges and universities, and over 400 professors at Fairfield University alone. With this online service, the tables are turned as students are allowed to grade their professors and add additional comments. The site is easily accessible. Once you have selected your state and school from the drop down list on the website, the professors are listed in alphabetical order.

Next to each professor's name is a smiley face based on his or her overall quality rating: a happy face for a good quality rating, a mediocre face for an average quality rating and a sad face for a poor quality rating. A hot tamale also accompanies the smiley face if the professor is considered attractive.

The overall quality rating is based on professors' helpfulness and clarity, which are both rated on a 5.0 scale, five being the most helpful and clear. There is an ease rat-

ing also based on a 5.0 scale in which the harder and more challenging courses receive lower ratings than the courses considered an "easy A." Next to professors' names are also listed the department they teach in, the last time they were rated and the number of ratings they have received. If your professors are not on the site, you can easily add them.

Clicking on the professor's name breaks down the overall quality rating and lists comments made by students. Comments range from, "This course is for those that enjoy skipping class," to, "He is passionate about what he teaches and makes going to class a pleasure, not a chore." Comments also address whether there is a lot of reading required in the class and how the tests are formatted.

After using RateMyProfessors.com to help schedule his classes for spring semester, freshmen class president Hutch Williams found the website very helpful.

"I have been able to get an edge on the teachers that are teaching me and know what their attitudes are like and what to look for," said Williams.

Although this Web site may seem brilliant and packed full of valuable information, it does have its controversies, especially in the eyes of the professors. This Web site can be severely degrading to professors whose ratings hold comments advising students to stay far away from his or her

class. Math professor Irene Mulvey finds other problems with the site.

"The problem is that RateMyProfessors.com doesn't provide any sort of meaningful evaluation," she said. "With this website you get a self-selected, small minority of individuals posting anonymous comments in a public forum and this is not a sensible way to get reliable information."

Although RateMyProfessors.com may not be dependable, many students still believe it is ideal for knowing what to expect before they enter a classroom.

### YOUR PROFESSOR

Ratings for Professor  
**Jesus Escobar**  
 Fairfield University  
 City: Fairfield, CT  
 Department: Fine Arts

Report error with this professor listing  
 (To send a comment back for further review,  
 click the red flag next to the rating)

RATE THIS PROFESSOR

Date	Class	HELPFULNESS	CLARITY	WORTH INTEREST	Comments
8/13/04	Manv AH's	3	5	5	Pr. Escobar is an amazing teacher, brilliant, perfect speaking voice, so passionate, knowledgeable and might I add VERY easy on the eyes (read: HOT)! I couldn't wait to go to class, I could listen to him lecture for days...soo dreamy :o) & cultured & smart!
3/9/04	AH10	3	5	5	Dr. Escobar...It's tough to outdress him. Very soothing voice. Very interesting class. He is very enthusiastic. Unquestionably the best in the

# Ratings: 13  
Average Ease: 3.5  
Average Helpfulness: 4.9  
Average Clarity: 5.0  
Hotness Total: 11  
Overall Quality: 5.0

Ratings are based on a maximum score of 5.0

RateMyProfessors.com

**Jump on board and check it out:** This site helps students get the profs!

# Holiday gifts under \$30 for the poor college student to give

BY MEGAN J. MAHONEY

So, it's time to dig deep into your wallet and spend extravagant amounts of money on gifts for all your family and friends. After all, it is the season of giving. However, there may be a way around breaking the bank this year. With these great gifts for under \$30, you can afford to buy for everyone on your list.

## Girlfriends, Roommates & Sisters

**Velvet Ribbon outerwear-** The Gap: The Gap has always sold matching sets of scarves, hats and gloves, but this year they have stepped up the cuteness factor. Tying into the new ultra-feminine and lady-like elegance that is currently trendy, their velvet ribbon scarves are soft lambs-wool and angora wool and feature a velvet ribbon tied in a bow in a coordinating color at each end of the scarf. The five color choices include light green, which has a darker green bow, a darker green with a yellow ribbon, admiral red with a pink bow, eggnog yellow with a brown ribbon and a pink scarf with a lighter pink



Cute stocking stuffers!

ribbon. The scarf retails for \$24.50 and the matching gloves and hat cost \$16.50 each.

**Happy Hour Earrings - Target:** For your fun-loving roommates, these earrings are both fun and trendy. Set in sterling silver, the earrings hang 1 1/4 inch from sterling wires.

You can choose your drink of choice, Martini, Cosmopolitan or Margarita. The martini glass is clear crystal and the olive is a green peridot stone.

The Cosmopolitan is pink crystal with a garnet cherry and the Margarita, in a rounded glass, is green crystal with a sterling lime. Target employed Isaac Mizrahi to design for its clothing, bedding and accessory lines to draw in a younger, hipper audience. The earrings retail for \$19.99 a pair.

**The Cookbook-** Sephora: Chocolate lovers watch out. Now you can smell just as delicious as your favorite treat. Sephora offers a Chocolate Lovers Cookbook for the body and the soul. The gift set includes white hazelnut cake shampoo, chocolate cream coffee conditioner and café au lait body wash. These body products smell absolutely heavenly and

come in a brown velvet bag. Each bottle contains 6 oz. of product. The set retails for \$30 and is sure to satisfy any guilt-free cravings.

## Boyfriends & Brothers

**Sopranos Trivia Game -** Wherever games are sold: This game is sure to make them part of The Family. Modeled after Trivial Pursuit, the game tests your knowledge of the popular television show. The playing pieces and cards have names like "hits" and "informants." The game comes in a black tin with a picture of all the main characters on the front and retails for under \$20.



