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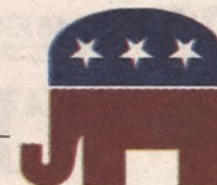
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Inside: Midterm Election Special



WEEK OF **NOVEMBER 2**, 2006

Vol. 32, Iss. 9 - 28 pages
Two Sections

The **MIRROR**

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The independent student newspaper
of Fairfield University

One concert for '06-'07: Good idea "O.A.R." not?

BY ANDREW CHAPIN

The wait is over. After weeks of tight-lipped secrecy, FUSA announced Sunday afternoon at its weekly Senate meeting that O.A.R. (Of a Revolution) will perform at Alumni Hall on Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007.

So why did it take so long to make the announcement? According to Kara Ackerman '08, a member of the FUSA Concert Committee, it was merely part of the bid

process.

"When securing a bid, the decision is ultimately in the hands of the performer's management," she said. "FUSA waits to announce the concert until confirmation from the band's management has solidified the final details of the contract."

Ackerman said that FUSA always considers the students when choosing acts for Fairfield concerts.

"When selecting a concert, our main

concern is the students' interests," she said. "FUSA looks for an act that is pleasing to the student population, affordable with our budget and best fits our venue size."

For O.A.R., which started up in 1996, it will be a homecoming of sorts, as well. Before receiving mainstream recognition, the group played at Stagstock in September 2001.

FUSA President Hutch Williams '08 is looking forward to the event, which may be

the biggest event of the year.

"I'm very, very excited. I think it's going to be a huge hit with the students," he said.

Unlike years past, when there were two concerts (one for fall, the other for spring), O.A.R. will be the only concert of the year, according to Ackerman.

"In an attempt to provide the students

SEE "O.A.R." ON P. 6

I GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP . . .



Contributed Photo

Help in the hospice: Jodie Pfau '07 and Tess Brown '07 star in Theater Fairfield's latest production, "Shadow Box." For the full story, see p. 9.

To sign or not to sign Students caught between committing to beach houses or school policy

BY KATE MCGANN

When it comes to the housing lottery, most students agree that Fairfield is behind the times. And with the Off-Campus Boarder Lottery (OCB) kicking off today, questions have surfaced about whether the process will ever get any easier.

The University guarantees students housing for all four years. But for many students, a crucial part of the college experience at Fairfield is being able to live at the beach. To do so, they must be officially released from their on-campus resident status by Fairfield through the OCB.

Though most juniors start looking for beach houses at the very beginning of the school year (if not the end of sophomore year),

campus e-mails say the OCB process will not start this year until Nov. 2, and the list of students approved to live off-campus will not be posted until Dec. 4. However many students believe that if they have not signed a lease or are not in verbal agreement with a landlord before Dec. 4, they will have little hope of securing a decent, inexpensive beach house.

How does the University justify conducting the lottery so late in the semester while forbidding students from signing leases before being released? According to Director of Residence Life Gary Stephenson, it has to do with several factors.

One reason the OCB lottery is

SEE "LOTTERY" ON P. 6

2-point-oh no: How much will G.P.A. affect your future?

BY JOE CARRETTA

Some students stopped worrying about their G.P.A. the day they opened their college acceptance letters. But Chelsea Reichert '10 thinks the dreaded decimal shouldn't be forgotten.

"Good grades are important. Parents are paying for their kids to go to school, and they want to see good grades," she said.

The wrath of angry parents is as good a reason as any to hit the books, but so is the idea that companies who employ Fairfield grads also consider the G.P.A. before hiring students.

Cathleen Borgman, director of the Career Planning Center, said that a less than adequate G.P.A. is a "deal breaker" for some employers.

"If kids are below the (G.P.A.) cutoff for a company, they are shot down, no questions asked," said

Borgman.

About 70 percent of companies that hire students right out of college confirm, in most cases, that they make their cutoff for employees at a G.P.A. of 3.0, said a careerebuilder.com article. However, most employers do not filter their applicants based solely on grade point averages.

Joe Schoonbeek '09 feels that a student's G.P.A. is "very important for getting a job, and employers definitely consider it when hiring graduates."

Sara Bouley '09 agreed.

"G.P.A. matters to an extent. Kids don't need a 4.0 to get a job, but they can't have a 1.9 either," she said.

While G.P.A. appears to be a universal measuring stick, Borgman said other factors are taken into

SEE "G.P.A." ON P. 4

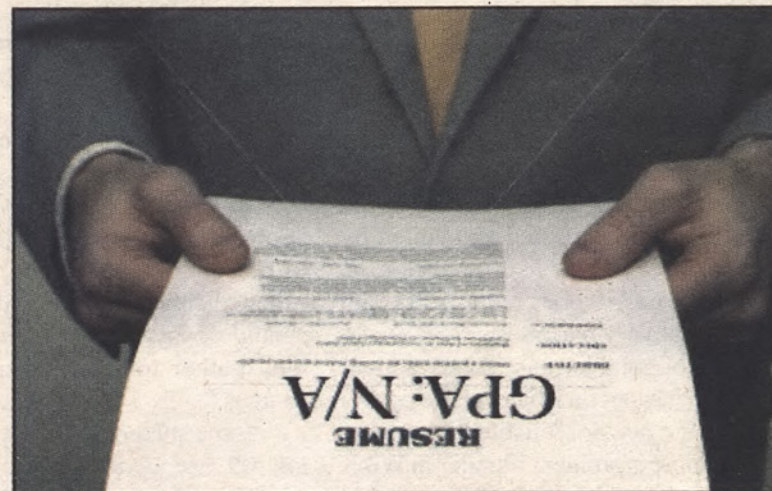


Photo illustration by Lorraine Lampe/ The Mirror

G.P.A.? Hardly! Employers take an applicant's grades very seriously when considering their résumés.

Banner year for Fairfield Fulbrights

BY VERONICA FLORENTINO

University officials had something to cheer about after five students from Fairfield's class of 2006 received Fulbright Scholarships.

Fairfield received another pat on the back because the five scholarships represent the largest number awarded nationally to students from a university with a master's degree program.

This is the second time in three years Fairfield has received this honor.

In total, since 1993, 39 Fairfield graduates have received Fulbright awards.

Miriam Gogol, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, called the Fulbright Scholarships a "wonderful educational opportunity for the students."

"These awards allow our students to learn how to write grants, how to do international research and, most importantly, to have an academically serious post-baccalaureate experience abroad," she said.

Gogol then added, "Fairfield students should be proud of this honor. This is a great experience for them and it's just the beginning."

The five recipients are Alexis Ceden, Jessica Martin, Annie McKittrick, Vivian E. Rodriguez and Laura Woelflein.

They are currently in the United Arab Emirates, China, Canada, Thailand and Germany, respectively.

Second to Fairfield, the University of Portland received four Fulbrights.

Hunter College in New York, Villanova University and Rochester Institute of Technology received three Fulbrights each.

Rodriguez said that the application process was tedious, but "Dean Gogol and the other committee advisors were there every week helping me revise my essays

and perfect my application. Without them and especially without the assistance of Benedetta Maguire ... I would not have been able to do this and succeed in receiving the scholarship," she said.

Gogol agreed, calling the application process "carefully orchestrated."

"The students work closely with me and with faculty," she said. "We, in effect, become mentors, helping the students find the resources they need."

Rodriguez is in Phitsanulok, Thailand on her Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship scholarship.

After traveling with family and studying abroad in Florence the spring of her junior year, she knew she wanted to go abroad after graduation.

Rodriguez is currently teaching 600 10th-graders conversational English.

"Every day I am faced with many challenges and am really becoming assimilated within the culture. The language is difficult but I'm learning, and the Thai people are always willing to help," Rodriguez said. "I knew it would pose a challenge physically, emotionally and intellectually. This has all proved to be true, and I am really enjoying myself."



Martin is currently adjusting to life in Beijing and said her weekends have been "busy." She recently went to a Chinese Politics class given in English.

"It is part of a master's in [the] Contemporary China Studies program that my affiliated university just began to offer, and I plan on sitting in on the Chinese Foreign Policy class in November," Martin said.

"On the weekends I've been busying getting plugged into various environmental events held by the Beijing Municipal government and various organizations," she said.

She then added, "I've also visited Global Village of Beijing (GVB), the NGO I plan to intern with, several times already for an environmental journalist forum and a volunteer workshop on starting a campaign to promote the use of CFL light bulbs in China. I met a girl who is an environmental science major, and in the next month I plan on talking to her and her school mates about their studies and future goals as well as contact some of the international ENGOs to get a feel for their capabilities and projects in China."

University President Fr. Jeffrey von Arx applauded the five scholarship recipients.

"These outstanding graduates are to be commended for their academic achievements and for reaching beyond their comfort zones," he said. "They bring honor to their university and the faculty on our Fulbright Committee who guided them."

The Fulbright Program awards educational grants to students, scholars, teachers and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and teaching in elementary and secondary schools abroad.

Founded by former Sen. J. William Fulbright, the program aims to develop a shared understanding between Americans and people from other nations.

It is the most prestigious international scholarship and is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

You get what you pay for

BY JOE CARRETTA

Wikipedia, an online information database, has become one of the quickest and easiest ways to gather information. But some Fairfield students and faculty are questioning the validity of its information and sources.

"I never use Wikipedia," said Liz Thompson '09. "The info is debatable, and it's just not worth using."

Katie Mainiero '10 recently searched the Web for biology information. She noticed that Wikipedia's information conflicted with her textbook.

"And I'm pretty sure the textbook was not wrong," she said.

Many other Fairfield students question the Web site's credibility.

Kaitlin Buckneit '09 heard, "it wasn't legit" and has only used it once or twice.

The negative sentiment regarding Wikipedia hinges on the fact that the information can be posted and edited by anyone.

Phil Spada '10 does not trust the site at all for that very reason.

"It's not good because some random person can just put on whatever (he or she) wants to. It's just not reliable," he said.

The most prominent blunder in Wikipedia history involved John Seigenthaler, a long-time assistant to the Kennedy administration.

According a *USA Today* article, Wikipedia falsely posted that Seigenthaler was involved in the assassinations of John and Bobby Kennedy.

Seigenthaler complained to the Web site and demanded to know the author of the erroneous information. Although he was unable to locate the source, the article was fixed.

Fairfield professors are also concerned about student reliance on Wikipedia information.

Journalism professor James Simon said, "I have my doubts about the Web site, but I believe it can be a good starting point."

Simon used the Web site to obtain background information on Bill O'Reilly before O'Reilly spoke on campus in September.

Eric Mielants, assistant professor of sociology, shares Simon's view.

"It depends on the article," he said. "Some have mistakes and [students] have to be cautious. [Students] can use it to orient themselves with information but should always compare the information they gather to information from other sources."

Some students, such as Augusta Melton '09, use it constantly.

"I use it all the time, but just take it with a grain of salt since there is a chance it could be wrong," she said.

Wikipedia, free encyclopedia, not considered reliable source by some students

Chris Anastasi '07, who uses the site with discretion, agreed.

"I use it once in a while but always check [who] the information is attributed to."

Thompson however, feels that Fairfield's DiMenna-Nyselius Library has all the resources students need to complete

research and other homework.

"The University offers so many good databases that it's often not necessary to use Wikipedia," she said.

Hilary Martin '09 sees nothing wrong with using the Web site.

"Wikipedia rocks my socks," she said. "I use it all the time."



Is Wikipedia whack?: The online information database may gather information, but students and professors are questioning whether what they gather is reliable or not.

Contributed Photo

Sitting down for Q & A with Fairfield Police Chief Peck

The Mirror spoke with Fairfield Police Chief David Peck in an interview conducted via e-mail.

TM: Do you think The Mirror accurately portrayed the adjusted beach policy?

DP: Yes, the article was done very well.

TM: Have you noticed a decrease in incidents since the implementation of the policy?

DP: Incidents are about the same, but enforcement action has about doubled.

TM: Do you think the student reaction was in response to the policy or just a lack of understanding?

DP: It was probably a little of both.

TM: What kind of impact do you think the policy has had on the beach area so far? Has anything changed significantly?

DP: We now have consistent enforcement, and I think the message is loud and clear to everyone, including the police officers and the beach area residents.

TM: Hunter Muller, one of the most active members of the FBRA, was recently arrested for entering the home of his neighbor, a group of Fairfield students at 799 Rowland Rd. Is this backlash common at the beach?

DP: Not really. It is unusual and unfortunate.

TM: Do you think that the regular beach residents resent the students who live there?

DP: I can't speak for them.

TM: How much did the FBRA and the SBRA contribute to the policy?

DP: This was an internal FPD process, and it doesn't include the FBRA or the SBRA.

TM: How much did Fairfield University and other schools (i.e. Sacred Heart University) contribute?

DP: Again, this was an internal process within the FPD.



Contributed Photo

Peck and choose: The chief of police sits down for a chat.

TM: How were the 20 points listed in the police document The Mirror obtained compiled?

DP: The information was from our CAD database and incident mapping.

TM: Was there any opposition to the policy other than from the student perspective?

DP: No, none at all that I am aware of.

TM: Will the policy be universally implemented throughout Fairfield since the action plan solely focuses on the beach area?

DP: If we identify a problem area in town, we formulate a plan to deal with that area. This is called Problem-orientated Policing.

[Problem-oriented Policing (POP), coined by University of Wisconsin professor Herman Goldstein, is a policing strategy that involves identifying specific crime and disorder problems, such as those that occur in crime hot spots. With POP, the problem is analyzed and a strategy is devised to tackle the problem. Over the past several years, POP has, in many places, virtually replaced the "incident-driven" method of state and local law enforcement. At the heart of the POP strategy is its commitment to empowering each individual officer with the authority to identify and proactively work on problems within his or her beat. The policy is designed to be implemented from the bottom up with rank-and-file officers effectively setting agency goals and developing strategies to achieve them, as opposed to the top-down approach of most traditional bureaucratic policies.]

TM: What was the document that The Mirror obtained?

DP: It was the Problem Response Action Plan that I have been handing out to community groups. It was developed to be distributed to officers and the community.

BY ANDREW CHAPIN

Another finish line nears

FU student adds NYC Marathon to achievements

STAFF REPORT

"How far you fall doesn't determine who you are. It's how hard you work to get back up."

These are the words of sophomore John Tartaglio, who will compete in the New York Marathon on Sunday.

Competing in a marathon is no easy task for anyone, but it is even more remarkable for Tartaglio, who lost both of his legs two years ago to a massive infection.

He has taken part in several road races and triathlons, according to his Web site, www.johntartaglio.com, but Sunday will mark his first attempt at a race of this magnitude.

To complete the 26.2 miles Tartaglio will be using a hand cycle, similar to a bicycle. It is a low-rider with three wheels and a hand-crank.

When he first purchased the cycle the salesman asked if he had ever considered competing in a marathon, according to the *Connecticut Post*.

"It seemed like a good idea," Tartaglio said. "So I decided to give it a try."

In August 2004, Tartaglio was diagnosed with a rare bacterial infection that only 34 people in history have ever had, his Web site says.

Though he was said to have a 20

percent chance of survival, Tartaglio overcame the infection. However, he lost both legs and his left bicep in emergency surgery.

Two months of intensive rehabilitation allowed him to walk again despite doctors' predictions that he would never be able to do so.

Tartaglio works out by weight training, swimming, cycling, walking or running five times a week in order to maintain his strength and endurance. It is this dedication that has helped to prepare him for Sunday's race.

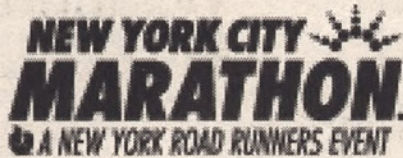
Besides being a full-time student and training for high-endurance sporting events, Tartaglio has appeared on Oprah and has started a scholarship fund for high school students.

He also gives motivational speeches around New England.

The New York City Marathon is a 36-year-old tradition that draws over 90,000 runners and 2 million spectators annually, according to the marathon's Web site.

Despite facing so much opposition, Tartaglio remains optimistic.

"I've had a different experience in life than some people," he told the *Connecticut Post*. "It was an experience most people probably would have had a difficult time dealing with. I think I handled it OK."



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G.P.A. is 'deal-breaker'?

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

consideration.

"Employers do take the level of difficulty of the classes into account when looking at G.P.A. They also consider how difficult a school Fairfield is," she added.

Careerbuilder.com highlighted employers who focus on students' extra curricular activities and internships when reviewing job applications. Special attention is also paid to students who hold steady jobs as a way to combat high college tuitions.

"Grades as well as other activities are both important," said Emily Krawiecki '09, emphasizing the need for a balance. "You can't have one without the other."

Borgman agreed, "Employers won't hire a student just because they have a 4.0. Companies look for a well-rounded person, who shows leadership skills and worked well with others. Teamwork is very important."

Students, such as Brittney Goncalves '09, share this opinion.

"Employers should look at G.P.A. because it reflects on how well you performed in school," she said. "But I also think that participating in internships and other activities and still having a high G.P.A. makes it all the better. They can see that you can manage your time doing both."

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Senate in Session

What happened (and didn't happen)
at this week's meeting

- The Sunday, Oct. 29 Senate meeting began late as a result of the School of Nursing auditorium being locked. After waiting 25 minutes, Chair Tim Rich '08 decided to move the meeting into a vacant classroom.

- The Concert Committee – Michael Mancini '07, Jon Velotta '07 and Kara Ackerman '08 – announced the band O.A.R. as this year's concert.

- Some hands were raised after the announcement that this would not technically be a fall concert, as it is on Jan. 25. But Chair Rich requested that no questions be asked "in the future on anything like that."

- Chair Rich announced that there will be an upcoming town hall meeting about possible changes to the housing lottery. He asked that "all concerned senators work with [FUSA President] Hutch to formulate two good questions."

- Rich also noted that "attendance [the past week] was dreadful, abysmal and horrid. You made the commitment to be here." He reminded the Senate that if members cannot attend a meeting, they must send a proxy. For "this body can not function without attendance."

- Chair Rich also was "pleased to report that there are more benches and picnic tables seen all over campus," as a result of a resolution passed by the Senate last year. In addition, he has contacted the HAM channel to possibly begin televising Senate meetings.

- Academics Committee Co-Chair Allie Dailey '09 said that the faculty committee devoted to examining the

teacher evaluations "really wants to work with us. Include a student question or a FUSA question." In addition, the Committee is looking into the fact that Stagweb is down between 3 and 7 a.m., which causes problems for students abroad.

- Student Life Committee Co-Chair Nikki Enriquez '07 said that the previous meeting was spent looking into "Sodexo issues" – including cleaner plates, more chicken patties and placing napkins on the tables. They have also received positive feedback about removing the folding chair from the townhouse laundry room and installing more washing machines.

- In addition, they are trying to incorporate Deb Cady, Gary Stephenson and Frank Ficko into the ongoing battle against students smoking too close to residence halls. "We want to get everyone on the same page," Sen. Enriquez



Concert announced, applause for
increased benches and picnic tables
around campus

said.

- Sen. Cota '07 asked if anyone was investigating the possibility of a live stag mascot, saying, "this is not a joke." Sen. Enriquez promised she would look into it at the next meeting.

- Sen. Kamenchenko '10 raised the possibility of FUSA Senate jackets. "It will show that we are proud to be senators, [and] people will know that we are senators." Chair Rich promised they are looking into "some form of clothing," he said.

- Sen. Thibodeau '10 raised the concern that "students are being targeted by public safety and RAs," saying that he witnessed an event where two RAs walked by a room that was not loud and later entered the room without properly identifying themselves.

- Sen. Amsbaugh '08 put a request in writing for the issue to be examined. "Examine students' right to privacy against the administration's necessity to enforce the student conduct code," the document said. Administration was later changed to "Residence Life and Public Safety."

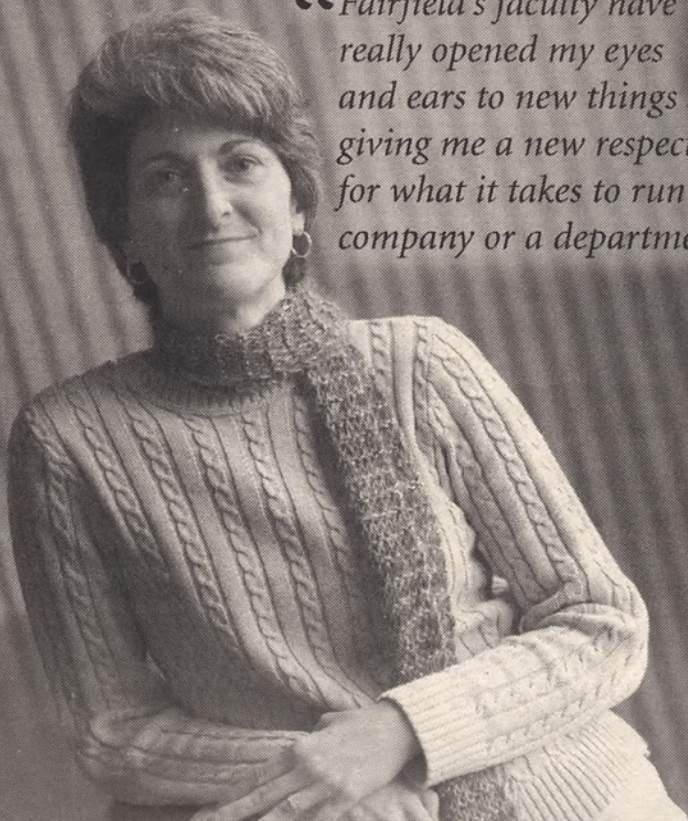
- Sen. Cota brought up a possible investigation of whether or not students follow the Academic Honor Code. Sen. Amsbaugh said, "From personal experience ... a large group [of students] think it is no big deal. ... Another group [thinks] the Honor Code is a mission in life. Some are like 'eh, whatever' and some believe it is important," he said.

- Sen. Liguori '09 moved to adjourn the meeting; his motion was unanimously approved.

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Wednesday, November 8

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Held at the Charles F. Dolan School of Business

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Check-in and refreshments

5:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Welcome and opening remarks

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Graduate program presentations

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O.A.R. to perform in January

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

of Fairfield University with the best possible show, FUSA has consolidated their efforts and finances to pursue one large scale show in lieu of two smaller shows," she said.

Ackerman also pointed out that the "decision has been based on feedback provided directly from the student body."

Though the ticket sale date has yet to be announced, tickets will be \$25 per Fairfield student and \$35 each for the public. Because of the band's popularity and the small venue of Alumni Hall, however, students can only purchase one ticket per valid StagCard.

Fairfield has a lively history of trying to book O.A.R. for students. In 2005, FUSA placed a bid on O.A.R. for Fairfield's spring concert, but the band rejected the bid. O.A.R. cited the preferred April 29 date as interfering with Pass-over observance. The Roots replaced O.A.R. as the spring act that year.

Many students were disappointed with FUSA's inability to secure the popular act almost two years ago. Now, however, there is optimism on campus.

Dave Willis '09,

for example, had renewed faith in FUSA after hearing the announcement.

"I think it's a jump from last year," he said. "I'm anticipating it."

Katie Fiore '09 agreed that students will enjoy the show.

"It's pretty cool," said Fiore. "I saw them before, and they put on a really good show. I think a lot of people will like it."

Not all students were pleased with the announcement, however.

Dylan Falvey '09 felt that FUSA's choice for the concert was a stale act.

"I don't want O.A.R. I've seen them too many times. They're old news," he said.

Tim King '08, a self proclaimed fan of all music, was not thrilled with the announcement either.

"I don't dislike any kind of music, but I don't like O.A.R.," he said.



Contributed Photo

'Hey Girl': the boys of O.A.R. from left to right: Chris Culos, Richard On, Jerry DePizzo, Benj Gershman and Marc Roberge.

Lottery: might move "if helpful to students"

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

done in November relates to students' class standing. The first few weeks in September are always used to sort out issues about students' class year – specifically affecting transfer students or students who have taken summer classes through a different university and need the credits to transfer, Stephenson said.

This is important not only for the purpose of being able to graduate on time, but also plays into the housing process. A student in the class of 2008, for example, is much more likely to be released in the OCB than a student from the class of 2009.

Still, November is too late for most students to comply with the wishes of their landlords and the school.

Although the lottery wouldn't be moved to September, Stephenson did mention the possibility of moving it up to mid- or

late- October.

"[We could move the OCB lottery] if it is helpful to the students," he said.

He was quick to point out, however, that the lottery would not be changed to accommodate students signing leases with their landlords.

"We would react based on academics and class standing," he said, as opposed to any specific housing conflicts.

Dean of Students Tom Pellegrino echoed Stephenson's concern about changing the lottery to accommodate students signing beach leases.

"The University can certainly investigate the date when the lottery occurs, but one of several questions that should be addressed in that context is whether changing the date to an earlier time would, in fact, lessen the number of students who go ahead and sign leases before being released," said Pellegrino.

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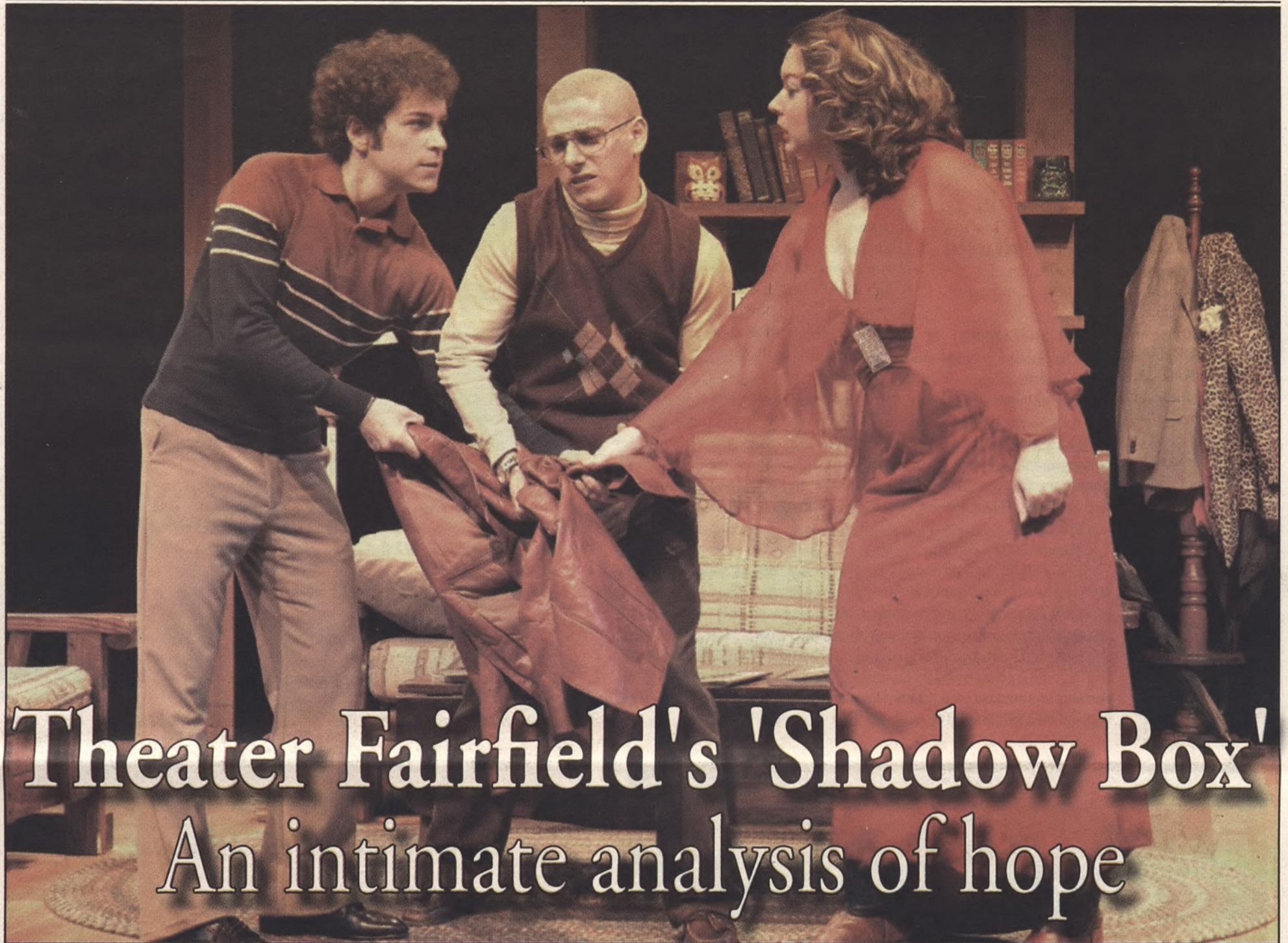


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Theater Fairfield's 'Shadow Box' An intimate analysis of hope

Contributed Photo

Taking on underground drama in the Black Box: (L to R) Mark (Tim King '08), Brian (Jared Mezzocchi '07) and Beverly (Kelly Henn '07) release some of the frustration that often builds when dealing with terminal illness in loved ones. The play dealt with the struggles of letting go and offered a touching insight into how love, life and hope can come from death.

BY LILY NORTON

Theatre Fairfield's latest creation, "The Shadow Box," showed Wednesday Oct. 25 through Sunday, Oct. 29 in the Wein Experimental Black Box Theatre at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts. The playwright, Michael Christofer, won a Pulitzer Prize for this piece.

"The Shadow Box" featured Theatre Fairfield regulars Tess Brown '07, TonyDaCosta '08, Kelly Henn '07, Tim King '08, Colleen Kennedy '09, Liz Krane '07, Jared Mezzocchi '07, Jonathan Perez '07 and Jodie Pfau '07. The cast was small and intimate.

Theatre Fairfield is known for taking on "underground" drama, as they did in the past with "The Laramie Project" in 2003 and "Dead Man Walking" in 2005.

Written in the mid 1970s, "The Shadow Box" focuses on the lives of three families who are living in hospice care. Within the families, patients struggle with terminal illnesses. Family members try to provide solace, while the patients reflect on their lives and how their deaths will affect their family.

It emphasizes a process of grieving and dying and we see these five stages: anger, denial, depression, bargaining and acceptance. By the end of the play, the characters obtain a greater understanding of how to face death.

The first family introduced could be considered the most conventional. Joe, played by Perez, a working class husband and father, is joined at the cottage by his wife Maggie, played by Krane, and his son Stephen, played by DaCosta. Maggie is in denial of Joe's impending death and

is afraid to enter the cottage. Their 14-year-old son Stephen has not yet been told of his father's terminal condition.

The second family consists of Brian, a terminally ill man played by Mezzocchi; Mark, his lover, played by King; and Beverly, Brian's wild and eccentric ex-wife who comes to visit them, played by Henn.

The third family is a feisty, wheelchair-bound mother, Felicity, and her dutiful daughter, Agnes. An off-stage character, "the interviewer," interrupts various scenes, offering insight into the various characters through questioning.

I was unsure what to expect as I walked into the dark maze of walls in the black box theatre. I was intrigued as soon as I saw the set, which resembled the inside of a woodsy, retro cottage. There was certainly ambience provided by the sounds of birds chirping over the noises of an anxious audience. One thing that caught the eyes was the choice of lighting.

My companion to the show, Brianna Cohoon '10, mentioned, "the lighting is so natural, like it's coming from a window," as we waited for the show to begin.

The show commenced with a confessional, which evolves to be an outlet of emotions for the many unique characters in the play.

Brian, a homosexual intellectual man with a terminal illness, expresses how he felt someone should have warned them sooner that life doesn't last forever. Brian expresses how only "on the way out" does one come to appreciate what they have and come to know what is important.

So yes, the play is depressing, but it is much more than that. It is supposed to reveal that, although death is

something we'd all like to ignore, it is a part of life that we must all come to accept.

The style of the show is very intimate and real. It felt as if I was sitting in the room with the characters. Black Box Theatre, a relatively newer style of theatre, allows this type of intimacy and actor-audience interaction to occur.

The actors were all fascinated by the intricate setup of the play and found the message to be powerful to them.

Jonathan Perez expressed how, although it was challenging to play a terminally ill person, he was able to relate with his own character Joe, a terminally ill man.

"It's a play about life and relationships... and human beings just like you and me," Perez said.

It could be seen that much emotional work went into this production. The actors joked about how after attending rehearsal they felt depressed. But they too came to recognize that the play is an affirmation of life.

Students had much to say about the performance. Many were perturbed by the abrupt ending, which didn't provide much closure of the stories. "The ending just dropped," said Gabrielle Giuliano '10.

Many students were unaware that the play would be so dreary and morbid.

"It was depressing, but very realistic. I was impressed," said Lisa Arduini '10.

The play certainly touched the heart. The excellent acting and intimacy provided not only a performance to enjoy, but also a lesson about life to learn.

"The Shadow Box" illustrates that, where there is sadness and darkness, there is always hope.

Give a listen to our fall . . . *only* act — O.A.R.

BY SEAN CORBETT

FUSA finally released their concert for the fall this past week. But wait, it's happening in January? And we don't get a spring concert? Some may say FUSA needs to be more in touch with their fellow students when it comes to decisions like this. Others, though, love O.A.R.

The band from Ohio is known for its sweet and carefree energetic music and the reality is that their return to campus comes after years of demand. Here is a quick look at their albums so you can familiarize yourself with this year's only performer.

Studio Albums:

Wanderer (2000)



Originally recorded when the band was right out of high school in 1997, O.A.R.'s debut album establishes O.A.R. for many as a fun-loving party band that brings together a mix of reggae, folk, and ska. The lyrics are not exactly deep or impressive in any way, but the songs provide insight into the college experience. They sing about road trips, poker games and hangovers. Also, the loose arrangement of the songs shows that there are merits to creating an album that is not overly produced. Hits include "That Was a Crazy Game of Poker."

Risen (2001)



This album is their second studio release, but their third independent release if you count the live "Soul's Aflame." They worked with producer John Alagia on this project, according to O.A.R.'s official site. Alagia had previously worked with Ben Folds Five, DMB, John Mayer and Vertical Horizon, and this is why it's said that this release let O.A.R. really come into its own. It is a more professional-sounding album, according to allmusic.com, but the catchy hooks and reggae riffs are still very much available on this album. Hits include "Hey Girl."

In Between Now and Then (2003)



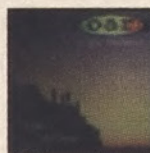
The first track is called "Now" and clocks in at 19 seconds. The final track, number 15, is called "Later" and clocks in at 8 seconds. According to Rolling Stone's given rating of two stars, it's this kind of odd inspiration that brought "In Between Now and Then" into existence. Merits of the album include island grooves, passionate vocals, and tasteful instrumentation and allmusic.com calls the album "the musical equivalent of every friendly hippie you've ever met." Some songs are full of energy and quality, and even resemble the Police, but the rest of the album falls flat, fitting in better with Hootie and the Blowfish or the Spin Doctors, according to Rolling Stone. Hits include "Risen."

Stories of a Stranger (2005)



Released little over a year ago, this album is more refined and fits better in the adult alternative category. They have moved toward songs that tell a story, make you smile, and make you think, but also have real appeal for casual listeners, according to allmusic.com. They remain curious, crafty songwriters and they seem to have matured into a band known for impressive performances and now as talented studio artists. Hits include "Stranger."

Live Albums



Soul's Aflame (2000/2001)



Any Time Now (2002)



34th and 8th (2004)

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A behind the scenes look at HAM's 'The Aughts'

BY MARIE MONTGOMERY

"It's a quirky comedy that every student can absolutely relate to because every situation in the show is an exaggerated version of something everyone went through freshman year, possibly even later. That's what comedies are all about...laughing about something similar that happened to you that is also happening in the show," Amanda Ammirato co-creator and producer of "The Aughts" said in describing the new show.