Contributed Image  
Everyone loves DVDs!

**The Chappelle Show Season 1 or 2 -** wherever DVDs are sold: The complete season 1 of Dave Chappelle's hit HBO comedy series will be a sure hit with the guys. Season 1 was released earlier this year and features extras like skits that did not make the air and backstage shots for the price of \$24.99. Season 2, while not released yet, is scheduled for release before Christmas and should retail for a similar price as Season 1.

**SNAP Digital Camera -** www.thecool-stop.com: This small, high-tech camera is the newest and smallest of the mini digital cameras and has recently been featured in several magazines. This aluminum camera comes in either black or bright blue and features a 4-layer glass lens for enhanced pictures, a rechargeable battery and can hold up to 104 pictures at a time. SNAP has a self-timer, can take short 10 second video clips and can act as a web camera for your PC. The camera comes with a PC camera holder, a key/necklace chain, USB cable and software for your computer. SNAP is valued at \$29.99.

## Moms, Aunts & Grandmothers

**Christmas Ornament Spa Set -** Bath and Body Works: The gift sets from this store are a no-brainer for any guy struggling with those tricky Christmas gifts for girls. There are many pre-made gift sets to choose from or you can choose the products you want: bubble bath, lotion, candles, perfume and more, and the store staff will wrap them in a holiday box with a bow. My favorite gift ideas from this store included a spa set with body cream and scrub, foot cream and paraffin hand lotion. The gift comes in a festive, oversized, metallic Christmas ornament and retails for \$29.50.



BathandBodyWorks.com

Another universally pleasing gift from this store is the medium round willow basket. The set comes with an 8 oz. body lotion, ten oz shower gel, four oz healing hand cream and 8 oz. body splash in any of the scents that Bath and Body Works carries. The set retails for \$29.50.



YankeeCandle.com  
Jack Frost delights!

**Jack Frost-Yankee Candle:** The snowy delight comes with a Jack Frost wax potpourri burner, a box of twelve TartsWarmers, and three Jack FrostTarts wax potpourri. All the candles and accessories are housed in a red and white basket with a snowflake design at a cost of \$29.99

**Breathe Tranquil Bubble Bath -** Lollia: Slip into a little bit of luxury with this peony and white lily scented bubble bath. The bubble bath comes in a romantic wine bottle with a white satin sash and decorative crystal that looks just as pretty as it smells. This product can be purchased online and at upscale boutiques like Anthropologie and retails for \$30.00.

**Snowflake Ornaments:** Redenvelope.com: These 12 delicately beaded and shiny snowflake ornaments hang on the tree by a white satin ribbon. They come in a silver pouch embroidered with the words, "Let it snow" and are the perfect touch for any tree. The 12 ornaments and pouch cost \$24.

## Dads, Uncles & Grandfathers

**Safety Lantern and Tool Kit-** Redenvelope.com: This gift is every guy's new best friend on the road. The multi-purpose portable lantern has a hazard light and tool kit which folds out of the body of the lantern.

The mini-tool set includes a hammer, a Philips and flathead screwdriver, pliers, a hex key set and an adjustable wrench. The lantern runs on four C cell batteries or can be plugged into your car adaptor and retails for \$28.

**Personalized Golf Balls-** most golf websites and pro shops offer this: Offer Dad a surefire way to never lose his golf ball again by having his name or other message inscribed on a dozen high-quality golf balls. Depending on the type of ball you choose, this gift will cost you between 20 and 30 dollars. Now if he could just improve his swing...

**Key Finder-** Brookstone: Always losing your keys? Well, with this key ring transmitter button and matching key ring, it won't happen again. Press the button and your key alarm will sound from anywhere in your house up to 80 feet away. The transmitter works through walls, cushions and floors. Batteries are included. The key finder retails for \$25.00.

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# SOA protest lessons

CONTINUED FROM P. 12

Lima Estrada's D-2 military intelligence agency. Estrada's co-workers were both graduates of the SOA. The D-2 agency organized the "anti-insurgency" campaign that massacred 75,000 people, according to the United Nations Truth Commission.

In 1996, victim Sister Dianna Ortiz shared her story with U.S. Authorities. She recalls her torture under SOA graduate General Hector Gramajo: "They took me to a clandestine prison where I was tortured and raped repeatedly. My back and chest were burned more than 111 times with cigarettes. I was lowered into an open pit packed with human bodies - bodies of children, women, and men, some decapitated, some lying face up and caked with blood, some dead, some alive - and all swarming with rats."

Sister Ortiz wrote, "President Clinton and Vice president Gore couldn't meet with us either of the past two years. Former attorney general Janet Reno ignored our request, as did George Tenet of the CIA. Then-Gov. Bush was busy. And this year, our request to meet with Secretary of State Colin Powell was declined. No one will listen. Nobody cares."

After Sister Ortiz's account was released to the media, the SOA torture manuals were exposed in 1996 explaining such courses as "Handling of Sources," "Counter-intelligence," "Revolutionary War and Communist Ideology," "Terrorism and Urban Guerilla,"

"Interrogation" and "Combat Intelligence." The courses that discuss the SOA's democratic ideals are not popular with the SOA trainee's.

Founder of the SOA Watch Fr. Roy Bourgeois said, "If we in the United States are serious about 'strengthening democracy, deepening the rule of law, and honoring human rights' in Latin America, then we should carefully consider the best ways to achieve these goals. Before we rename an old and inappropriate institution, and continue to spend tax dollars on the same ineffective programs, we should analyze our strengths and weaknesses, correct our errors, and impartially assess the SOA."