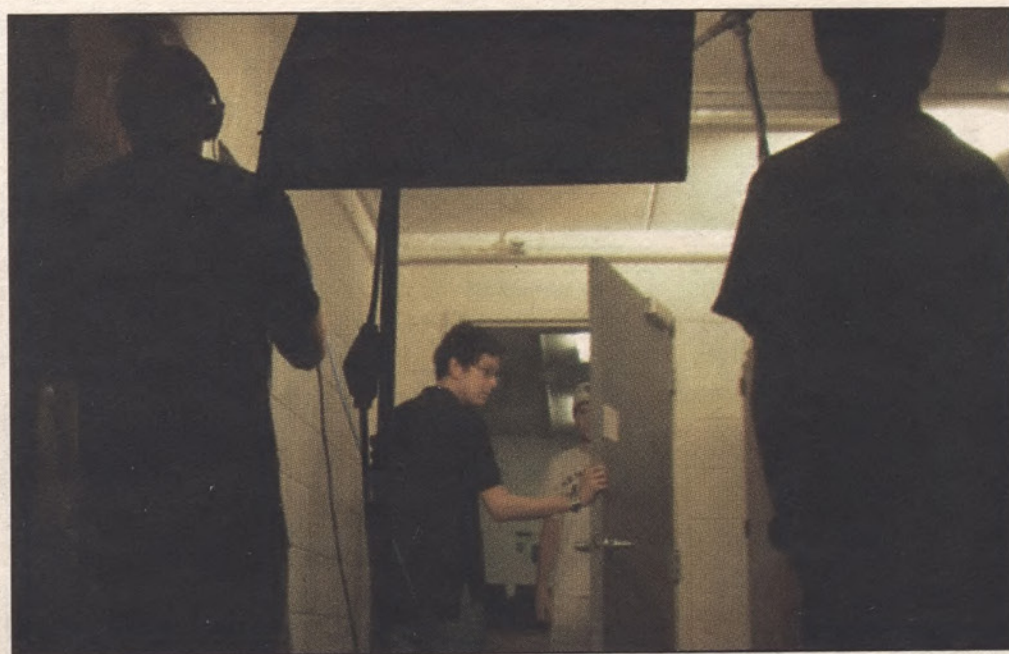
Amanda Ammirato along with Pat Wallace, Pat Ginnetty, Jared Mezzochi, Dan Schivoletti and Casey Timmeny are part of team of Fairfield students writing, directing and producing "The Aughts," for the HAM channel.

The story of "The Aughts" focuses on Lindsey (Jared Skolnick) a freshman in college and his experiences in sharing a bathroom with two girls and his wacky older brother.

Pat Wallace, one of the co-creators described the show by saying, "In style it's definitely *The Wonder Years* meets *Arrested Development*."

The students have been working since the summer on developing the scripts for "The Aughts," and now are working on actually filming the first three episodes that are set to air on the HAM channel in December. "The Aughts," like any real television show, is incredibly time consuming and it is even more of a challenge to make the show because all the participants are also full time students.

"The biggest challenge has been getting people to commit the time necessary. We think that we're making something special, and to pay justice to the material it takes a long time. It really is a full-time commitment, from the cast and crew as well as the creators. There are two of the five who haven't even been able to go to one shoot yet," said Wallace. "Pat and I are both currently doing short films as well, plus we all also have full course loads, and now that we are seniors most of those are upper level classes."



Marie Montgomery/The Mirror

On the set of "The Aughts": Jared Skolnick '09, as Lindsey, acts in what is possibly one of the funniest shows to ever grace the waves here at Fairfield.

The amount of work didn't stop Skolnick from wanting to be a part of the show. "I heard about a show being made by students on Facebook and I thought it would be fun to try acting in something funny," Skolnick said.

The show has proven to be funny just in the making. Skolnick recalls his funniest moment on set: "Not everyone will agree with me, but the moment when I got myself stuck in a trash can trying to see if I would fit [was pretty funny]. It took a few people to pull me out, but I thought it was hilarious."

Although the show has been a lot of work, it has been a great learning experience.

"So far working on the show has taught me how to stay on my toes and to always have a backup plan. You never know when something might go wrong, but you can't just stop and sulk. You have to suck it up and keep on moving," said Ammirato.

The plans for the show doesn't just stop at the HAM Channel. There has been talk of working the show on to FUSE, an up and com-

ing network.

"Jim [Mayzik] wants the series to go somewhere outside of the Ham Channel. There are certain programmers who have shown interest in finding shows, but we have to obviously shoot the show first before thinking about sending out to anywhere," says Pat Ginnetty, co-creator and director of photography on "The Aughts."

The show may have the winning formula. Wallace believes it will add something fresh to the comedic format "Old writers who have been writing not-funny comedies for decades, relying on laugh tracks and outdated jokes now create most TV shows. They're out of touch. That's clearly not the case here. Also, we're in the situation we created. We all are still in school, relying on our own personal experiences."

It is these personal experiences and commonalities that the creators are relying on to really make "The Aughts" shine, but the real judge will be the students' reactions.

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Don't blow on your soup! Students attend a business etiquette dinner

BY KACIE RILEY

If you are out at a business dinner, never season your food before you try a bite. Sure, the chef may be a little insulted, but those corporate hotshots across the table will be even more judgmental.

"If you season your food before you know what it tastes like, you are showing others you make rash decisions before all the facts are in," explained Ann Marie Sabath.

Sabath is president of At Ease Inc., an international protocol and etiquette firm and has worked with thousands of individuals and companies, such as Merrill Lynch and Marriot Corporation.

Sabath was on hand Oct. 17 to present "Gaining that Competitive Edge in Today's Marketplace" to a sold out crowd at the Dolan School of Business.

The event was sponsored by Target, UBS, Fairfield Alumni Association and the Dolan School of Business.

Paul McSherry of UBS said his company sponsored the event because they consider Fairfield University to have a strong talent pool. As UBS has a considerable amount of Fairfield alumni currently working for them, the talent of the students is not in question. Their experience is what needed to be addressed.

"We believe there is a need for students to learn about business etiquette in a practical setting, so for the past six years we have had Sabath come in to speak," explained Norman Solomon, dean of the school of business.

For the first 45 minutes, Sabath spoke on a wide range of topics from what to write in an e-mail and what to wear to work.

"My goal is to assist you in accomplishing your goals,"

said Sabath.

During the presentation portion, students learned that they should always arrive five minutes early for an interview or meeting, women should always wear light colored nylons and men should always keep the backs of their necks well groomed.

juggling a plate of appetizers and a drink. While navigating the room with plates of vegetables and cans of sodas, students quickly discovered Sabath's main point: dinner meetings have almost nothing to do with the food.

After the pseudo cocktail party, the students sat down to a full course meal that comprised of French onion soup, a salad, a main course of fettuccine alfredo and chicken, and apple pie for dessert.

While one could imagine it would be hard to keep your composure while wrangling cheese from the bottom of a bowl of French onion soup, the students deftly maneuvered their way through the courses. While students snacked on their meals, Sabath continued to explain various rules and proper dinner table manners.

Bread, for example, is one of the only foods which can be eaten with your fingers. The proper way to eat bread is to pull bite sized portions off piece by piece.

Also, although your mother told you to keep your hands off the table, nowadays wrists and hands should be in everyone's line of sight. The elbows should stay down below.

"I thought the event was great and filled with tons of information that will be useful throughout the rest of college and in the workforce," said Emily Perras '09, a management major.

With all the random bits of knowledge described at the event, it is no wonder it has been sold out all six years.

"I would never have learned your napkin is supposed to point out and you're supposed to lay your silverware across the center of your plate when you're done eating," said Sara Prager '09, an accounting major.

Applying and interviewing for a job will never be a spa vacation, but with the tips picked up at this event, students will have much less to worry about.



Contributed Photo

Mind your manners: On Oct. 17, Ann Marie Sabath of At Ease Inc. taught students proper etiquette in regards to dinner parties and other business interactions.

While the wardrobe and correspondence lessons were well received, the main point of the night was to teach students how to act during a business dinner and cocktail party. "I want to give students an opportunity to put their best fork forward," Sabath said.

Following the presentation, students had a 20 minute "mocktail" party where they had to mix and mingle while

You call it a bookstore, but where are my books?



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I can buy just about anything I want at the bookstore. They carry everything I could possibly need, ranging from sweatshirts to shampoo. That is, everything except my Spanish workbook.

As of right now, it is halfway through the semester and I am still without my workbook. The first time I went to the bookstore I was assured that the book would be in within a matter of days.

I still don't have it.

Sure, I'm not going to say that I was upset when I first found out that they didn't have my workbook; it was an excuse not to do my first homework assignment. I knew that I would eventually have to do it, but I was OK with putting it off for a few more days.

Those few days have turned into weeks, and that one homework assignment has turned into many homework assignments.

I no longer find it amusing.

I am upset because the bookstore knows how many people are enrolled in each class and should be prepared to supply every one of those students with the necessary materials. As the competent individuals that I know they are, I would have expected them to be able to calculate how

many books to order.

It isn't as though I haven't tried to order my workbook from somewhere else, but this book is printed specifically for Fairfield University. Had I been able to order it online, not only would it already be here, but it probably would have cost much less.

Throughout the semester, my amusement with the situation has diminished, and I find myself becoming more and more aggravated with the bookstore. I feel like I spend all my time in there looking for this workbook and get the same response every time: "The book will get here when it gets here."

I'm sorry, but by the time it gets here I will no longer need it.

Out of the 20 students in my class, five are still without workbooks and eight have only recently received them.

Considering I haven't had the book most of the semester, am I going to get a discount? Perhaps I can work out a deal where I only pay half the price, considering I will only have the book for half the semester. What about the fact that I still have the old homework assignments to do? Can I hold the bookstore accountable for them, as well?

For my sake, as well as the rest of the people in my class, I hope the book comes in soon, and



Katie McCarthy/The Mirror

Sold out! The semester is halfway over and some students still find themselves without textbooks.

Cheaters never prosper

BY MAURA ROUSSEAU

Desperation. Laziness. Pressure. Finding a reason to plagiarize is easy, but the consequences can be harsh.

Plagiarism is "the appropriation of information, ideas or the language of other persons or writers and the submission of them as one's own to satisfy the requirements of a course," according to the Fairfield University honor code.

The University's library Web site states that this includes passing off someone else's paper as your own, failure to cite a source and resubmitting a paper from a prior class to another class without written permission.

According to a survey conducted by the Psychological Record Journal, 36 percent of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material. English professor Mariann Regan believes that plagiarism is a problem at all universities.

Her belief is that students plagiarize out of desperation.

"I think it's part of the system that expects more from students than they can honestly do," she said. Regan believes students get "pushed for time" and take desperate measures.

Billy Joy '09 agrees that time plays a crucial element in the decision to plagiarize.

"One way or another that paper has to be turned in, even if you don't have many ideas on the subject. With time running out and nothing to say, someone might just plagiarize to complete the assignment," he said.

Religious studies professor Dr. Hugh Humphrey doesn't believe that plagiarism is a problem at Fairfield, but attributes some plagiarism cases to students being negligent and others deliberately stealing work.

"I suspect there's a fair amount of cutting and pasting without attribution," he said.

Humphrey does not believe there is an excuse for student plagiarism.

"At this stage there's no reason not to know to attribute a source," he said.

Jenny Mezzapelle '09 believes the Internet plays a vital role in plagiarism.

"Nowadays we can get so much info off the Internet. It's an easy way out," she said.

Recognizing plagiarism does not seem to be hard for most professors.

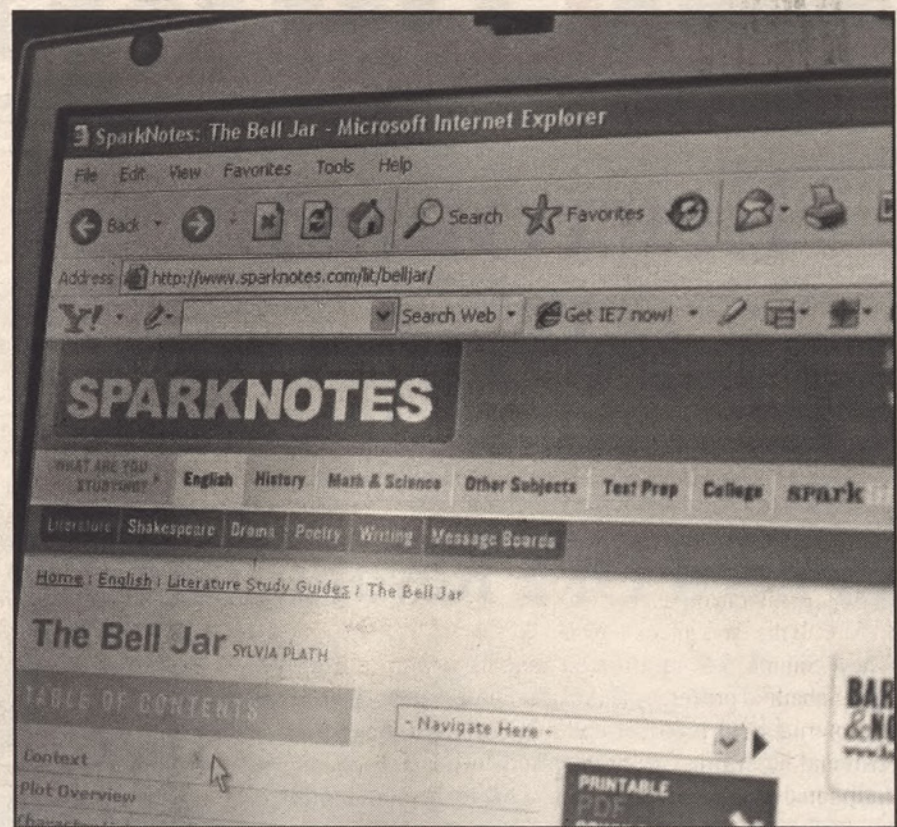
"Phrases that sound like an old style scholar," said Regan, are key indications of stolen work.

Variations in style, parts of the paper being drastically different from each other and vocabulary that would be unusual for a student's level are all giveaways of a student trying to pass off another's work as their own, according to Humphrey.

Visiting assistant history professor Cherie Woodworth said she has recognized plagiarism by identifying something as unusual for a student's work. She believes that the better you know a student, the more you will be able to recognize his or her style.

In order to find the source of the original material, all a professor needs to do is type the phrase into a search engine. It does not take much effort for a student to get caught.

Any violations of the honor code are supposed to be reported to the dean of the corresponding department, but in many cases teachers take it upon themselves to decide proper punishment for students, according to Regan.



Jenny Mingus/The Mirror

Just copy and paste: Web sites, such as www.sparknotes.com, make it easy for students to plagiarize essays.

She has given students the option of a rewrite, given a failing grade for the paper and, in one extreme case, failed a student for the course after repeated cases of plagiarism.

Woodworth said her reasoning for reporting students who plagiarize is to be fair to the students who take the time to do the work for themselves.

Sara LaBrecque '08 agrees that this is the fair thing to do.

"If you spend hours writing it, and they just copy, paste and print it, then it's fair for them to be punished," she said.

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In need Of a Revolution?

When FUSA announced that its programming board had booked college-cliché band O.A.R. for their next concert, it was met with a variety of reactions not dissimilar to acts of years past, ranging from unbridled enthusiasm all the way down to finger-pointing disapproval. This is the harsh reality that will never change.

Our student government has a tough role to fulfill as that of amateur showman, one that requires them to get neck deep in a dirty business of dishonest and unreliable characters. With this in mind, we commend the student association for managing to get a band that commands a broad following among the Fairfield crowd. We cast shame on them, however, for deciding that this would be the only act of the year and for making that decision behind an iron curtain of closed-door meetings.

The concept of having two acts per year is a sound one for many reasons, not the least of which being that the event organizers will virtually double their odds of fulfilling their one and only goal – to please the average, activity-fee-paying Fairfield student. With just one concert for the 2006-2007 school year, they have forfeited that advantage. It's impossible to ascertain the percentage of students in favor of this act since we were given no alternative.

It is with this in mind that we call on FUSA to be more transparent in their dealing and decision-making associated with major concerts. Their money is not on the line – it belongs to the students. Therefore, it follows that as many students as possible need to be involved every step of the way.

Essentially, the fate of more than \$20,000 worth of student money was decided by four decision makers -- Cristina Pires '08, Kara Ackerman '08, Mike Mancini '07 and John Velotta '07.

One suspects they keep their talks so insular to avoid the bad publicity of missed bids and broken contracts. We'll concede that these occurrences are outside the realm of FUSA's control. Sometimes, though, FUSA probably drops the ball.

Are we having one concert because so many students love O.A.R., and that the aging three-hit wonders are more valuable than Dashboard Confessional and Guster, Dane Cook and the Roots, or Dave Chapelle and Third Eye Blind combined? Or is it because they weren't able to book an act in time for fall and billed one quasi-popular band in January to save face?

No one will ever know which answer is true, other than, of course, Pires, Ackerman, Mancini, and Velotta.

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

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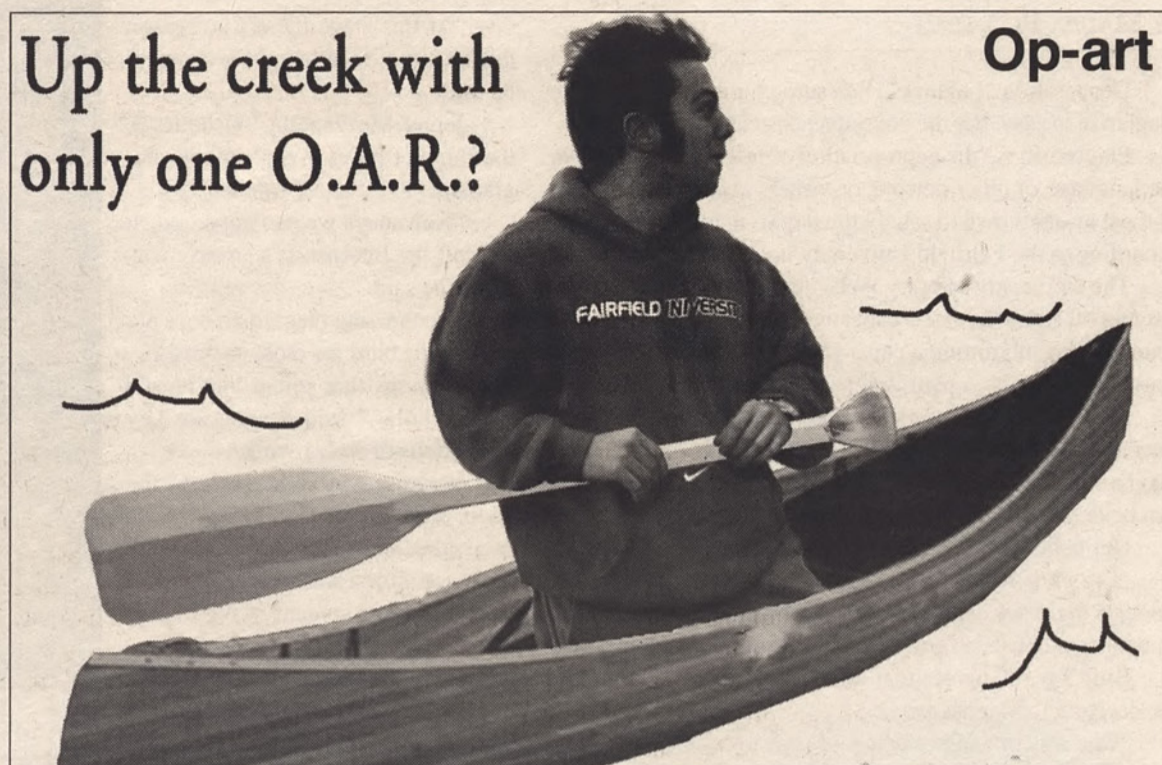
Please keep letters to under 350 words.