Historian Howard Zinn wrote in his book *Terrorism and War*, "The government says it is determined to close terrorist camps, yet here in the United States the school of Americas has trained people who have engaged in terrorism, trained people who then became organizers of death squads in Central America."

Perhaps it might be said that I am too young or that in my youth I still strive, in a sort of liberalism, to pursue idealistic goals. But we cannot stand in ideological neutrality. Every cause has effect. Every action has consequence. And sides must be taken.

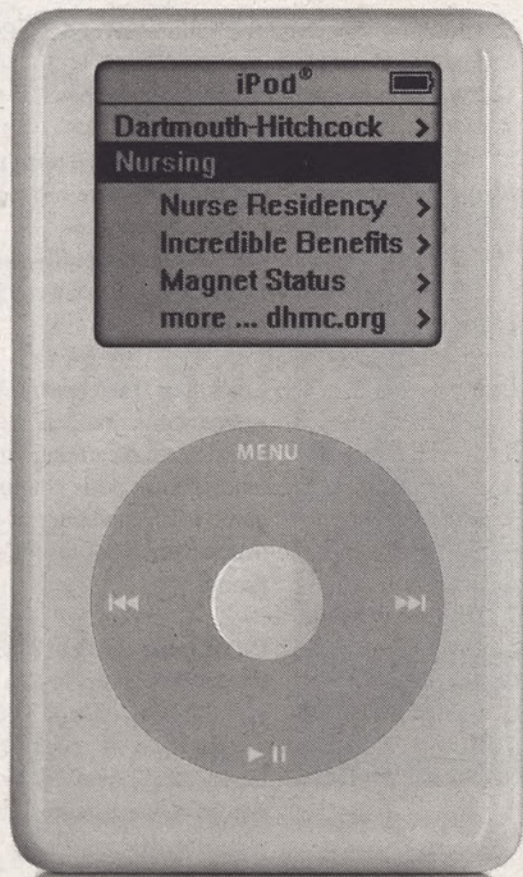
As Archbishop Oscar Romero said before his assassination, "We have to be the voice for the voiceless." Unless someone finds their voice, we will always be hushed by society's indifference.

# Cheers & Boos

Send in Cheers & Boos by Monday at 5 p.m.!  
themirror@stagweb.fairfield.edu Mail: Box AA

To the Kid, HAPPY 21st BIRTHDAY...to Servid cause I'm awesome... to my coprotein... to post-praxis parties... to watching the entire 2nd season of ER in one season... to the last clinical of the semester... to my honeybee... to my walking-home-from-the-library-date... to little boy scouts selling popcorn... to triptophan... to UConn games... to Secret Santas... to cute new shoes... to quitting facebook one week into it... to whoever cheered quitting facebook... to KS-KIII... to Thanksgiving Dinner at Howard Johnson's in Shanghai... to Marcus not inviting us to his party... to Steve Andrews, please poke Zeitz on Facebook... to Chris Zeitz and "booh"... to getting my silly best friend back from China... to food fights in the BCC again... to Joe King, for being such a nice kid... to always having someone to answer weird questions, thanks... to Bryan's tinfoil ball... to HAPPY 21st MEEG... to Devin's 21st birthday... to the Stags beating Manhattan... to "Everybody Poops"... to Meg not knowing this... to Katie H., I love you and thank you... to Andy Carlos Uria, Saturday was the best night ever!! Seeing you cry over the ending of Spongebob the Movie, made me realize how special you truly are. I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you, may our marriage one day be considered legal in all 50 states. Kiss kiss. Muah! Smooch.

To Kara O'C and BC going abroad...to diver Jon... to the genocide of turkeys on Thanksgiving... to Biology... to giving two pennies and then taking them back... to Steiner for being bogus... to 10 comma splices... to international student screw ups... to only two weeks left in the semester... to our last G Club concert... to being sent back to school with no groceries... to still being sick... to sugar shoulders... to running out of good away messages... to AIM in general... to hitting on freshmen via your friends' facebook... to Greg shaving... to the genocide of cranberries... to senior male chemistry majors... to having no aim... to still having schoolwork even though we're seniors... to my throat hurts... to "Who do you think you are?"... to almost getting beaten up at the BC game... to Josh getting stuck at the mall... to throwing tin foil balls at Kelly's head... to confusion over Im-er about S.S. and rabbits... to secret admirers who are scary... to exit interviews and "the dude" not showing up... to not having ANY food in the house (none)... to CNEY and TC feeding me... to FU being all hills (bad for heels)... to not cheering the egg of yarn... to not getting any sleep... to carrying on last year's tradition and breaking more beds... to dish overloads... to vacuuming... to girls with outsides and noinsides... to killing our mascot.



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## EDITORIAL

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### 28th in the nation

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Fairfield is ranked 28 in the nation for reported alcohol violations of colleges and universities. Even more prestigious, Fairfield is number one in Connecticut. These numbers are dubious, especially considering that state schools with upwards of 25,000 students, such as the University of Connecticut, are reporting a meager 136 violations compared to our 651.

Of course, what the University of Connecticut means by violations is significantly different from how Fairfield defines them. For UConn, a reported alcohol violation means only that you've been arrested by the state police. Fairfield includes all referrals to judicial. Such a huge discrepancy in how universities report violations leads us to question the usefulness of the report. Until all universities adopt a uniform method of reporting violations, they will always be deceptive.

The Department of Education stipulated that the study was based on reported violations instead of actual violations. There is no way to quantify the amount of actual violations that take place on any campus. Unfortunately, Fairfield has decided to be more explicit in defining alcoholic violations.

It is good that Fairfield University is so honest when it comes to drinking on campus. The numbers reported for Fairfield are probably more representative of the nation-wide state of drinking on campus than most others. It's better not to tiptoe around the issue since drinking in college can be so potentially dangerous.

However, studies like this give Fairfield the reputation of being a party school. The claims are probably true to a certain extent, but perhaps overdrawn. Even so, it is misleading when prospective students hear that Fairfield is number one for alcohol violations in the state. They'll only see the ranking in the Princeton Review, not the analysis that would fully explain the situation.

The editorial represents the opinion of the majority of The Mirror Editorial Board. What is your opinion?  
Write to us: themirror@stagweb.fairfield.edu

### THE FAIRFIELD MIRROR

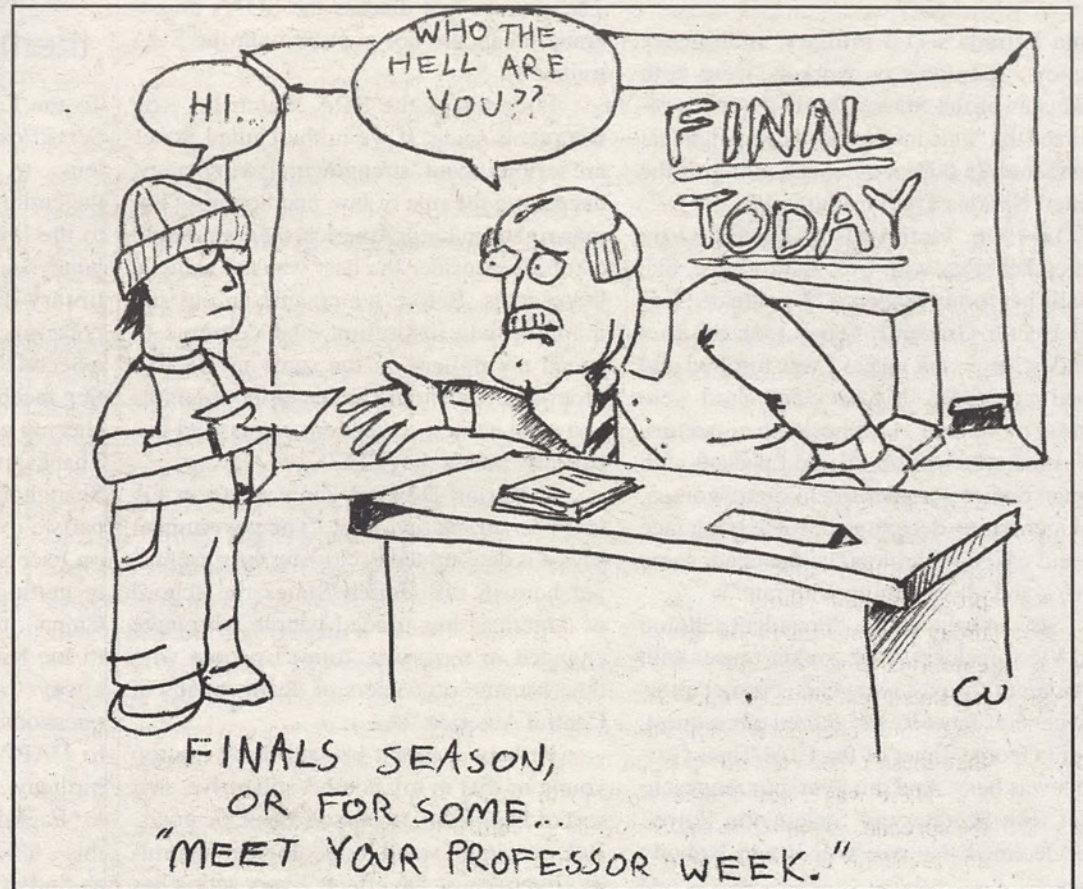
The Mirror welcomes the opinions and contributions of its readers:

Letters to the editor must be timely and submitted by disk, e-mailed to themirror@stagweb.fairfield.edu or submitted through our website: www.fairfieldmirror.com.

Once received, all letters become property of The Mirror. There are no guarantees of publication and all submissions must be signed.

The Mirror reserves the right to edit letters and articles for content, length and grammatical error. Letters should be free of obscenities and personal attacks, and should contain correct and factual information.

The Mirror is in room 104 of Barone Campus Center



## Explosion: what it really means to a college student

BY JENNIFER SANTORELLO

*Have you ever been in a conversation and someone says a word you've never heard? Or you hear a word that's used out of context? Everyone has. College students are probably ranked number one in the world for making up words or phrases. So, for the convenience of people who have no clue, here are some words and terms people use around campus.*

**Explosion** – Everyone knows what an explosion is, but it can be used in a different way. "There was an explosion in our house Friday night." Meaning our house non-technically exploded when a ton of people showed up unexpectedly. Our house didn't actually explode. Your life can explode too. Like those weeks when you have way too much to do, and everything just happens all at once – then your life exploded.