Include a daytime phone number at which the author can be reached.

The Mirror is in room 104 of Barone Campus Center

Up the creek with only one O.A.R.?

Op-art



Freedom of speech reflects generation's experiences

BY STEPHANIE LAUTO

As student journalists, we are servants of the student body. It is our responsibility to inform our peers about issues affecting their personal lives, academic scholarship and political views.

Our personal credo will always be to discover and report the truth, regardless of the topic. This credo applies when writing news stories and opinion pieces, as well. We will express our thoughts – as students have an undeniable right to do so – much to the dismay of others. Adults can label our views tasteless, juvenile and even ignorant if they so choose; I'm sure their parents treated them similarly when they were in college.

Go right ahead, but first consider this. Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote: "Each age must write its own books; or rather each generation for the next succeeding. The books of an older period will not fit this."

That's what we are doing; we're writing our own books as we mature into adulthood. I don't want to hear, "Well, when I was in school..." because guess what? Times have changed, and you are no longer the student. Let us, the students, write our own histories and set new precedents.

I attended the open forum on feminist issues and academic freedom on campus Saturday. Speakers from Jesuit universities across the country shared experiences where students' rights were

wrongfully restricted. One of the issues Fairfield professor Joy Gordon discussed was the pulling of *The Mirror's* Orientation issue. She concluded that this unilateral action was wrong, as administrators "cannot reserve the right to act arbitrarily and without accountability."

I applaud professor Gordon – who said "students should be respected and be included in the decision-making process" – for recognizing the importance of student expression with such statements. Though sexual expression and other issues are deemed taboo on Jesuit campuses, this does not mean they cannot be explored or published.

Once again, Emerson comes to our rescue. He wrote: "Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles."

After the Orientation issue was ripped from the stands, *The Mirror* staff rightfully dissented and, in so doing, set a precedent for students across the country. The situation provoked a much-needed discussion about an issue that plagues colleges and universities nationwide. Students successfully countered an injustice, showing that our minds are not as useless and liquored as others may think.

I hope critics of Fairfield students come down from their high horses and give us the credit we deserve. I also expect that school officials will now think twice before jeopardizing our student right to free expression, which is sometimes our only means of defense against administrators' iron fists.

Mirror online quote of the week

www.fairfieldmirror.com

"What many, if not most, have failed to acknowledge is the simple fact that Fairfield University, and, more specifically, the Barone Campus Center, is private property. As such, those charged with the day-to-day oversight of operations of said private property have every right to exercise their own discretion when deciding what is and is not acceptable." - "Thoughtprovoker" in response to "Academic Council investigating *Mirror* censorship" 10/26/2006

Say "no" to beer wasting and stand up to Public Safety

BY ANDREW CHAPIN

Waste has always irked me, regardless of context. I say this without prejudice towards law enforcement, a pretty large step for someone from a thankless generation. But, it is time for the school to adjust some archaic drinking deterrent techniques.

My favorite is the forcing of a student to dump his/her own beers or liquor down the drain. Yes, I said "forcing" because I have yet to meet someone who would voluntarily throw their money down a swirling toilet. That's essentially what happens each time a handle of Cap is up-ended with an RA behind you or a public safety milling close by.

But a particular case caught my eye; it even made the campus crime beat in time for the previous issue. Apparently, a patrolling Public Safety officer saw a student drinking beer through a window in Jogues Hall. Acting on this savvy police work, the officer discovered 24 beers and proceeded to write the students up.

Then, in what I will call luck, the same officer overheard students in the room next door talking about "drinking beer." Presented with the opportunity on a silver platter, the officer proceeded to write four of these students up along with discarding 20 beers.

So, in the course of roughly two minutes, two rooms were booze free with a future fine looming for some, if not all, of the participants.

These two incidents occurred at 9:37 and 9:39 respectively. But if Public Safety can just come into rooms they feel are drinking, why bother having RAs patrolling the halls

and quiet hours? I see this instance as a great undermining of the residence system. Public Safety's job is to protect, not to harass. If the officer kept going throughout Jogues he probably would have heard similar stuff. Kids are going to find a way to drink regardless.

This is college and you're Public Safety not the Gestapo in Nazi Germany. Officers who listen through doors so vigilantly that they can bust kids drinking some beers in a dorm room need to reevaluate their priorities. It's Fairfield, we all know that the word crime does not exist here; the adjusted beach policy was semi big deal, case in point. There obviously is not enough crime on campus, leaving Public Safety to devote more time to neutralizing underage drinking instead.

While the students were indeed breaking the University policy, I feel they should be entitled to a certain degree of privacy.

I equate the question similarly to the ongoing Supreme Court debate over thermal imaging: is the use of thermal imaging equipment, without a search warrant, to detect the growing of marijuana constitutionally acceptable?

My take on the campus situation will lucidly explain my position: while the administration has a stated position on drinking, the fact that Fairfield is not a dry campus means that they acknowledge that their student population drinks and does so on campus.

I believe it is Public Safety's job to prevent potential situations from arising, but I do not feel that their place is peering into a student's window or listening with their ear to the rail, so to speak. That, in my opinion, is not only an invasion of privacy but a gross abuse of authority.

I'm not calling for a mass student uprising against Public Safety; after all, we are in their best interest. What I am saying is that we as students, and more importantly reasonable people, cannot allow ourselves to fall victim to an authority figure on a "power trip."

This is not applicable to many RAs or Public Safety officers, as a majority of both are wholly impartial and oftentimes understanding to the situation. But there are some who do indeed take their job so seriously that they fanatically adhere to policy more so than the situation at hand.

Why should I dump my own beer out? Every time I have had to do it, I always think why should I? I wonder what would happen if the next time I have to, because I am fairly confident there will be a next time, I said no, I won't. Will I get slapped with a non-compliance? Probably, but at least I can maintain my pride in knowing that I did not assist in the waste of a night's worth of good booze.

Now, I see the underlying factor that forces students to dump, being that leaving the student without the degrading task of dumping would mean that the superior would be forced to do the equally unthinkable act. So where is the medium?

We return to our question of privacy and I think that is where the answer lies. Students are at fault when they're caught drinking; it's only natural. They're violating school policy just like everyone else. Seriously though, neither Public Safety nor the RAs have any business snooping around and looking for petty means to document students.

If they cannot respect the basic privacy each student rightfully has, maybe it's time for students to just say no to dumping. I might.

Away messages: a look into the female psyche

BY MEGAN GRIFFIN

English, calculus, lunch with Emily and Lisa, history, gym, nap. Call the cell.

Chances are if you stalk your AIM Buddy List, like most students admit that they do, then you have seen an away message that looks like this.

Why does it seem as though only girls feel the need to list their entire schedule for everyone?

The most common away messages of my guy friends are: "around," "out," "gym," "food," "at work," "nap" and "class."

A look at girls' away messages reveals the list format: "shower, paper, lunch, interview, soccer, paper" and "shopping, tanning with Amanda, then dinner with the girls."

There's a big difference in the styles of these messages. Guys don't tell you who they are with, what their plans are before and after an event, and often don't even give a specific location; they're just "out."

Don't get me wrong; there are exceptions to this phenomenon.

There are the girls who take the one word approach or stick to one thing that they are doing instead of listing events. There are guys who want to regale their buddies with a story about something that happened to them. There's also the ever popular song, television or movie quote that applies to both sexes, as well as the somewhat irritating blank away message.

People can't get enough of revealing their lives on the Internet. If you're not listing your whereabouts on AIM, then you're sharing your interests, photos, and contact information via Facebook or MySpace.

Maybe we just never grew out of that imaginary-audience phase that we first entered into during adolescence.

"My Buddy List really cares what I'm doing all day," we tell ourselves. "Even if I haven't talked to that guy since junior high, I know he must look at my away message at least once every few hours."

AIM has 50 million registered users, according to AOL. That is quite an audience we have, so we are obliged to entertain.

It is not that girls are conceited as a gender; girls just feel more pressure to look a certain way for their peers.

Girls may, and should, feel more pressure from their imaginary audiences than boys do, according to a study on imaginary audience by universities in Belgium and the Netherlands.

If girls feel more pressure from their imaginary audience, then maybe we take longer to grow out of this stage.

Our away messages are just an effect of being stuck in our imaginary audience phase, combined with a need for some organization that we gain from listing our schedule.

Eventually we will grow out of this phase fully and, as we develop, so will our away messages. Until then, enjoy listing your daily schedule in your away message. I know I will.

Election Day promises big deals

BY JOE CARRETTA

Despite the ignorance and apathy of Fairfield students in the field of politics, the midterm election of 2006 will have a huge impact on the direction of our government until the conclusion of the Bush administration.

As the election draws near and I continue to be bombarded by slanderous television ads, I couldn't help but think back to the absurdity of the debate between Diane Farrell and Christopher Shays in the Quick Center.

"I believe we should be Americans first, and Republicans and Democrats second," declared the incumbent Republican Congressman Christopher Shays in a monotone voice.

"See, I believe that we should put an end to the one party domination and restore the system of checks and balances that our founding fathers put into place," countered Diane Farrell, the Democratic challenger. She bobbed her head and pointed her thumb at the sparse crowd assembled for the event.

I squirmed in my seat and looked at my phone to check the time. I realized how childish these congressional debates had become. Four parties were being represented on stage, but only the two major ones, Democratic and Republican, could be taken seriously. As Shays and Farrell engaged in their self-centered banter, it was eerie how similar they

were to a used car salesman trying to sell a car that no one in their right mind would buy.

The first and most important topic in the debate was that of Republican mishandling of the situation in Iraq. Shays was the first to respond. He sheepishly admitted that his party had made some mistakes.

Next time, Shays vowed he would only believe facts he uncovered on his own. He ended with a promise that he and his party should still be trusted with the security of the country, but for some strange reason I wasn't convinced.

Farrell then took the spotlight and wasted no time in aimlessly firing rounds the size of M-16 machine guns at her opponent. She rattled off numbers as if she had a calculator in her head. Farrell went on to emphasize the need for a "timeline of withdrawal" and criticized the administration and her opponent's party for rejecting a bill that called for one. This was an easy task to accomplish since she failed to enlighten us with her party's own timeline. By the end of the debate, I felt more like a shopper than a voter.

When Farrell was finished, I noticed Shays was sitting on his stool mumbling counter arguments to no one in particular. I was sure that if you put 50 pounds on his frame, slicked back jet-black hair on his head and a cigar in his mouth, Chris Shays could be a used car salesman.

He portrayed his own administration as the old brown car in the corner with the

"HUGE SALE; ACT NOW" written on the window with a fluorescent marker. Unsure of whether to buy or walk to the next dealership, the customer is presented with a crumpled piece of paper that the salesman claims provides a truthful history of the car. The salesman boasts to the customer, "My good friends gave me this here report on the car; I'm sure we can trust this information."

Before the customer signs away his or her lifelines, Farrell shouts and offers some free pins and signs from the dealership across the street. The easily distracted consumer mindlessly wanders over and decides to see what the boisterous woman has to offer.

She begins her sales pitch, not on her own cars, but by criticizing the brown car in the lot across the street. She claims the car is completely useless and has an even worse record than the customer could believe. After spewing enough figures to fill a math book, she claims that her cars are much better equipped to get the consumer anywhere they need to go.

Aggravated and fed up, the voter and customer both leave in disgust. Neither one knows which person to gift-wrap their money to. By reluctantly making an investment in a used car, the customer is guaranteed an instant and concrete return for their money - a car. By electing one of the two officials, the voter will get nothing more than the knowledge of what talking head is getting richer off their tax dollars.



Dan McClorey

HE said / SHE said

Meg Donlon

Who needs a budget anyways?

It's that time of year again when every college student who was too lazy to get a job during the semester feels the pain of an empty bank account.

You go to Fairfield University and you fall into one of two categories: you still live off handouts from your parents or you worked hard for every dollar at your summer job. If you are one of the few in the second category, you lament each purchase that doesn't involve alcohol.

You know damn well that you have recently debated over a purchase of X dollars because that money could instead have been put towards Y amount of Busch Light thirty packs. A \$40 parking ticket? "Damn, this is going to cost me three thirty packs to pay this."

Money management represents a major issue for us as college students. Sometimes we must learn the hard way how to manage our funds responsibly.

Last year, my friends and I traveled to New York City for my friend David's 21st birthday and decided to culture ourselves at the dance theatre "Flashdance."

Now I don't think that we were on Broadway, but wow did these women put on a show! Their dancing skills were great and they even came off the stage and danced for the crowd. Talk about audience involvement! I myself received

one of these personal dances and I was so impressed with this particular dancer's flexibility that I got nine more.

Unfortunately, this cost \$200 more. I know that it was \$200 because two large men that could have doubled for Nate Newton and D'Brickshaw Ferguson insisted that I pay before I leave.

I became extremely nervous because I wasn't sure I had the money, and Nate and D'Brickshaw didn't appear to have any sense of humor.

Thankfully, my ATM card worked.

Upon viewing my bank statement the next morning, I was relieved that I had \$70 left, until I realized that the number appeared in red and was preceded by a negative sign. I would love to say that I learned something, but of course I didn't. This actually happened to me twice last year.

Proper money management may be asking a lot of college students and clearly I'm no expert on this topic. I guess if you have the same money management issues as myself, the only option you're left with is the George Costanza method of doing things.

Just do everything opposite of what you would normally do and everything will turn out all right. Isn't it reassuring to know that in times of financial trouble and doubt, we can always turn to George Costanza?

Even though many Fairfield U students appear to be better off than much of the faculty here, there are still some Frugal Fannies among us who understand what it means to be a college student on a budget.

For those of you BMW-driving, never-had-a-job, never-even-heard-the-words-"financial aid" students, a "budget" is an estimate of expected income and expense for a given period in the future.

Moving on, for those of us who do know all too well what a budget is, I'm sure we have shared in many of the wonderful experiences that come along with being a broke college student.

When you have no money, "sell by," no longer means "consume by," and expiration dates really become more suggestive than cautionary.

Also, it's possible that you may have contemplated joining several university clubs/organizations simply because they offer refreshments at their meetings. Holler if you hear me.

Having no cash is part of being a college student. Until you start selling your blood for cash or signing yourself up for a lab study for a quick 100 bones, I would say it's probably not something to worry too much about.

However, if you don't want to be scrambling the last two months of school and living on a steady diet of government regulated cheese, you could (brace yourselves) - get a job.

Oh crap, I forgot, many of you readers are unfamiliar with this lingo. A "job" is a piece of work, perhaps a specific task done as part of the routine of one's occupation for an agreed price.

I myself have had the pleasure of obtaining employment in many different establishments in the area.

There was the family I babysat for several months, but they stopped calling me as often after I accidentally saw the Dad naked (great story- some other time maybe).

There was the restaurant where there were two Meaghans working there, but they thought we were one person.

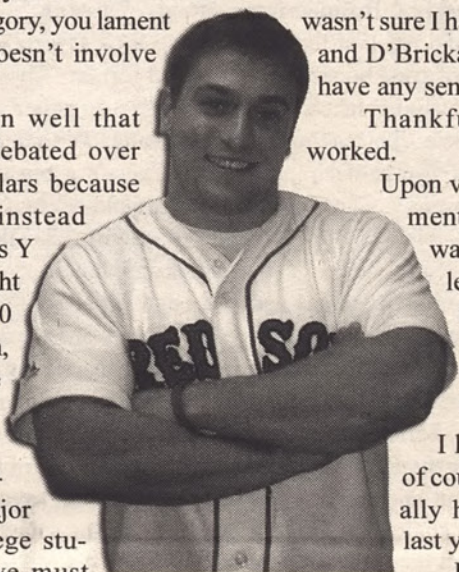
And who could forget my internship with the woman who started her own home business? I loved walking her dog everyday, you know, the "real life" experience that only a hands-on internship can offer.

The moral of the story is: we're college students and

we're supposed to be a little broke every now and again.

It's expected that every once in a while we spend all day watching "Next" and "Parental Control" while enjoying a few icy Natty Lights that we may have just emptied our bank account to purchase.

My best advice would be to stay thrifty and when you find yourself really in a pinch for the Benjamins, I recommend following this classic advice: "Why don't you get a job?" - The Offspring



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Men look to avenge last year's MAAC loss

CONTINUED FROM P. 16

a versatile defender who also contributes on the offensive side, has three goals on the season.

Along with Tom Clements '09 and Tom Skara '08, Troy has helped goalie, Francini, to his low goals against average. The team has had some defensive lapses this season, especially in the losses to Loyola and Harvard, but Rees believes that the defense has been a strong part of the team.

"The heart of the defense has been dynamite for us all year," he said.

Cunliffe leads the team with eight goals and 18 points. His eight goals are second most

in the MAAC. Along with Cunliffe, junior Sam Bailey, and freshmen Paul McQuade and Christian Uy, provide four offensive threats for the Stags.

Uy's five goals rank second on the team, while Bailey's four goals rank third.



Contributed photo

High times: Alex Cunliffe '07 and the Stags will have an uphill battle to win the MAAC beginning with Loyola on Thursday.

McQuade has three goals of his own, but his MAAC high of five assists have been a very big help for the Stags this season. Bailey has four assists of his own, to earn him twelve points, which ties him with McQuade for second on the team.

Last season the Stags also won the regular season championship, but lost in the final round of the MAAC Championship to Marist in front of over 1,000 fans at Lessing Field. This year the team will look to give the home crowd a win.

"Playing at home is definitely an important factor," said Rees. "The quality of the surface at Lessing Field lends itself to the passing game that we play and being in front of the home crowd is great."

"We hope that everyone can come out on Thursday night to support us," he added.

If the Stags advance past Loyola, then they will face the winner of St. Peter's and Niagara on Sunday, also at Lessing Field. The Stags defeated both Niagara, 2-0, and St. Peter's, 2-1, earlier this season.

Women look to repeat last year's MAAC title

CONTINUED FROM P. 16

have exhibited all year into Sunday energy this weekend, as well.

"Our team always seems to play very well on Friday nights here at Fairfield."

"All teams have a short recovery period in conference play, but we seem to be slow to get going on Sunday afternoon games. It is clearly something we need to address in order to succeed this weekend," O'Brien said.

On Sunday Fairfield set out against Niagara, the team they beat in the MAAC Championship last year 2-1, looking for the number two seed in the tournament. Following Senior Day festivities that honored Betsy Nyman, Katie Ely, and Mrowka, Niagara got off to a quick start.

Canadian Niagara player Jenna Sporta received a feed from Brittany Bisnott and was able to lift it up into the back of the net for the eventual game-winner.

It was a very windy day in Fairfield and with the wind behind their backs, the Purple Eagles out-shot the Stags 14-5 in the game, including 11-2 in the second half in both shots and corner kicks overall.

Though Fairfield did nearly capitalize off of one of their two corners when Frobey just missed, Niagara goalkeeper Sara Stephens held on for the shutout while recording just one save.

Nyman tied a school record for games

started with 77. The South Glastonbury, Conn. native missed just one game in four years as a Stag.

Fairfield finished with 17 points, while Niagara rounded out with 19.

O'Brien is confident the team will do



Katie McCarthy/ The Mirror

Revenge: The Stags will look to repeat their 2005 MAAC Championship victory this weekend beginning with Niagara.

well.

"Niagara is a solid team, but I think we will be very prepared since we faced them and lost on Sunday," he said.

Friday on Lessing Field will set up a rematch of last year's final and last weekend's match at 7 p.m.

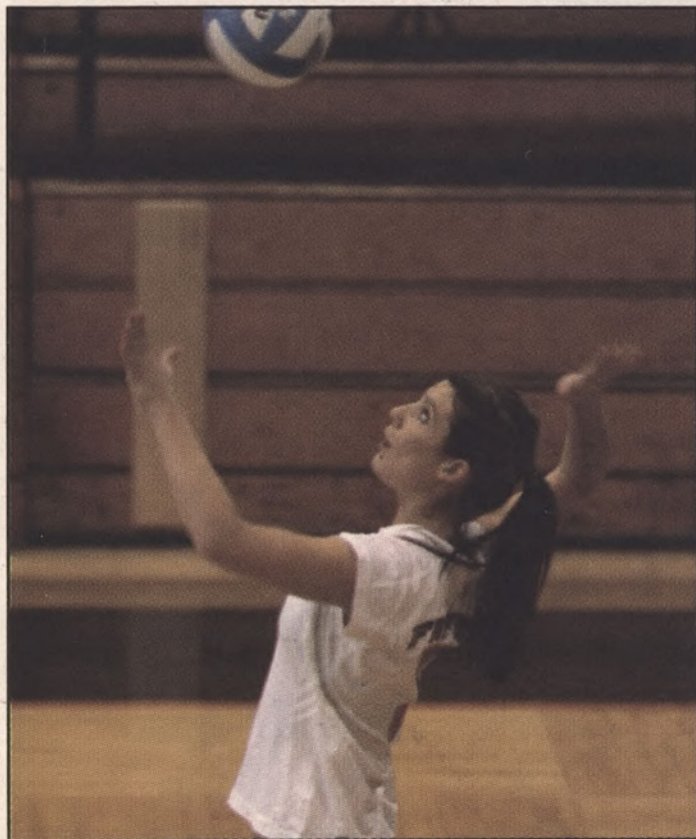
"Our team is in the conference tournament and the stakes are high. I believe the team will be ready to win the championship again," said O'Brien.

Volleyball winning streak reaches 14

BY FRANK ROMANO

In the 2004 and 2005 seasons the women's volleyball team advanced to the MAAC championship match only to suffer two heartbreaking losses.

However, this year's team does not dwell on the past—it feeds off it. That's why the 2006 Stags are on a mission.



Lorraine Lampe/ The Mirror

Heads High: Kelly Oliver '08 led Thursday's game, tallying 13 kills and 20 digs.

So far, Fairfield has steamrolled past the rest of the competition in MAAC play, notching a 14-0 record after three shutout victories last week.

Fairfield Head Coach Jeff Werneke attributed the team's success to its overall attitude, work ethic and desire.

"This year's team is a little more focused and mature than last year's. And they're hungry," he said.

"Everyday we make an improvement. We only focus on what we can take care of. We see what the other team is giving us and we take that," he added.

Junior Lindsey Lee summed up the Stags' demeanor perfectly.

"You never have to question the hard work or intensity of this team," she said proudly.

The drive didn't let up versus Iona on Thursday, Marist on Saturday, or Siena on Sunday. The Stags' supercharged offense dominated the matches, while key digs and crisp passing on defense stifled any threats their opponents had to offer.

Junior Kelly Oliver led Thursday's assault with 13 kills and 20 digs. Lee and fellow ju-

nior Jazmin Pa'akaula also contributed. Lee tallied a double-double in kills and digs, while Pa'akaula almost got a triple-double in kills, digs and assists. As a team, the Stags dominated Iona in blocks, digs and kills.

The trouncing continued into the weekend. Fairfield took the lead early against Marist and never looked back, cruising to 30-13, 30-13 and 30-24 victories. Fairfield notched a .415 attack percentage overall, while Marist hit only .022.

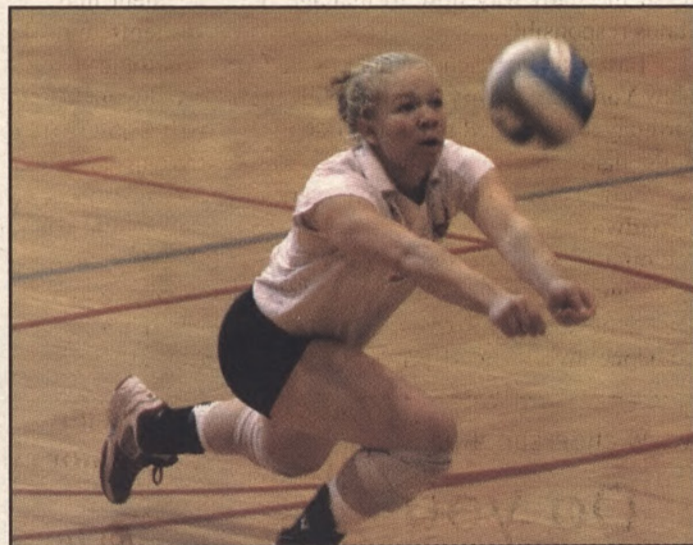
Fairfield got its 14th MAAC win on Sunday at Alumni Hall versus No. 2 Siena. Barbie Thistle and Katie Mann continued to prove why they are two of the league's standout freshmen, leading the offense against a team some see as the Stags toughest conference opponent. Mann had a .667 attack percentage, while Thistle hit .429, in addition to tallying 43 assists.

Lee was so in awe of her two young teammates that she was almost speechless.

"They're not freshmen. They came in playing like upperclassmen. They're just not freshmen to me," she said finally.

Mann explained why the transition to college-level play has been so smooth for her and Thistle.

"We work really well on the court. We



Lorraine Lampe/ The Mirror

Down and dirty: Lindsey Lee '08 and the Stags top the MAAC with three shutout victories in one week.

pump each other up. We both have really good work ethics and that's helped a lot," said Mann.

For Werneke, the reason for the team's overall production is clear.

"The key to our offense is passing," he said. Noting the blistering offensive pace Fairfield has maintained over the last three games, he added, "we have one of the fastest offenses in the conference."

Looking back on the past week's success, Mann was very pleased.

"We have not given up," she said. "From day one, our goal has been a MAAC Championship. We haven't even peaked yet."

This week, the Stags complete their final homestand at Alumni Hall. They face Rider on Friday at 7 p.m. and Manhattan on Saturday at 2 p.m.



The return of the MAAC

Men's soccer finish first, look to build off last season's Championship loss

BY TOM CLEARY

The Fairfield men's soccer team entered the season with the goal of winning the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championship.

Now, with the regular season over, the Stags are one step closer to achieving that goal, entering the MAAC Championship as the No. 1 seed. The Stags finished the season with an overall record of 12-5-1 and a 7-2 record in the MAAC, to win the regular season championship.

The team finished the season with a weekend trip to Buffalo, where they played against Canisius and Niagara on Friday and Sunday. Fairfield failed to clinch the top spot in the tournament against Canisius, losing 1-0 in overtime.

On Sunday, the Stags bounced back, winning 2-0 to clinch the regular season championship. Alex Cunliffe '07 scored his eighth goal of the season, which is sixth most in a season in Fairfield history.

Sam Bailey '08 added his fourth goal of the year and goalkeeper Jon Paul Francini '08 picked up his fourth shutout of the year, while lowering his MAAC goals against

average to 0.81.

Senior, Mike Troy, was proud of the team's performance.

"We played good, we were a little unlucky Friday, but we definitely outplayed

Sunday," he added.

Though the Stags now hold the No. 1 seed in the MAAC Championship, the road to their goal is a tough one.

The MAAC games begin Thursday at

Men's Soccer MAAC Matchup
vs. Loyola (Md.)
November 2, 2006 7:00 pm, Fairfield
Previous Meeting: Greyhounds 1 - Stags 0
Player to Watch: Alex Cunliffe '07; led the Stags in goals (8) during his final season

Illustration by Dan Akeson/ The Mirror

them [Canisius]," Troy said. "It was raining and was difficult to score. Sunday was awesome; it felt great to win the MAAC regular season championship.

Cunliffe agreed with Troy.

"We played very well in difficult conditions," said Cunliffe. "With the games being as big as they were, we played very well."

"It was unfortunate that we lost on Friday, but we did what we needed to on

Lessing Field, with two semifinal games and end Sunday with the championship. The Stags' semifinal opponent is the Loyola Greyhounds, who defeated the Stags 1-0 on Oct. 20.

If Fairfield defeats Loyola, the team will face the winner of the St. Peter's and Niagara game. St. Peter's fell to the Stags, 2-1 in overtime on Oct. 15. The game ended the Stags' 15 game MAAC unbeaten

streak.

Cunliffe believes that their experience against Loyola will be a valuable one.

"Having played well against Loyola once this season is a big plus," Cunliffe said. "We know what they are about."

Troy also feels that the team will be motivated to win after losing in such a close game.

"We are very well prepared," said Troy. "We know how they play: they sit back and defend, so we know that we have to attack."

"We are not going to let them beat us twice," he added.

Head Coach Carl Rees feels that knowledge of the opponent helps, but he does not want the team to get too hung up on Loyola.

"While the more knowledge of a team you have the better. We need to make sure that we are not focused too much on Loyola," Rees said. "We need to focus on the way our team plays and continue to do the things we have done well all year to get us to this point."

The Stags are led by Troy and Cunliffe, who anchor the offense and defense. Troy,

SEE "MEN" P. 15

Women's soccer begin quest for repeat of '05 MAAC Championship victory

BY BRENDAN MONAHAN

In a perfect world for Fairfield's women's soccer team, a weekend sweep would have guaranteed a second place finish in the MAAC on home turf this weekend. In a perfect world, though, there also would be no revenge, which is just what the doctor is ordering as the Stags take on Niagara to kick off postseason play on Friday night.

Last weekend Fairfield rolled over Canisius with a 2-0 score to catapult themselves into the second season, but fell just short of moving up a seed by falling at the hands of the same Niagara team on tap for Friday, 1-0.

On Friday Fairfield was led by the clutch performance of senior Laura Mrowka, who netted both Stag goals for the victory.

After a scoreless first half in which Fairfield dominated play with a 15-2 shots edge, the Stags came out firing after the break. At the 49:14 mark, freshman Casey Frobey centered the ball from the near side of the field to the far post, where Mrowka was

awaiting the feed. The Branford, Conn., native slammed the pass past Canisius goalkeeper Jenna Gage for the game-winning tally.

For insurance the team would again turn

Fairfield to climb to a 2-0 lead.

That was all the Stags would need, as junior goalkeeper Brett Maron recorded three saves to pick up her seventh shutout of the

Women's Soccer MAAC Matchup
vs. Niagara
November 3, 2006 7:00 pm, Fairfield
Previous Meeting: Purple Eagles 1 - Stags 0
Player to Watch: Brett Maron '08, has a .87 goals against average as the Stags top goalie

Illustration by Dan Akeson

to Mrowka at the 63:22 mark, when it was junior Alex Caram who fed to Mrowka sprinting down the far side.

Caram took the ball from the near side and sent it through the box to the far post where it met the foot of Mrowka, enabling

season.

Fairfield Head Coach Jim O'Brien was pleased with the win, though he now hopes the team can sustain the Friday pressure they

SEE "WOMEN" P. 15

MAAC Tournament Schedule

Men

St. Peter's v. Niagara
 Nov. 2, 4 p.m.
 Stags v. Loyola
 Nov. 2, 7 p.m.
 Championship:
 Nov. 5, 11 a.m.

Women

Siena v. Loyola
 Nov. 3, 4 p.m.
 Stags v. Niagara
 Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
 Championship:
 Nov. 5, 1 p.m.

This Week Online at www.fairfieldmirror.com

- FIELD HOCKEY ends season with 2-1 victory at Robert Morris
- COACHING TENURE: Keeping coaches in the small schools
- BASKETBALL: Exhibition coverage at the Arena at Harboryard

ANIMAL HOUSE

Your guide to the nuttiest campaign season in recent memory

INSIDE:

- Fairfield's own anti-Lieberman
- Eight exclusive questions for Shays and Farrell
- *The Mirror's* endorsements



AMERICA'S BATTLEGROUND

The fight for power in Washington hinges on big races in Connecticut

BY KATIE BARRY

The upcoming midterm election is being publicized as one of the most important elections of our generation, with Connecticut politicians playing an integral role. But what exactly is up for grabs on Nov. 7?

The Republican Party controls both the executive and legislative branches of our government, with a Republican President, House and Senate.

However, many say the Democratic Party has a chance to take back the House of Representatives for the first time since 1994, when Republicans won 52 seats and ended over 40 years of Democratic rule.

An Oct. 18 NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll says that public disdain with Congress is at its highest levels since the upheaval in 1994, with only 16 percent of those polled approving of the way Congress is performing, and 47 percent stating they were "less in favor of keeping Republicans in control of Congress."

The Democratic National Committee has thus geared its focus towards 50 congressional districts — "the fighting 50" — three of which are in Connecticut.

The Connecticut fourth, which includes Fairfield, is home to one of the most closely watched congressional races in the Northeast.

In 2004, Democrat Diane Farrell came within four percentage points of defeating Republican incumbent Christopher Shays, and this year she hopes to achieve what she previously lost.

In a recent *Hartford Courant*/UConn poll, the two candidates are in a dead heat, each gaining support from 43 percent of likely voters.

Farrell has accused Shays of often siding with President Bush, whose approval ratings hover in the low 30's — a technique being employed by many Democratic Candidates, while Shays has spent much of his campaign profiling his moderate views and experience in Congress.

"I am running because this Republican majority has misplaced priorities that have lead us in the wrong direction in Iraq and here at home. It's time for a change," Farrell says.

However, Michael Sohn '98, Shays' campaign manager, says Shays independence is reason for re-election. "[Shays] is the most independent, experienced and responsibility driven candidate in this race," he says.

Also in play is the Connecticut fifth, a seat currently held by Republican Nancy Johnson, who has been in Congress since 1982. She is being challenged by Democratic State Sen. Chris Murphy.

In the latest *Courant*/UConn poll, the challenger holds leads by four percentage points over the 71-year-old incumbent, attracting support from 46 percent of likely voters, while Johnson trails with 42 percent.

Johnson believes her experience showcases her dedication to her constituents. "Nancy has a deep commitment to the people of the 5th District," says Johnson campaign manager Dave Boomer.

need to take control of their country, and this election is about the American people taking control of theirs."

Democratic Reps. John Larson (first district) and Rosa DeLauro (third) are considered shoo-ins for re-election.

The Democrats need to win 15 seats to take back control of the House, so one fifth of those seats could come from Connecticut if Farrell, Courtney and Johnson all win.

The Connecticut Senate race has also been the site of national attention, after 18 year incumbent Joseph Lieberman lost the Democratic primary to businessman Ned Lamont.

Lamont, who scored one of the biggest upsets in political history when by winning 52 percent of the vote in the primary, climbed to within four percentage points of Lieberman in an Oct. 31 Zogby poll, indicating the race is close to a dead heat.

Lamont has spent most of his campaign arguing against Lieberman's support of the Iraq War.

"It's time for a change. Joe [Lieberman] has been part of the problem in pushing for the Iraq War and its disastrous results, he can't be part of the solution to end it," he says.

Lieberman's campaign, however, is focusing on Lieberman's history of independence within the Senate. "Joe Lieberman ... is just what most Connecticut voters expect

from a Senator — an independent-minded leader who makes up his mind on the issues based on what is right and what is best for Connecticut," says campaign manager Sherry Brown.

The New York Times currently has 47 Senate seats as safely Republican, 40 seats leaning Democrat, two leaning Republican, eight leaning Democrat, and three toss-ups. The toss up states include New Jersey, Tennessee and Montana. It is difficult to foresee if the Senate will change political hands.

Connecticut races will be closely watched on November 7, and it is possible that their results will change the course of a nation.

U.S. HOUSE RACES IN CONNECTICUT		
District	Democrat	Republican
1	JOHN LARSON	Scott McLean
2	Joe Courtney	ROB SIMMONS
3	ROSA DELAURO	Joseph Vollano
4	Diane Farrell	CHRIS SHAYS*
5	Chris Murphy	NANCY JOHNSON

Incumbants in all caps * Represents Fairfield and surrounding area.

Murphy, though, is trying to hammer home the message Democrats across the country are preaching: that each and every Republican Congressman is joined at the hip with the increasingly unpopular House leadership.

"If Nancy Johnson can't stand up to her leadership," Murphy says, "then she certainly isn't standing up for here people here in Connecticut."