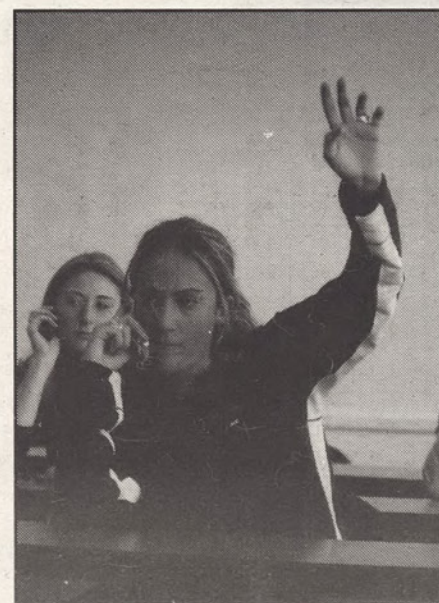
**Blowing up** – Much like "explosion", but is really used to say that a cell phone is ringing. "You're blowing up." Obviously no one is actually blowing up, and most of the time you want to hit the person who says "blowing up". It's just irritating.

**Chachos** – Derived from the word chaos. Pretty much just stating it was chaotic. "We went to the bar and it was chachos."

**Sketchy** – Classic term meaning weird, bizarre or a combination of both. "He was acting really sketchy." People or situations can be sketchy.

**Let's slap this clown** – This is a new one that I've recently heard around campus. It pretty much means, let's get out of here. I can't even try to put this in a sentence because it's too funny.

**Put it in my pocket** – Usually used when referring to a person you think is cute and you want to "put them in your pocket." Girls...don't even try to say you've never used this term in your life.



**Blowing up:** Irritating phrase for an irritating occurrence. Mirror file photo

**Lurkers** – If you live in the townhouses, or even at the beach, then I'm sure you've used this term. Lurkers are those people who are always roaming around looking for something to do on a Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday night. "There were a bunch of lurkers walking in front of our house." People also lurk around in general. For instance, people lurk around our backyard all the time and occasionally will end up on our deck, peaking their face into our window – they're lurking.

# Ruminations of a Fairfield protestor

Fourteen members of the Fairfield student body, faculty and staff drove for 24 hours to reach Columbus, Ga., home of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), formerly known as the School of Americas (SOA). Each year, a protest is held the Sunday before Thanksgiving to commemorate the death of six El Salvadorian priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter at the hands of the SOA/WHINSEC. The following is the personal reflections of psychology professor Betsy Gardner on what she experienced at the protest, written after the 24-hour van ride back to Fairfield.

BY BETSY GARDNER

So much happened at the School of Americas protest, so many thoughts and so many notes! Saturday was an amazing, full, inspiring, moving and emotional day. Mark Scalise, S.J., who came with us, stated that some of what we heard might seem crazy to us because it's not in our experience, but that doesn't mean it's not true.

There was a new theme this year in some of the speeches given by protestors: white supremacy and racism as the number one enemy. Focusing on torture without asking what led to it is like talking about Auschwitz without discussing anti-Semitism. We must stand with oppressed peoples, including those in our own country. I heard someone say that a patron once broke the knees of a tomato picker with a hammer because they thought he was escaping. Where? In Moklee. In what country is that? Moklee, FLORIDA.

Before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday I was introduced to Carlos Mauricio, who had been tortured in El Salvador. Carlos and two others (including a woman who was tortured for a week; her unborn child, who died, was tortured too) had brought suit against Carlos Eugenio and Vides Casanova, two retired Salvadorian generals, in West Palm Beach and won; the judge ruled that it had been a crime against humanity.

Carlos was also involved in bringing suit against a man who was implicated in the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero. It was intense and emotional. What could I say to this man who had experienced and achieved so much?

Less than an hour later I heard a story from Andrea from Buenos Aires, whose seven-

year-old cousin and uncle had been shot and their limbs broken before their bodies were thrown in the river. Someone said that WHINSEC, which 14 of us from Fairfield University had driven down as peacemakers to help soaw.org (School of Americas Watch) to close, is not an aberration of U.S. foreign policy, it is an illustration of it; torture by proxy.

Mike O'Grady, S.J. called it a "state-sponsored terror enterprise teaching militaries in South and Central America how to hone and craft their skills and techniques in order to suppress domestic dissent, oppress those who disagree with them, and to murder and torture." Dianna Ortiz was tortured 15 years ago in Guatemala. The American commander of the Guatemalan torturers was found responsible; also, he was honored by the SOA/WHINSEC.

The vigil on Sunday was moving, as always. The traditional reading/singing of the names of the victims of SOA/WHINSEC took 2 and a half hours, to which we 16,000 people answered, "Presente," showing that although dead, they were still present.

Before this ceremony, the mother of soldier #720 who died in Iraq spoke. I lost it. Tears were rolling down my face. Another moving moment was when a burly, black-clad Military Policeman wheeled a woman in a wheelchair down a hill so that she could join the vigil. That gave me hope.