The Connecticut second — a district that spans from the Massachusetts border to the Long Island Sound, covering almost half the state — is held by Republican incumbent Rob Simmons.

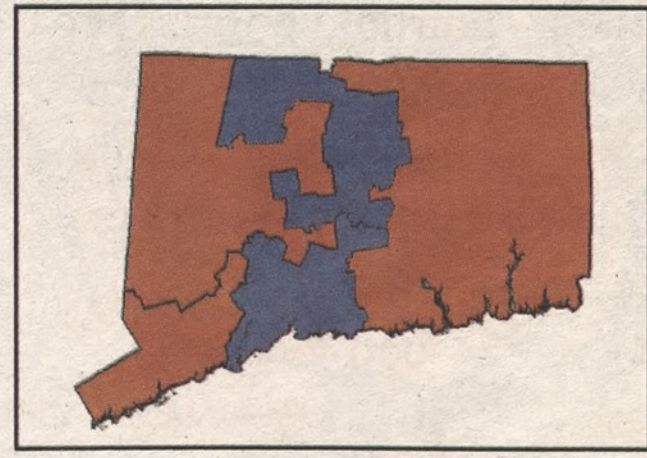
Simmons, who won a narrow re-election victory in 2004 over Democrat Jim Sullivan, is being challenged by Connecticut Assemblyman Joe Courtney.

Simmons' campaign manager, Christopher Healey, says Courtney has wavered on important issues, such as the war in Iraq.

"In 2002, Courtney supported the war on terror in Iraq. Today his silence is deafening," he says.

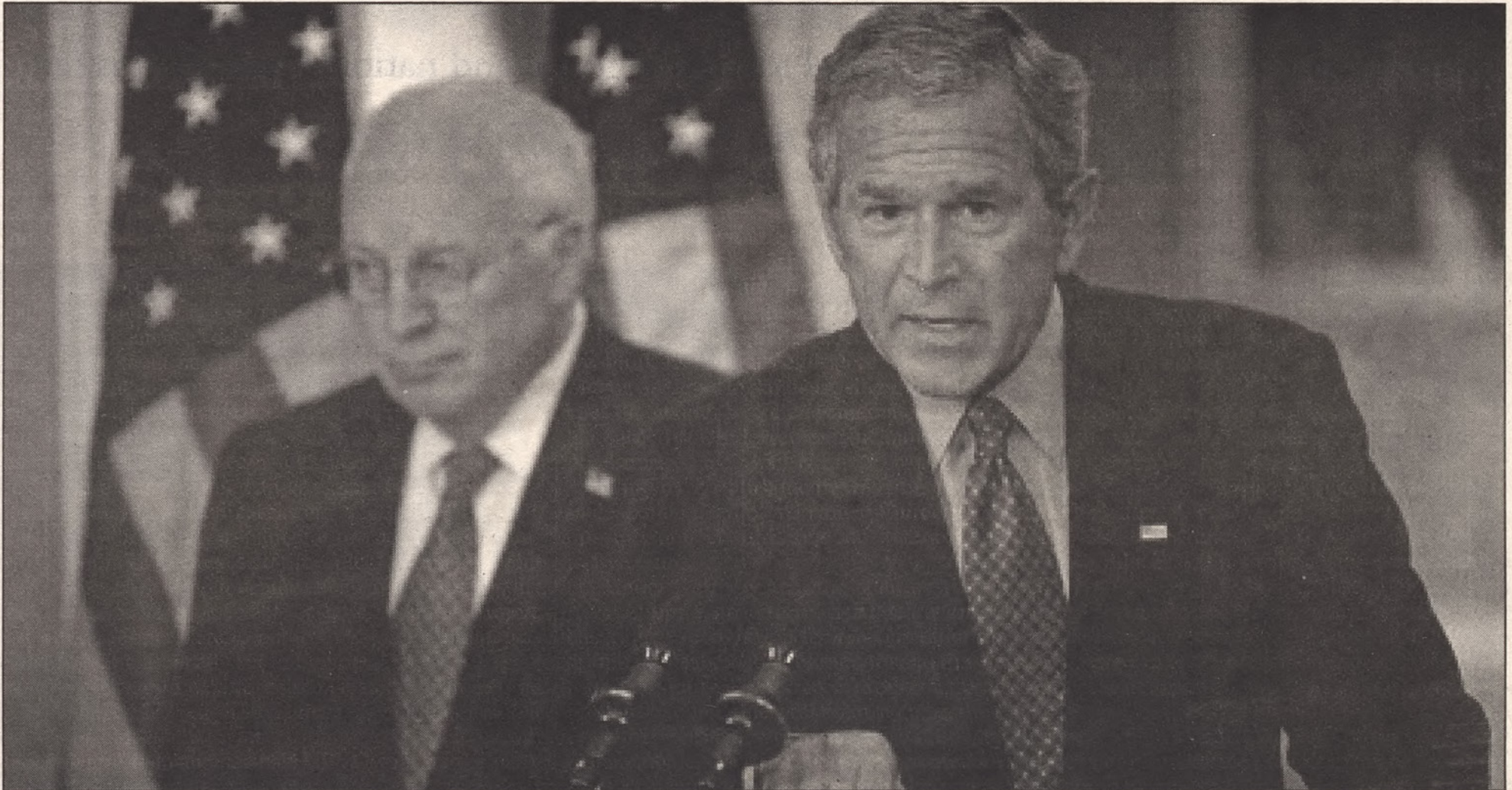
Meanwhile, Courtney has attacked Simmons' "Stay the Course" plan for Iraq, calling Simmons' support of Bush as "craven" and "shameful."

Courtney has spent much of his campaign arguing for a change in Iraq, saying publicly that "the people of Iraq



Katie McCarthy/The Mirror
One state two state, red state blue state: Three of Connecticut's five House seats are currently held by Republicans (red), but that could change come Election Day.

BUSHWACKED



Contributed photo

Struggling: Bush's low approval ratings have dragged down GOP incumbents like Christopher Shays of Connecticut.

Republican incumbents are running away from the President

BY CHRISTOPHER HALISKOE AND BEN DOODY

Twenty-two years ago, as the hype around the upcoming election season grew, the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in Connecticut's fourth district couldn't escape the aura of the President.

The candidate, a little-known Fairfield politics professor named John Orman, was up against a popular incumbent -- U.S. Rep Stuart McKinney -- and stood little chance of being elected.

But the dagger in Orman's heart may well have come when President Ronald Reagan, well on his way to a landslide re-election victory over former Vice President Walter Mondale, landed his helicopter in the middle of the Fairfield soccer field, and proceeded to rally up sup-

port for McKinney and other Republicans at a rally in downtown Fairfield.

Fast forward two decades, replace Reagan with George W. Bush, and insert U.S. Rep Christopher Shays, R-4 and Diane Farrell as the congressional candidates, and the situation couldn't possibly be more different.

Shays, who was first elected to the House in a special election after McKinney died of AIDS in 1987, can't run far enough from Bush, whose approval rating in Con-

"It's really TORTURED HIS MIND,"

Orman says. "He's a strong supporter of the President. He's one of the strong supporters of the war on terror, but he knows the fourth district is one of the most anti-war districts in Connecticut."

necticut has been below 30 percent for most of the past two years.

Search the Congressman's campaign literature or listen to his radio advertisements, and you won't see or hear the word "Republican" -- the one word that could cost him re-election to an 11th term.

Bush has made two trips to Connecticut over the past six months, neither of which helped Shays' re-election bid.

Last spring, when the President stopped in Bridgeport to give a speech, Farrell held a press conference denouncing Bush and Shays.

And last month, when Bush spent an afternoon in Greenwich raising money for Republican candidates, Shays opted to spend the day campaigning in other parts of the state.

Farrell, meanwhile, is running TV ads featuring a woman telling the audience that Shays is "representing George W. Bush instead of his constituents."

Such is the case in districts across the country, where Democrats are seeking to take advantage of the President's record lack of popularity, and Republicans like Shays are running on platforms of independence and moderation.

"In '84," Orman says, "Reagan was in a secret war in Nicaragua. Now, Bush is in a not-so-secret war in Iraq, and that's going to be a key issue on election day."

In New Jersey, Senator Bob Menendez, in an official television ad, starts with a picture of his opponent Tom Kean Jr., and then actually morphs Kean's face into Bush's face. The ad states "If it looks like George Bush, acts like George Bush, it is George Bush."

Ryan Wolfe, deputy director of "Victory 2006", an organization devoted to Republican campaigns in Connecticut, says the GOP has to stick up for its core values.

"National security, economic growth and international relations are all issues that hinge on the balance of power in Washington," he says. "Republicans stand for lower taxes, a strong national defense and maintaining a priority of securing the homeland."

But Republicans who have focused on those issues have done so without mentioning the President's name.

Shays speaks regularly about national security, but the accomplishments he touts -- such as creating the 9/11 Commission -- are often pieces of legislation that were passed despite objections from the White House.

"It's really tortured his mind," Orman says. "He's a strong supporter of the President. He's one of the strong supporters of the war on terror, but he knows the fourth district is one of the most anti-war districts in Connecticut."

"He's a New England Republican, so he wants people to know he's not an evangelical from Oklahoma."

FRONT AND CENTER

Three **Fairfield alums** are playing critical roles in regional and national politics this fall

BY ALI BART

Working 70 hours a week on three to four hours of sleep a night. Some may call it exciting. Others may call it suicide.

But Amanda Johnson '05, Heather Morassini '05 and Michael Sohn '98 call it life.

Being able to stomach the intensity of political campaigning is not for the weary, and these three Fairfield alumni are currently working with thick skin and bags under their eyes – some to evoke change, some to maintain consistency and some against each other.

Sohn has been the campaign manager for U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays R-4 for almost six years. In the 2004 election, Sohn helped Shays, an incumbent since 1987, defeat challenger Diane Farrell by a four percentage points.

Two years later, the Democrats are ruthlessly attempting to win over Congress, and Shays looks to an even tougher race against the same contender. Sohn looks to even less shut-eye.

"Every campaign is exhausting because there's a deadline to it all," says Sohn. "You have to put every bit of energy into the campaign, and sometimes that means you forget to sleep, you forget about your health and you forget to do your laundry. It takes over your whole life and becomes the most important thing."

Before working for Shays, Sohn began his career in politics fresh out of Fairfield working as a legislative assistant at the House of Representatives. Sohn also worked on former Fairfield first selectman John Metsopoulos's campaign and in 2000 was the Fairfield director of special projects. After Metsopoulos lost in 2001, Sohn began his career with Shays.

Working on the other side of the political spectrum is Morassini, a research analyst for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). Her job consists of conducting research that is put into paid media ads.

"All of the prep work we did in months past is the reason the Democrats are in a good position in races around the country," says Morassini.

While a senior at Fairfield, Morassini knew she wanted to work in Washington, D.C. She later attended George Washington University to obtain a master's degree in public policy. After turning down a fundraising position for a firm at which she once interned, Morassini concentrated on school while networking with Congressmen and staffers on the Hill.

Come January, Morassini accepted an intern position at the DCCC.

"I really love having a schedule and a purpose," says Morassini. "Every day when I come into the office I know what I have to accomplish, and everything that I write gets me an A in the eyes of the campaigns that benefit from it."

On the local scale, Johnson has been working as a field director for Tim Murray, mayor of Worcester, Mass., and Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor of Massachusetts. The resources to fund a large staff are limited when running for a lower state position, so Johnson has her plate full.

She is trying to get Murray's name recognized in 40 communities through phone banking, canvasses, lawn signs and attending events.

"I work a lot," says Johnson. "Campaigning is not a 40-hour a week job. I don't make much money, and I work on average about 70 hours a week. But I love it and am extremely dedicated to my job."

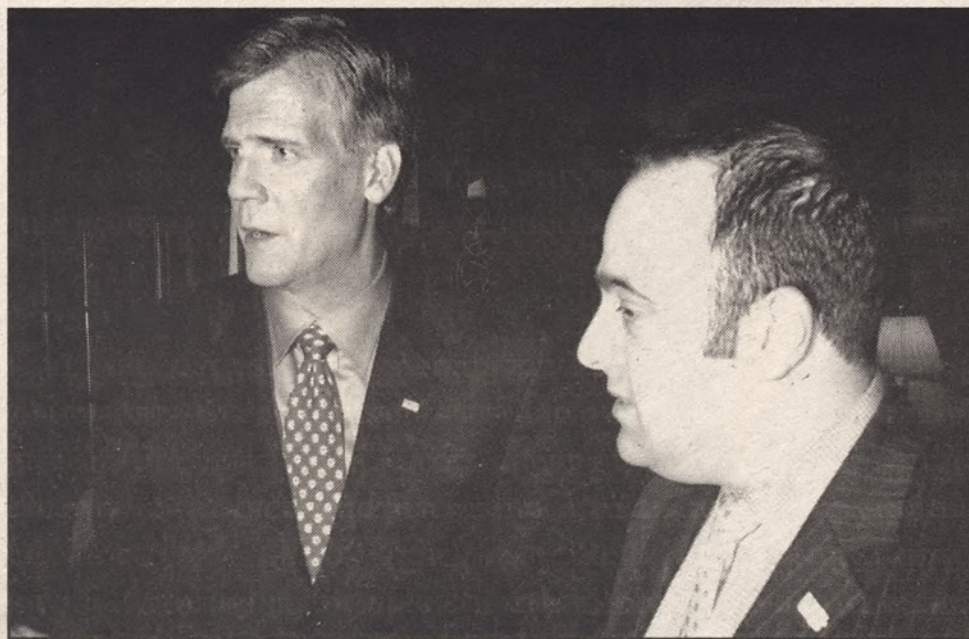
Johnson was involved in her Democratic town committee and was working at a summer job when a friend submitted Johnson's resume to Murray. Two interviews and a few phone calls later, Johnson was hired.

"I was afraid to take the job," says Johnson. "It seemed too good to be true. I was also scared of the idea of working so many hours and dedicating my life to something I had no idea whether I would like or not."

Fairfield generates more than the typical "9-to-5er," and these alumni are able to attribute some of their fundamental skills to their experience at the University.

"I had many wonderful professors at Fairfield who taught me how to think on my toes," says Sohn. "You've got to be quick from their questioning in the classroom. ... You have to multitask and keep the balls in the air, which you learn from a demanding class schedule."

Being involved outside the classroom doesn't hurt either, they said.



Contributed photos

Good company: Above, Michael Sohn '98 chats with White House Press Secretary Tony Snow. Mandy Johnson '05 poses with Massachusetts Lt. Gov. candidate Tim Mur-

"Every campaign is exhausting because there's a deadline to it all," says Sohn. "You have to put every bit of energy into the campaign, and **SOMETIMES YOU FORGET TO SLEEP**, you forget about your health and you forget to do your laundry."

"Taking the initiative to be involved helped expand my options and focused on the idea that I still loved politics and wanted to be involved," says Johnson. "It encouraged me not to take the easy way out or stay with my job that wasn't in my field. Instead, it pushed me to try something that could have been scary and has ended up being a life-changing and fascinating experience."

In addition, the amount of pressure-packed deadlines does not change in politics after college.

"An election itself is pretty challenging. Campaigning is always a battle of having too much to do in too little time. It's a race against

the clock," says Johnson.

Sohn is also familiar with the pressures.

"You can't be a procrastinator," he says, "because once it's all over, you can't go back and do things differently."



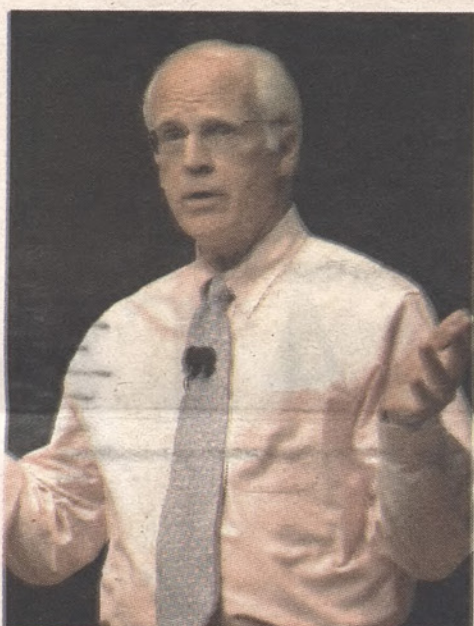
FOR DEBATE

Not sure who to vote for? We asked the two candidates for Southwestern Connecticut's seat in the House of Representatives eight questions that matter to college students. Whether they're talking about Iraq or student grants, their answers reveal a lot about who they are and what they stand for. Turn the page for the answers from Chris Shays and Diane Farrell.

1. *What specific policies or proposals do you favor that make you the better candidate than your opponent on issues relating to national security?*

SHAYS: In 1998, I was appointed chairman of the House Government Reform Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations and immediately changed its focus to address international terrorism. My subcommittee oversees the Departments of Defense, State and Homeland Security, and I have chaired 97 hearings on terrorism issues – 22 before September 11, 2001.

I have helped lead efforts to improve counterterrorism and strengthen national preparedness by creating the 9-11 Commission, the Department of Homeland Security and a Director of National Intelligence; conducting a tough oversight of the Administration's policies, especially in Iraq, through 14 oversight trips and 19 hearings; ensuring better body armor and more fully armored HUMVEEs for our



troops; requiring 100 percent screening of checked baggage on airplanes; funding our Civil Liberties Oversight Board; and passing legislation to protect pet owners and their pets during emergency evacuations.

There is still work to be done. We need to continue confronting Islamist terrorism at home and abroad by securing our borders; becoming energy independent; fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations; conducting tough oversight of our operations in Iraq; screening cargo on passenger planes and ships; and strengthening security at our ports and chemical plants.

FARRELL: Unlike my opponent, I have never voted for or supported the war in Iraq, which has made us less safe, according to the National Intelligence Estimate recently released by 16 U.S. intelligence agencies. President Bush and Chris Shays took their eye off the ball. Instead of focusing on the real threat – the terrorism made so brutally apparent on Sept. 11, 2001 – they chose to put their effort and money into invading a country that did not attack us and was not a threat. I would have made a different choice – securing Afghanistan from the Taliban and focusing on capturing Osama bin Laden.

Two years after the publication of the 9-11 recommendations, some have yet to be fulfilled. My opponent says that he sup-

ports them and has fought to pass them, but his party has controlled the White House, the House, and the Senate for those two years, and that job hasn't gotten done, leaving us vulnerable to those who would do us harm. Nancy Pelosi, who will become Speaker of the House in a Democratic Congress, has said that passing the 9-11 recommendations will be the very first bill we take up next January. I look forward to that day.

2. *How soon and under what specific circumstances do you propose American troops be redeployed from Iraq?*

SHAYS: We dug ourselves a deep hole in Iraq when we allowed looting, did not secure munitions depots and disbanded the Iraqi army, police and border patrol, leaving 150,000 coalition soldiers to defend 26 million Iraqis in a country the size of California.

We started to see progress in June of 2004 when we transferred power to the Iraqi people. They set and met deadlines for three elections, writing and ratifying their constitution and electing and swearing in a new government. Regretfully, the new Iraqi government has not shown the political will to make the tough decisions. We need to force the issue by setting firm timelines for Iraqi security forces to replace our troops; doing police work to motivate Iraqi politicians to set their own deadlines for provincial elections, amnesty, reconciliation and the final drafting of its constitution.

We also need to convene a conference with Iraq's seven neighboring countries to involve them directly in the future stability of Iraq and hold a plebiscite for Iraqis to decide whether they support the timeline. Without their two-thirds support, we should begin to leave even earlier.

Iraqis need to take ownership of their democracy and destiny.

FARRELL: I opposed this war from the very beginning; my opponent supported the invasion, voted for it, and claims we should have gone in before 9-11, even if we had known there were no weapons of mass destruction. It was a war of choice sold on dubious intelligence that we never should have begun. It has cost us the lives of 2,700 Americans, over \$250 million a day, and again, we are no safer.

President Bush's stay-the-course policy, which Chris Shays supported for more than three years, has failed. I support a concerted diplomatic effort to bring the warring parties in Iraq to the table to negotiate a ceasefire and a long-term political solution to bring stability to the region. A third-party negotiator should be designated to work with all sides to establish an equitable power-sharing arrangement that could well temporarily involve three semi-autonomous regions. This will create a framework for stability, allowing us to designate measurable benchmarks or a timetable for redeploying U.S. troops.

3. *Is Iran a serious threat to the security of the United States or its allies? If so, what specific actions do you propose the United States take in order to keep President Mamhouth Ahmadinejad in check?*

It is clear Iran is pursuing nuclear capabilities and is one of the world's largest exporters of terrorism. Simply put, they are a threat not only to the U.S., but to the world at large.

I am hopeful ongoing discussions between the Iranians and the U.N. to craft a permanent nuclear agreement will be successful. This agreement must require Iran end its uranium enrichment program. If an acceptable agreement is not reached, the Security Council – with the full support of Russia, China and particularly Europe though NATO – should enact comprehensive and multilateral sanctions against Iran.

FARRELL: The Bush administration's unwillingness to engage diplomatically and their single-minded focus on Iraq have led us to the current situation in Iran. Their actions make it clear that they feel that they have little to fear from the U.S., with our damaged diplomatic abilities and military capabilities stretched by that conflict.

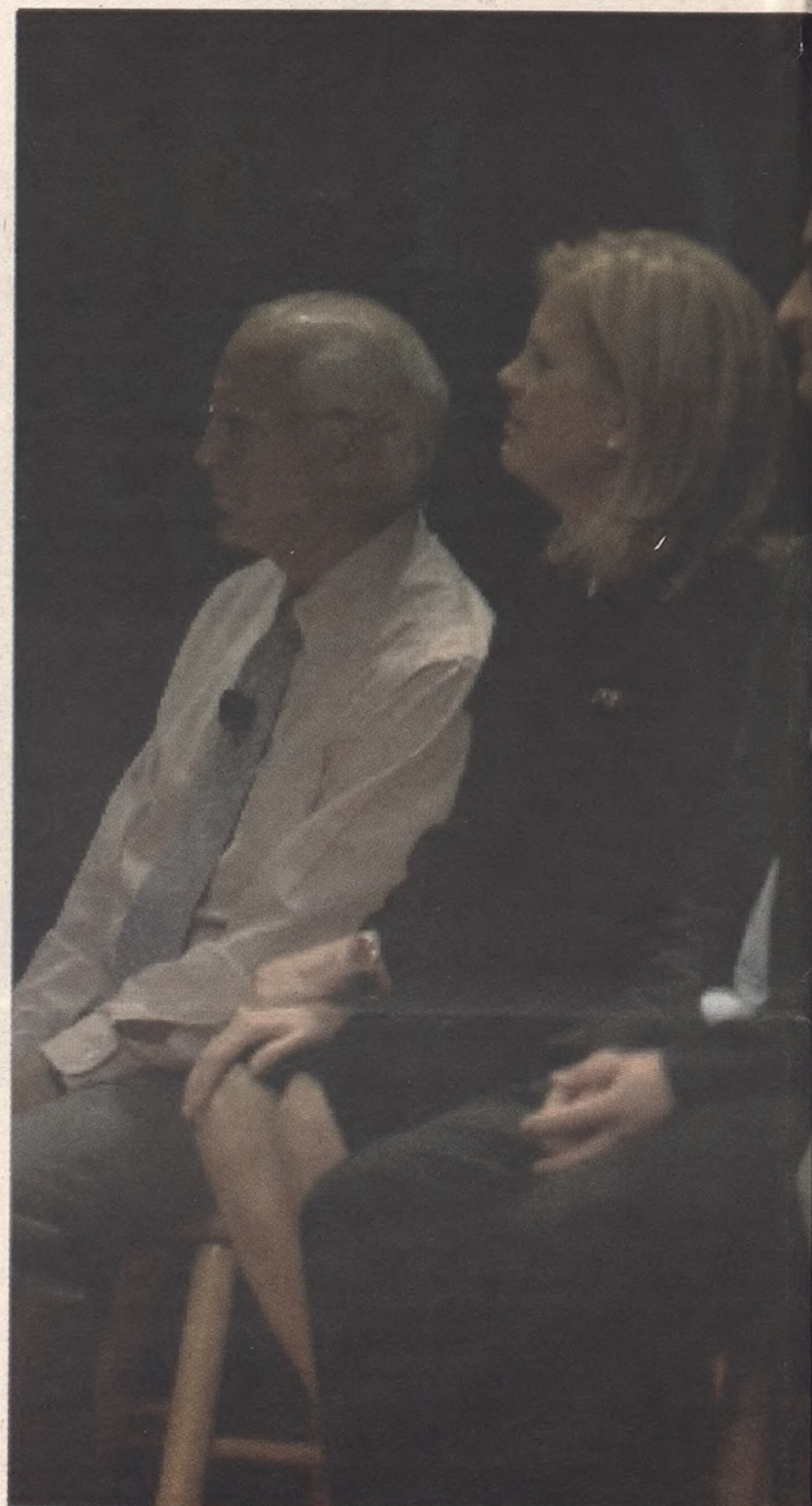
A nuclear-armed Iran would be dangerous for a number of reasons: nukes would be in hands of a regime with ties to Hezbollah and Hamas; it would join a nuclear neighborhood that includes Pakistan, India, China, Russia, and Israel; and it could lead other countries in the region – Egypt and Saudi Arabia – to pursue their own programs.

Virtually every credible military and foreign policy expert agrees that a military confrontation with Iran would be disastrous. That means that we must act diplomatically. The U.S. must develop a realistic policy toward Iran which explores areas of mutual interest, such as trade or direct talks, which would provide an incentive for Iran to comply with UN demands. We should engage Iran, not isolate it, and convince our Security Council allies to do the same. If Iran remains intransigent on this issue, we should move to initiate UN trade sanctions.

4. *The cost of attending a four year private university such as Fairfield has soared now to more than \$40,000 per year. However, the amount of aid made available through the federal Pell grant program has been frozen at just over \$4,000 per student, per year since 2003.*

Do you support raising the amount made available? If so, by how much should the figure be raised, and how do you propose the funding for the program be made available?

If we intend to compete with the rest of the world, we need to ensure our education system is the best in the world and



Fab four: Shays (right) and Farrell joined Libertarian Party candidate debate on Oct. 16 at the Quick Center.

that all Americans have access to it.

SHAYS: I support increasing Pell Grants significantly and providing other financial assistance to students. Financial aid plays an important role in helping increase access to higher education by making the cost of college more reasonable for students and their families.

This is the challenge: Too often, when we increase government aid, Universities increase tuition. The question is how do we provide financial aid and make sure students receive the bulk of the benefit and not the Universities?

I have worked with the Appropriations Subcommittee to try to increase the Pell Grant and I voted for the College Access and Opportunity Act, which expanded the Pell Grants program and increased the autho-

rized maximum award for high-achieving first and second year students.

I also voted to eliminate origination fees on student loans and supported legislation which appropriated \$4.3 billion to address the Pell Grant program shortfall that resulted from higher-than-expected student participation.

raised interest rates on Stafford student loans from 4.7 percent to 6.8 percent, and on PLUS parent loans from 6.1 percent to 8.5 percent. He has also supported the Bush administration's budgets, which have kept the maximum Pell grant frozen.

I support increasing the maximum Pell grant to \$5,100. The funding could be made available by closing corporate tax loopholes.

5. Do you support full marriage rights – and not simply civil unions – for same sex couples? Why or why not?

SHAYS: Two people of the same sex can be involved in a loving, long-term relationship, and feel no less love for one another than partners in a heterosexual relationship. I support Connecticut's law providing for same-sex civil unions and expect, in the not-too-distant future, we will see more states follow in our footsteps. I believe the issue of same-sex marriage should be considered by each state. That is why I voted against a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage.

FARRELL: I support full marriage equality for same sex couples, and would oppose any constitutional amendment seeking to ban those unions. Religious institutions have the right to determine whether or not they are willing to perform these unions, but the government should recognize them as valid under the law. Committed same sex couples should have the same rights under the law as anyone else; access to marriage should not be an exception.

6. What role, if any, should a politician's faith play in his or her public service?

SHAYS: I believe God has every place in our government, but religion has none. My faith guides my personal conduct, but does not – and should not – determine my public policy decisions.

Separation of church and state is a core principle of our nation, and one I strongly support. President Lincoln mentions the "Almighty" thirteen times in his second inaugural address. In our pledge of allegiance we make reference to "one Nation under God." The Supreme Court has a representation of the tablets carrying the Ten Commandments on its wall. In the hall of the House and on our currency, there are these words: "In God We Trust." I believe such words do no harm to separation of church and state. Given our Declaration of Independence and Constitution, reference to God is appropriate, but imposition of religion is not.

FARRELL: I am proud of my faith. As a young girl, I joined the Green's Farms Congregational Church in Westport, which I still attend. I have served on several minister search committees, been Worship Department chair, and served on the church's Stewardship Committee. I believe that my faith, along with my family and the Girl Scouts, has helped to inform and shape my moral foundation.

That said, I don't believe that politicians should try to legislate their own particular religious faith into the law. I respect the separation between church and state. Over the last six years, we have seen a Republican majority entangled with the Religious Right attempt to do just that. They have severely limited the progress of stem cell research, which holds the key to curing any number of degenerative diseases. They have attempted to infuse school curricula with their beliefs on sex education and evolution, in defiance of scientific evidence and common sense, as well as insert prayer and the Ten Commandments into the classroom, in defiance of the First Amendment. By seeking to mix faith and government, I fear they do harm to both.

7. Which candidate running on the opposing party's ticket this fall, either in Connecticut or in any other state, do you think would do a good job if elected?

SHAYS: I will be voting for Joe Lieberman.

In spite of the fact he votes with his party 90 percent of the time, he works across the political divide to find common ground. He puts his country first and, in this day of extreme partisan politics, that's what makes him a national treasure.

FARRELL: I don't believe that the Democratic Party has a monopoly on good ideas or effective, well-meaning politicians. I've voted for Republicans in the past. In fact, I voted for my opponent back in the 1980's, when I thought that he was a truly independent voice.

This year's election is different from most, though. We have seen the Republican Party taken over by its ultra-conservative, extreme-right wing. That party's leadership has promoted an agenda that is hostile to the people of the Fourth District and the values that we hold dear. The stakes have never been higher, nor the differences between the parties more clear, than they are now.

The most important vote that any member of Congress makes is for the leadership of that body. The party that has a majority of the seats in either the House or the Senate has an extraordinary amount of power; their leaders set the agenda, and they make the rules. When you cast your vote this fall, you aren't only voting for myself or my opponent, you are also voting for their choice for the leadership of the House. And when control of Congress is so close to changing hands, every seat is important.

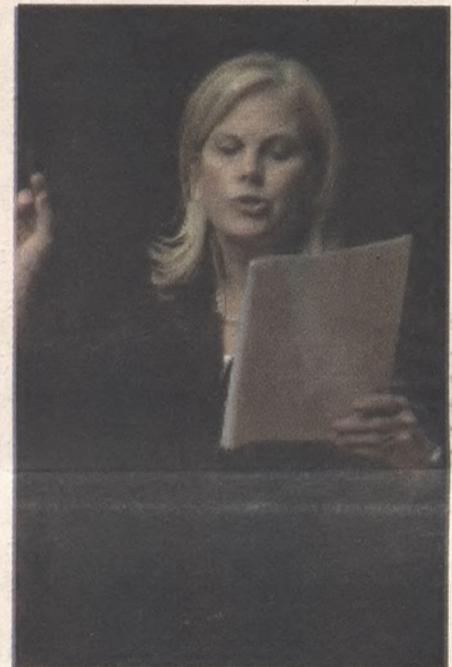
8. If you could go back and change one decision you have made in public life, either as a candidate or an elected official, what would it be and why?

SHAYS: Like anyone, I make mistakes.

And in 32-years in public life there are a number of decisions I've made that I might make differently today.

I held 22 hearings on terrorism before September 11, and knew Islamist terrorists posed a severe threat to our country. Before September 11, I was more active than any other member of Congress in trying to educate people about the threat we faced. But, if I had it to do over again, I would have been even more outspoken in spite of the opposition I received from other elected officials and the general public. It is one of the reasons I am so outspoken about the threat today.

The Cold War is over, and the strategy of contain, react and mutually assured destruction is out the window. Our strategy now is to detect, prevent and pre-empt terrorist attacks. In several of my pre-September 11 hearings, I heard from all three commissions – the Bremer, Hart-Rudman, and Gilmore commissions – which all agreed we have a threat, need a strategy to deal with it and must reorganize our govern-



Lorraine Lampe/The Mirror

Phil Maymin and Green Party candidate Richard Duffee for a

We must seek to improve the quality of education to compete in a very competitive world.

FARRELL: In a world that has become both increasingly connected and increasingly competitive, it is essential that we ensure that everyone who desires it has access to world-class education. We are in a race to the top among the nations of the world, each striving to make its workforce the most capable, intelligent, and efficient.

The rising cost of education in the U.S. makes it harder for us to win that race, and unfortunately the Bush administration and the Republican Congress have been unwilling to step up and make extending a college education to the less fortunate a priority. Just this past February, Chris Shays was the deciding vote in a bill that

ment to implement that strategy.

If we had taken the Islamist terrorist threat seriously before September 11th and heeded the warnings of these commissions, al-Qaeda's attacks might never have

FARRELL: During my time as First Selectwoman, Westport became a leader in the fight against global climate change. In 2002, we became the first community in the Northeast to sign up for 100% renewable energy credits. In 2005, we became one of the first towns in the state to declare that by 2010, 20 percent of our energy purchases would come from clean sources. On an issue as broad as climate change, and without a clear sign from Washington that this administration and this Congress took the issue seriously, "think globally, act locally" is essential.

I'm proud that Westport stepped up and took the lead on this issue, but I wish we had done so sooner, and if I could do it again, we would have. Global warming is an imminent threat to the safety and security of the United States and the world. If no action is taken, the sea level in Long Island Sound will rise 22 inches, the number of deadly category 4 and 5 hurricanes will continue to increase, and air quality will continue to deteriorate. I made the right decision in doing what we could to solve this problem, but I should have acted earlier.

JOE'S FOE

Fairfield's own **John Orman** has been a thorn in Joe Lieberman's side for years. Last March he kick-started the movement that ousted Senator from the Democratic Party

BY BILL KLUMP

Most people who have been following this year's election season know that the Connecticut senate race is among the most competitive and confusing. What they may not be able to tell you, however, is that it all started with Fairfield University politics professor.

Dr. John Orman originally tried to take down political giant Joe Lieberman in March of 2005. He was forced to drop out of the race just six months later in September because of a lack of financial resources.

It wasn't that Orman was particularly bad at asking people for their support, although he will tell you now that he was. After six months of campaigning he had only raised a total of \$1,000 dollars, which he says is less than he had spent on gas.

The bigger problem was that he was stuck in a catch-22.

To get the money necessary to seriously challenge Lieberman he needed support

from local organizations, but these organizations wouldn't help him out until he could get himself on the ballot, which required a lot more money than he had to spend.

While he may not have been able to stick with the race due to gross differences in financial backing, he did garner a lot of attention from political bloggers and help to inspire Ned Lamont to run against the incumbent senator for the democratic nomination.

"I got a call coming from an interested party trying to figure out what someone would need to do to challenge Lieberman," he says. "I told him that one thing he would need was a lot of money. When he said that money wasn't really an obstacle I got a little angry since it was the main reason I was forced to drop out."

"I didn't think too much of the call and didn't even recall the man's name. A few months later I saw that Ned Lamont had entered the race and it finally clicked. It makes sense that he wouldn't see money as a problem since he's worth between 90 and 300 million dollars."

So you may be asking yourselves, "Why would two Democrats be running to dethrone such a large figurehead of their political party?"

After all, it was just six years ago that Lieberman was running to become vice president of the United States.

Instead of dropping out of the senate race and focusing only on the vice presidency, Lieberman decided to run for both. If he had won both elections, Republican Gov. John Rowland would have been in charge of appointing a new senator, and would have almost certainly given the seat to a fellow republican.

It was at this time that Orman began to protest Lieberman on a statewide campaign of sorts. He said that he was almost alone

"I didn't think too much of the call and I DIDN'T EVEN RECALL THE MAN'S NAME," Orman says of Lamont. "A few months later I saw that Ned Lamont had entered the race and it finally clicked."

when he started to bring up questions about Lieberman's loyalty, but by Election Day polls showed that 46 percent of Connecticut agreed with him.