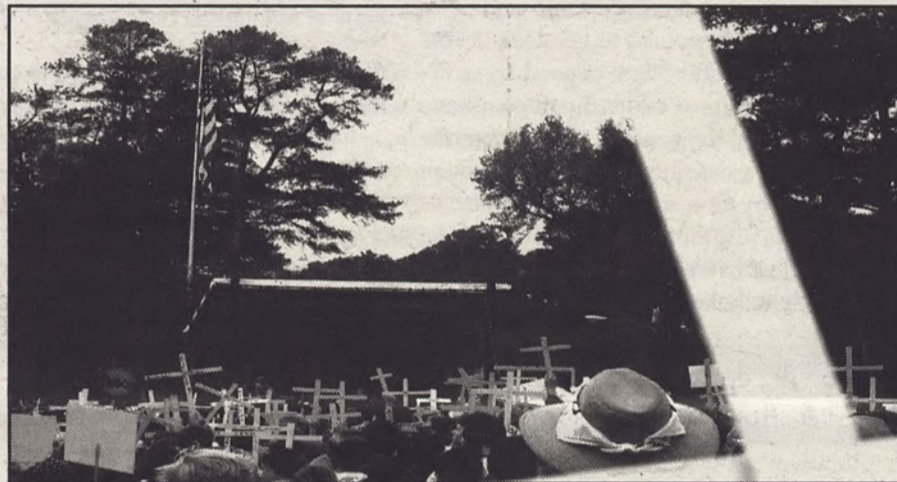
The mass at the Jesuit tent on Saturday night (4,000 people) had given me hope too: so many people had united in the cause

of non-violence and ending oppression, not only concerning the SOA. This year there were no metal detectors or searches as there had been in the past; a conservative judge's ruling that 9/11 was not the day civil liberties died in the United States may be a precedent for dismantling parts of the Patriot Act. The protest made page 2 of USA Today on Monday, which I think is a first. As Susan Saradon said, "with the right information, people will do the right thing. They just don't know." I hope she's right.



Solidarity in protest: Alex Uehling '05 and Dr. Betsy Gardner

Greg Hill/The Mirror



Remembering the dead: Hundreds hold crosses bearing the names of SOA victims.

## A course in constructive criticism

BY MICHAEL A. BOND

I figure it is high time that I pause from my standard sermonizing on this page and give a note of thanks to my critics. I cannot thank you all enough for the amusing comments that you pepper at me. What triggered this outpouring of love is a letter I received just the other week in which one of my opponent's retorts was simply, "So, just shut up!" Bill O'Reilly couldn't have said it better himself (unless, of course, he just cut my microphone off). If you disagree with me that's fine, but be respectful and tactful about it.

Various people have accused me of the following offenses: being a communist, not being a journalist, lacking satirical talent, and a venerable potpourri of other nefarious things. And yet friends, as your face grows red with conservative venom, I am still here writing my little column. You have called me, written and emailed, and I just don't seem to go away.

The same person who told me to shut up also said that weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq. Such information would be welcomed news to the Bush Administration. To think, you are spending your time telling this to a communist. (Actually, I'm really more of a Marxist.)

Time for some soul-searching: Am I a journalist? I may not be a news writer but I'd like to think that I'm a journalist. So, to that angry, and seemingly very frazzled man who wrote (literally) to deride me, I have this response. When you get some checks

from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for doing something that you enjoy then life ain't that bad.

The vast majority of letters received with respect to my columns are from graduates who seem to either be unemployed, or have nothing better to do than write crank letters to college newspapers. As for our extraordinarily angry man who wrote in, he did not even have the courage to put a return address on his letter. (What, do you think I am going to go and egg your house or something?)

Also, my own personal cheer this week goes out to a bohemian-looking guy who told me grumpily, while at a festive social gathering in my house, "I disagree with everything you write." Thanks! So glad you could make it!

For the most part, people with differing opinions have been respectful to me, and I sincerely appreciate that. As for you cranks out there, keep on writing! If you ever wonder why your letters never make it in the paper I have an answer for you. Phrases like, "So, just shut up," aren't really up to the high-standards of this paper. This is a page for well thought-out opinions and critiques, which are more than welcomed. If you have something worth saying, take the time to make it worth our time.

An alumnus once wrote, "Better watch out—the CIA might be keeping an eye on the Bond File for operation criminal dissent." I sure hope they are. I responded with my standard form letter thanking him for writing and including a glossy 8 x 10 photo of myself.

# McManus key to Stags' success

CONTINUED FROM P. 20

tempts in the first half, and added one more in the second to finish with 14 points.

"The freshmen are doing an awesome job," said Dash. "We can't ask for anything more from them."

More than once, the Stags had four freshmen - Wertz, fellow guard Sabra Wrice, Ryan, and Stephanie Cziria - on the court at the same time against Dartmouth, and the young Stags kept the game close while contributing more than half of the team's first half scoring.

That game was a tale of two halves for senior guard Janelle McManus, who rebounded from a scoreless performance in the first half to score a game-high 25 points, all in the second.

Her teammates have said all along that McManus is one of the keys to success to the team, but they can't help but be pleased with the other guard play they've gotten from Wertz and Wrice, each of whom have had a double digit scoring game this season. Wertz had 13 points against Harvard, and Wrice, who has started all four games, had 15 in a 72-57 loss to twenty-fourth ranked Villanova last Tuesday at the Arena.

The Stags will open the conference portion of their schedule when they host Saint Peter's Thursday night at the Arena.

# Men come up with big conference win

CONTINUED FROM P. 20

O'Toole,

In a game that saw the Stags scoreless until exactly 11 minutes into the game as well as cough up a five point lead in the final minutes of regulation, they somehow pulled it out. Juniors DeWitt Maxwell and Terrance Todd led the Stags, turning in 22 and 20-point nights respectively.

The Stags rallied late in the first half to get back in the game and Todd's three pointer at the buzzer sent them to the locker room with a 22-19 lead.