"Today, people can't believe that I'm just a citizen against Joe," Orman says. "Everyone thinks that I'm part of Ned's campaign, but I'm not. I have nothing to do with his campaign right now."

The 2000 presidential campaign is not the only problem that Orman has with Lieberman. A major concern that he shares with democrats statewide is Lieberman's handling of the war in Iraq and his recent closeness to President Bush.

The problem that they have with this is not that he originally voted in favor of going to war with Iraq, but that he never said he made a mistake or apologized. Also, while Lieberman may have a record of voting overwhelmingly democrat, he has been ac-



Mirror file photo

Little-known liberal: Orman didn't have the cash or the name recognition to mount a serious challenge to Lieberman, but he did pave the way for Lamont's historic bid.

cused of simply waiting to make sure that some key issue would be out of his control before committing a Democratic vote.

When the primary results came in on August 8, Ned Lamont had won the Demo-

cratic nomination with 52 percent of the vote. Lieberman, upon hearing that he had lost, declared himself as an opponent and decided to run as an independent.

Many states have banned this kind of behavior with "sore loser acts." Connecticut, unfortunately for Lamont, is not one of them.

Currently Lieberman is ahead in the latest polls, but Orman doesn't think he has it wrapped up just yet. According to him, "Undecided voters generally break towards the challenger as Election Day draws near. Besides, right now he is closer to Joe than Joe was to the incumbent the first time he won."

This political endeavor is only the latest in a series of actions that have put Orman in local and national spotlights. In 1984, for example, Orman ran for the congressional seat in Fairfield as a Democrat.

He ran a staunchly anti-Regan campaign against U.S. Rep Stuart McKinney, a close friend of Ronald Regan. While Regan was in the area, in fact, he actually stopped at Fairfield and campaigned against Orman in person. Orman eventually lost this race in a landslide.

He has also published four books on political science that range from the politics involved in rock music to the macho attitudes of presidents in the 80s.

It was his latest book, which dealt with the recent influx of celebrities into the political realm that brought him his most recognition. The book came out just as the political scene in Hollywood was peaking, with Schwarzenegger being elected governor of California and a mounting celebrity outrage over the war in Iraq.

Orman used this newfound celebrity of his own to continue his assault on Joe Lieberman and utilize his fame on the talk show circuit for all the press he could get. What Orman has done over the years has gained him respect in both the political world and here at Fairfield.

"John really activated interest in replacing Lieberman and showed everyone that he wasn't doing what a Democratic senator should do," says Donald Greenberg, a close friend of Orman and the chairman of the department of politics. "He showed us that we could have an alternative candidate and that we didn't have to settle."

The MIRROR

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

CALL FOR APPLICANTS AND NOMINATIONS

PAID POSITION

The Editor in Chief of *The Mirror* is seeking applicants for one position, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, to build, manage, cultivate, and grow the financial interests of the independent student newspaper of Fairfield University.

This senior-level management position represents a unique opportunity to gain business, management, and leadership experience rarely seen on a recent graduate's résumé. Aside from being the primary source of objective journalism on campus, *The Mirror* is the only student organization that operates independently of University oversight. This independence extends to the organization's finances, as the company is incorporated in the State of Connecticut under 501(c)(3) tax status. The degree to which students control the paper and assume responsibility for its institutional health is seldom seen at college papers across the country, and is therefore of great interest to employers.

The position is open to all students within Fairfield University's undergraduate and graduate programs.

- The ideal candidate has a proven record of leadership success, experience with staff/people management, and exceptional communication skills. These qualities are of paramount importance in relation to all others.
- Business experience, though strongly encouraged, is not requisite. For those candidates who have a background in business, experience in small/family businesses bears the strongest relevance to this position and is therefore looked upon more favorably than corporate experience.
- The successful candidate will be compensated with a weekly stipend plus a percentage of gross sales.
- Once trained, the time required to uphold the responsibilities may be as often as 15-20 hours per week. During training, which should last for two weeks, it may take significantly more time on a day-to-day basis.

An application for the position can be downloaded at www.fairfieldmirror.com/jobs. The selection committee will begin to review applications on **Friday, November 3, 2006**. They can be submitted via e-mail or to campus mailbox AA.

Any nominations or questions should be directed to:

Ryan T. Blair
Editor in Chief
(203) 256-6529
ryan.t.blair@gmail.com

The MIRROR endorses . . .

Farrell for Congress

Congressman Christopher Shays, a 19-year incumbent Republican, has made every effort this election season to convince voters in the fourth congressional district that he is an independent voice in Congress.

Indeed, at a time of bitter partisanship in Washington, the Congressman has gone against President Bush and members of his own party on a number of issues, voting to fund stem cell research and against drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

We appreciate the Congressman's independence, and we wish that more members of Congress from both political parties would put aside partisanship for the benefit of their constituents.

However, on issues of importance to college students and other citizens, Shays has been wrong more often than he has been right over the past two years.

He has blindly supported the Bush administration's failed policies in Iraq, and we wonder why it took him 14 trips to the war-torn country to realize that a timetable for American troop withdrawal was necessary.

We were also deeply troubled when Shays said, in an apparent momentary mental lapse, that the Abu Ghraib torture scandal was pornography, and not torture.

He also incorrectly said that the acts were committed by members of the Maryland National Guard, when they were actually committed by members of the Marine Corps.

Such an error is especially troubling given the fact that Shays promotes himself as an expert on defense policy.

Most importantly, however, is that a vote for Shays is a vote for two more years of the incompetent and corrupt Republican leadership in the House of Representatives.

For those reasons, we strongly endorse Shays' opponent, Democrat Diane Farrell, for Congress.

Farrell, a bright and charismatic former Westport First Selectwoman, could do more in Congress to benefit college students and other citizens than Shays, especially if she is part of a newly elected Democratic majority.

As a Congresswoman, she would stand up even stronger than Shays had on progressive causes, such as promoting stem cell research, raising the minimum wage, and protecting a woman's right to chose.

Moreover, in response to a question posed by *The Mirror* about expanding aid to college students, Farrell delivered a more concrete answer than Shays, offering a proposal that would increase the amount of aid made available through the federal Pell grant program by more than \$1,000 per student per year.

And while she has good ideas on how to better help college students and low income families, Farrell would also be a voice for fiscal responsibility.

She managed a balanced budget as First Selectwoman, and one of her biggest gripes with the war in Iraq is the amount of tax-payer money -- more than \$250 million a day -- that the war has cost.

We don't think Shays has been a bad Congressman during his 19 years in Washington, but we believe that Farrell could do much better if elected on Nov. 7.

Lieberman for Senate

In the toughest decision we had to make this election season, we believe students should chose competence over integrity and vote to re-elect Joseph Lieberman as Connecticut's junior senator.

If this decision was made based on who was been the more honest, straightforward man, we would have endorsed Lieberman's Democratic challenger, businessman Ned Lamont.

Lamont has earned the trust of voters, basing his campaign on withdrawing American troops from Iraq and promoting better health care and education policies.

Lieberman, meanwhile, has been more arrogant and disengenuous than any other politician in the country this election season.

When he was running for the Democratic nomination, Lieberman said time after time that Lamont was a closet Republican, at many times arguing that Lamont was un-electable because Thomas D'Amore Jr., a former state Republican Party chairman, was working as an adviser to Lamont.

The minute Lieberman lost the primary, he changed his tune 180 degrees, saying that Lamont was in fact a left wing extremist who would be soft on terrorism and incapable of reaching across party lines to legislate effectively.

Since losing the party, Lieberman has chastised both parties (but especially his own) for the partisan culture in Washington. He has been accurate in many of these claims, but voters would be foolish to believe that he has not been part of the partisan culture for the past 18 years.

In every way possible then, Lieberman has been a phony and a fraud on the campaign trail.

We think honesty and integrity are qualities public servants need to have, which is why our decision was so hard to make.

However, when considering which candidate to vote for on Nov. 7, the most important question students and other voters should ask is which candidate will be a better senator for the next six years.

Given his impressive legislative record and the enormous amount of respect he commands, we have little doubt that Lieberman is that candidate, and for that reason, he has earned our endorsement.

On the war in Iraq, we agree with Lamont that the war was a colossal mistake, and that troops should come home sooner rather than later. However, he has not offered a specific plan on troop withdrawal, and given the lack of influence he would have in Washington, it seems unfathomable to us that a Senator Lamont would be much better in terms of defense policy than Senator Lieberman.

More importantly, on most domestic issues, Lamont is no better, and in some cases, no different from Lieberman. The only true difference is that, because of the bipartisan respect Lieberman has in the Senate, Lieberman would be far better at getting things done for his constituents.

Both men are in favor of raising the minimum wage, working towards universal healthcare, and significantly raising the amount of federal financial aid to college students.

The difference between them is that Lieberman's voice for the next six years would be far louder than Lamont's.

DeStefano for Gov.

Jodi Rell has done an admirable job as Connecticut's chief executive for the past three years, but we believe college students and other citizens would benefit from a change in Hartford.

While we commend Rell for pushing a tough ethics reform bill though the state legislature, and for turning a budget deficit into a surplus, we think Democrat John DeStefano, the sitting mayor of New Haven, is a better candidate on issues that matter to college students, and therefore has earned our endorsement as Connecticut's next governor.

Unlike the status quo in Washington, which is in desperate need of a change of direction, status quo in Connecticut is one we would be willing to live with.

Under Rell's watch, the state has continued its economic growth, and its state university has gained recognition for reasons other than its dominant basketball program, thanks to a newly-founded stem cell research program that could grow to become one of the nation's best.

She has also scored points with voters for distancing herself from her disgraced predecessor, John Rowland, who was convicted on numerous corruption counts and resigned in 2004.

Rell has reacted well to most of the problems the state has faced, from the ethical mess that Rowland left behind, to the threat by the Department of Defense to close the submarine base in Groton. Rell worked with Sens. Joseph Lieberman and Christopher Dodd, U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, R-2, and other lawmakers to keep the base open.

Reacting, though, should not be the sole job of a chief executive.

DeStefano earns our support because he is the candidate who we think will be proactive, and not simply reactive, as governor.

He has an impressive plan to lower property taxes, which have skyrocketed in recent years, along with better proposals to improve Connecticut's broken public transportation structure and help residents of the state's inner cities gain better access to quality health care.

As mayor of New Haven, he had one of the hardest jobs of any public servant in the state.

The city he inherited was one with little economic development and a skyrocketing crime rate, both of which are characteristic of poverty-stricken cities.

Although New Haven still suffers from one of the highest poverty rates in the country, it has achieved significant economic growth and seen a dramatic decrease in violent crime under DeStefano's guidance.

A great deal of work needs to be done to bring Hartford and Bridgeport into the 21st century, and we believe DeStefano is the best candidate to work on bringing those cities forward.

DeStefano is not the perfect candidate, but if elected, he would be a forward-looking, proactive executive and is worthy of our support.

Sam DeMarzo
College Republican

HE said / SHE said

WHAT'S THE BEST PARTY ON CAMPUS?

Sarah Kennedy
College Democrat

Why Vote Republican on November 7.

The answer to this question is not found in your love or hate of any one political figure in the spot light of the press. Rather it is found by taking an inventory of where your views, your core principles, your values, and most importantly, your heart tells you to vote. Leadership is the ability to make hard decisions with imperfect information, and then see those decisions through to success. Who do you trust to make these decisions for you?

To begin to answer this question you have to figure out a few things about yourself, in addition to the parties you may be considering this election day. I can not tell you where your views, your principles, and your values are or ought to be, but I can tell you a little bit about those of the Republican Party.

The Republican Party has identified 10 key issues that represent the core of who we are, and who we are called to be going forward. These 10 issues are: The safety and security of America; the economy and jobs; Taxes; Immigration reform that keeps America a melting pot, but in a safe and controlled manor; spending restraint from the federal level on down; Energy reform that looks to the future; legal reforms that allows doctors to focus on the care of the patient, not the fear of a lawsuit; Social Security reform so that our generation has some form of safety net for when we retire. 9. Education reform that makes American education the best in the world; and faith and values initiatives that promote a society that is moral and just.

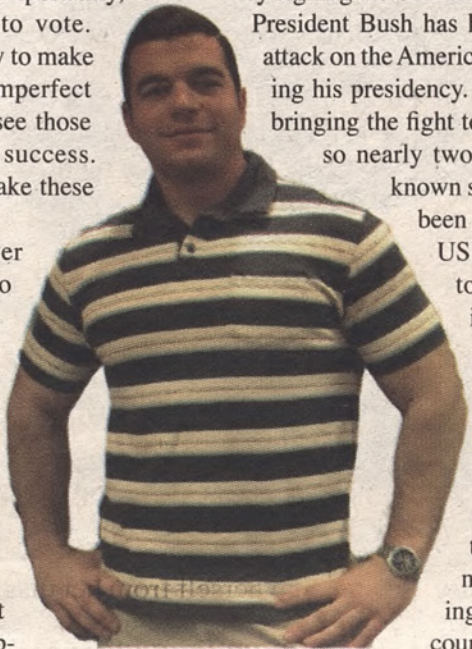
Over the past several years we have all

gotten to know President Bush and many of the Republican party leaders pretty well. We have witnessed the President face major challenges. He has tackled a pseudo-recession through the use of his tax rebate checks and overhauling of the tax system. The President has also taken on corporate scandal by signing the Sarbanes-Oxley Act into law. President Bush has had to face the worst attack on the American mainland ever during his presidency. He has responded by bringing the fight to the enemy. In doing so nearly two-thirds of al-Qaeda's known senior leadership have been captured or killed by US forces. We continue to pursue the remaining members and their supporters all over the world. In addition, the President has lead the world in toppling one of the most dangerous tyrants in Iraq. We now face the daunting task of securing the country and creating Iraqi forces capable of maintaining security. Once this is accomplished the US will leave Iraq.

President Bush and the Republican leadership have met all of these challenges head on. Despite these challenges, the country has experienced a robust economy that continues to grow, unemployment that is at historically low levels, and home ownership that continues to grow. America is moving forward, and the Republican party is leading the way.

This election day I encourage everyone to get out and vote how their heart tells them to. The Republican party would love to have your support as we continue to move forward building a safer, stronger, and better America.

Sam DeMarzo is president of the College Republicans club at Fairfield.



The Democratic Party is committed to getting America back on track; this vision is supported by the guiding principle of equal opportunity for all.

The Democratic Party's agenda reflects a strong set of priorities which will restore and rebuild America; they will focus on our national and local economies, ethical responsibility in public service, healthcare and education as rights, not privileges, a tougher defense strategy and creative solutions to our energy crisis.

The Democrats believe in the guiding principle of equal opportunity for all, this principle guides the agenda of the Democratic Party to be the party of trustworthy, open government.

As an American you should be concerned that the Republican administration has mislead you in spending your tax

dollars; the U.S. currently stands in the middle of a civil war in Iraq, while the Republican majority in Washington has no definitive exit strategy in sight.

The U.S. budget deficit is just over \$3 trillion, the largest in the nation's history, and the national debt has climbed to over \$8 trillion. The administration's so called ground breaking education plan "No Child Left Behind" is under funded by \$40 billion. The average family spends \$2,000 more on energy costs than five years ago, while the administration continues to seek foreign energy sources. Where are the priorities of Republicans leading our country?

Vote Democrat to ensure that the con-

cerns and priorities of working Americans are put first.

The Democrats vow to raise the minimum wage and be the party of middle class tax fairness; this will set us on a path to recovery. They will also expand Pell grants and make college tuitions tax deductible, this will create a more even playing field and expand the opportunity of higher education to more families. Our defense strategy will be strengthened; the Democrats recognize its development must come as part of a comprehensive and cooperative foreign policy initiative, including the United Nations.

The Democrats will aggressively confront the reality of global warming and focus on creative alternative energy sources; they have proposed a multi pronged agenda to make American energy independent by the year 2020.

The Democrats will work to provide healthcare for each American; it is shameful that in the wealthiest country in the world there

are millions who worry about the cost of medical care.

The Democrats will emphasize this focus on healthcare up through retirement and will reshape Medicare; seniors should be retiring with dignity, not an overwhelming concern for their livelihood. We deserve sincere leaders who use their positions to serve our interests, not only to improve everyday life but to build a strong foundation for the future. Vote Democrat on November 7th to witness a turnaround in American politics, where honesty and accountability will take center stage.

Sarah Kennedy is president of the College Democrats club at Fairfield.



Campus political groups could make or break election

BY ANDREW CHAPIN

They're knocking at your door. They're standing in front of the cafeteria. Why are they so persistent? Because they want you -- very badly -- to vote.

The College Republicans and College Democrats have been hard at work preparing for the upcoming Congressional elections. "Dorm storms," however, only begin to scratch the surface of each club's initiatives.

"I think we're always searching for new ways to get students involved," said Sarah Kennedy '08, the President of the College Democrats. The benefits of their field work show as well.

"We just registered 200 voters," she said, referring to a recent "dorm storm." According to her, approximately 75 percent of the voters they have registered are Democrats.

According to Kennedy, Diane Farrell's campaign was the

most important to the club. Farrell is the Democratic candidate for the Fourth Congressional District of Connecticut.

However, College Republicans President Sam DeMarzo '07 maintained that the College Republicans "volunteers in a variety of campaigns."

"What we're behind are the ideals and principals of the Republican Party," said DeMarzo, who did not see many differences between this election and elections of the past.

"The campaign work is very similar," he said. But he did acknowledge the importance of the election season to the club, saying it's a "big part of the activity in the fall."

Kennedy agreed that the election year did give a greater importance to the club.

"In an election year, there's always the incentive to get students involved," she said. During election time, according to her, the club tries to get students interested in issues that impact them.

Timo Wilson '09, a member of the College Democrats, felt that registering voters was not even so much the importance of what the club was doing.

"It's kind of like reminding people the importance of voting," he said. "P Diddy had the whole vote or die thing; we're leaving out the die option. We're here to support our party."

Karla Carpenter '09, a member of the College Republicans, shared similar feelings to Wilson in explaining the role the Republicans played in educating uninformed students.

"A lot of college people are not interested in politics and I feel it is important for them to learn and understand at least a little of how our government works so they know how they stand on a position," she said.

Editor's Note: The article above is an excerpt from a story that appears in full online at www.fairfieldmirror.com.


Campfire queen Cycling champion Sentimental geologist*

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Marjon Walrod
and tell us more
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