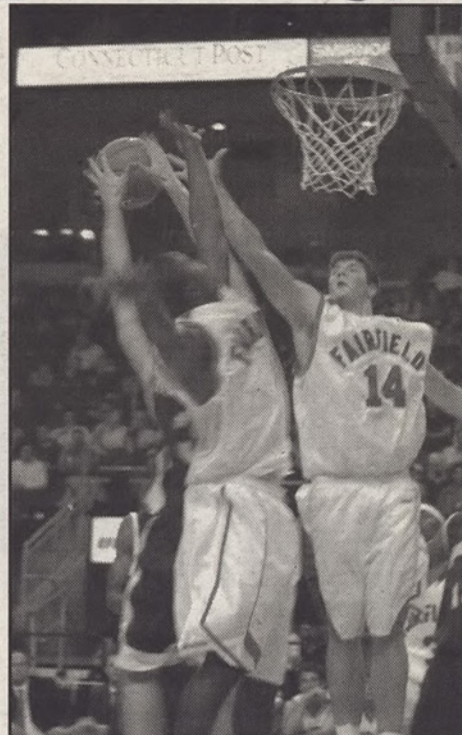
But it was all Jaspers in the second half, and a three pointer with 6:19 to go put the Stags in what seemed to be their rightful place - trailing the always superior Jaspers by nine points. While it appeared that the dagger was in the heart, quite the contrary was true.

"After that point, Coach Hobbs (Asst Jerry Hobby) kept saying every minute or two from that point on, that they hadn't scored since that shot," O'Toole said.

The basket seemed to get wider as the Stags hit shot after shot, capped by a 17-footer by Todd just under the three minute mark that tied the game at 47 and sent the crowd into a delirium, forcing Manhattan coach Bobby Gonzalez to call timeout.

"I was just thinking, 'let's get back on [defense] and stop them,'" Todd said.

Although the Stags seemed to have all



Chris Donata/The Mirror

**Team effort:** DeWitt Maxwell '06 and Marty O'Sullivan '07 go up for a rebound against Manhattan on Tuesday.

the momentum, they managed to cough up the lead in the final minutes of play.

Goode fouled Manhattan freshman Jeff Xavier with two-tenths of a second remaining when he would have had to hit a half court shot to win the game. Xavier sunk two foul shots forcing overtime, and then picked up a hoop and a foul right off

the bat in the extra session that helped build a seven point Jasper lead.

Yet somehow it all came together. After the Stags shot well below 50 percent from the free throw line in regulation, Deng Gai (13 points) turned into Larry Bird and hit four of four from the line in overtime, and a big three pointer from the top of the key - the kind of shot that adds to his shot blocking skills and makes him the kind of player that is sure to become Fairfield's first full-time NBA player next year.

And somehow Maxwell, who had been silent for most of the second half, came back to life and picked up several key rebounds and baskets.

"I had to pick it up, I just told (Goode), 'get me the ball inside,'" he said.

Goode did. All day long. And despite the ill-advised foul that could have made him the goat, he was the successful floor general that all good teams have for most of the game, including a ball-handling clinic in the final minute of regulation that would make some of those on the "And 1" mix tape jealous.

So round one is in the books, and it's a point for the Stags. The rivalry will resume Jan. 30 in New York for what could be the final time for the season.

But both O'Toole and Gonzalez surely expect it won't be. They expect to have a date in the MAAC finals, for a trip to the big dance.

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# Fairfield Prep students still present in Rec Plex

BY DAN AKESON

Despite the recent addition of the Fr. Brisette Athletic Center to Fairfield Preparatory, Prep students and teams continue to use the Rec Plex facilities.

"The new Fr. Brisette Athletic Center was built by Prep to provide our students with more adequate locker room facilities, and to give Prep a practice gym that could be used largely for much needed intramural purposes," said Fairfield Preparatory Athletic Director Robert Harris.

The new athletic center does not provide appropriate seating for spectators, so its uses are limited to prep intramurals and practices. However, even with the added practice space, Fairfield Prep utilizes university courts time for freshman basketball and wrestling from December through February.



Chris Donata/The Mirror

**Perplexed:** Prep students continue to utilize Rec Plex despite new gymnasium.

For the first three weeks of December, Prep uses two courts from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., daily, as well as three times a week through February.

"The construction of the BAC sought to supplement, not replace, the continued use of both Alumni Hall and the Recreation Complex," said Harris.

However, it is not just the Rec Plex

courts that are being used by the Prep students. According to Fairfield's website, Fairfield Prep students have access to the university's gym facilities included in their tuition.

"The Prep has limited use of the building from opening through 6:00 p.m. They can use the gym, racquetball courts and the pool," said Phil Pa-

lumbo, director of the Rec Plex and aquatics. "They cannot use the weight room in Alumni Hall, which is one of the reasons we ask for ID's in the room. They also cannot [use] any of the cardio equipment or the Nautilus room.

Both Harris and Palumbo agree that the construction of the new athletic center did solve some scheduling conflicts.

"On conflict days in Alumni Hall or the Rec Plex, we now have an alternate option," said Harris. "The addition of the BAC provides more flexibility in programming."

"There are rarely any scheduling conflicts in the Rec Plex since the opening of the new Prep Athletic Center," said Palumbo. "Prep intramurals are now run in that gym. Most other conflicts occur with the use of the athletic fields."

## "Sixth man" gives Stags the edge; students show enthusiasm

CONTINUED FROM P. 20

It was the kind of atmosphere that gave the Stags a true home court advantage – something that they have severely lacked in the past – while playing in what is often-times an oversized and under-filled arena.

Those of you who weren't there don't need to be ashamed of yourselves, but you should know that you missed out on what

college basketball is all about.

Heck, those who say that sport truly does reflect society – and I think it does – would say that the atmosphere at the Arena on Monday night was what college is all about.

The fans had plenty of reason to cheer, and plenty of occasions to mock the Stags' opponents. Four different Jaspers fouled out of the game, and each time they were bid

adieu by the Red Sea with chants of "Na na na na, na na na na, hey he-ey, good bye!"

There were the collegiate clowns in the front row with their red all the way from their socks to their afro wigs, and there were the shirtless guys and halter-top-wearing girls with "GO STAGS" painted on their stomachs. There were even people holding signs that read "WHERE IS FLORES?" in reference to the Jaspers' former confer-

ence player of the year, who departed for the NBA, taking with him his team's four game winning streak in Bridgeport, which the Stags snapped Monday night.

"It was phenomenal, not only that [the students] came, but that we won" said coach Tim O'Toole.

Hopefully for the team and for the university, students will continue to come, and the team will continue to impress them.

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## Volleyball upset in MAAC tournament finals



Nancy Sidnam/The Mirror

**Bumped out:** Lauren Laramore '06 and the women's volleyball team were upset by Iona in the MAAC tournament final round.

BY DAN SHANNON

While the Stag's entered the MAAC tournament as the top seed last Sunday in Loudonville, N.Y., they were swept 3-0 by Iona in the championship round.

Fairfield began their season knowing that they had a young team, however, they believed they had a great opportunity to learn from each other and compete for a MAAC title.

"It has been a growing experience," head coach Jeff Werneke told *The Mirror* early last month. "I feel that our team has

played well together with everyone understanding their role from match to match."

The Stag's did more than just compete with other teams in the MAAC, they posted a MAAC best 22-10 overall record and tied Iona with an 8-1 in conference record. After their stellar record and season the Stags knew that it had to prove that they were the best once again in the MAAC tournament.

Even more remarkable than the outstanding record that Fairfield was able to put together with their young team was the fact that they were led by two freshman; Lindsey Lee and Jazmin Pa'akaula.

Lee, All-MAAC First Team and MAAC Rookie of the Year, had an outstanding season posting 400 kills on the year, averaging 3.7 per game to lead the team, and was second on the team averaging 4.34 digs.

To say that Fairfield has high hopes for the future would be an understatement. With well developed underclassmen like Lee and Pa'akaula and returning team leadership with Lauren Laramore, the next few years of Fairfield volleyball is destined to be a success.

## A JAB TO THE JASPERS



Chris Donato/The Mirror

**Fairfield fans:** Fairfield students cheer on the men's basketball team during Tuesday's 81-73 double overtime win at Harbor Yard.

## Men's basketball defeats Jaspers in double OT.

BY BEN DOODY

If the opening night of the Major League Baseball season in the Bronx is anything like Monday night's conference opener between the Stags and Manhattan, Red Sox and Yankee fans will surely be in for another wild and crazy season.

The Stags beat the two-time defending league champs in front of a raucous 3,256 red clad fans to get the conference schedule off to a feel-good start after going 2-2 in non-conference games.

When all the dust had settled, it was a thrilling 81-73 double-overtime victory complete with all the trimmings, including three deficits of five points or more being overcome by one team or the other in the second half and overtime. If the win is a sign of things to come, the Stags could be playing further into March than they ever have under head coach Tim O'Toole.

"It was an unbelievable game from start to finish," said

SEE "MEN" ON P. 18



## DOODY CALLS BEN DOODY

## How the Red Sea roared

The reality is that a lot of students think Harbor Yard is where the Boston Tea Party took place and not the home of the Stags' basketball teams.

But boy, you couldn't tell that if you were at Monday night's game against Manhattan, which the Stags won in a wild 81-73 double-overtime thriller.

"I thought they were a real sixth man," said Jaspers coach Bobby Gonzalez. "I think this is a great place to play, and that

the MAAC tournament should be held here."

Gonzalez is one of the classiest guys in the MAAC, which makes him a leading candidate for any coaching vacancies in major conferences. But he wasn't just being polite. For one of the only times in recent memory, the student section at the Arena was packed from top to bottom, and it was loud.

SEE "SIXTH" ON P. 19

## Victory in Vermont Women's b-ball win first of season

BY BEN DOODY

Four games into the season, it's hard determining which Stags women's basketball team is going to show up.

Will it be the team that became only the sixth non-conference opponent to beat Vermont in its home gym in 23 games, as it did Monday with a 71-62 win Monday night? Or will it be the team that didn't score until more than four minutes in, and struggled to shoot 10 percent from the field in the first half en route to falling to Dartmouth at home just two days before?

Either way, by beating the Catamounts Monday, the Stags notched their first win of the season and pulled head coach Dianne Nolan to within 20 wins of 500 for her career. The team also had four players in double figures and shot over 40 percent from the field.

It can also be said that as senior captain Cathy Dash goes, the team goes. She had 18 points against Vermont, after just four against Dartmouth.

The Vermont win also marked the return of sophomore Candice Lindsay to the lineup, last year's conference co-Rookie of the Year. Lindsay had 10 points on five of 10 shots, after missing the previous two games with an illness that teammates said left the team with a big void to fill.

"We really missed her," said freshman guard Meka Wertz, who played with Lindsay at Christ the King High School in New York.

While it was Dash and Ivana Podrug leading the way on Monday, the Stags were carried by Wertz and her fellow classmates on Saturday, particularly sharp-shooter Stephanie Ryan. Ryan kept the Stags in the game by hitting three of five three-point at-

SEE "MCMANUS" ON P. 18